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Collection Number: BANC MSS 98/82 c

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Finding Aid Written By:
Bancroft Library staff

Date Completed:
December 2012

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Roger Levenson papers

Date (inclusive): circa 1901-1994

Date: (bulk 1960-1994)

Collection Number: BANC MSS 98/82 c

Creators: Levenson, Roger, 1914-

Extent: Number of containers: 6 cartons, 2 oversize boxes, 2 oversize folders, 1 box, 1 cardfile box, 1 volume (Linear feet: 10)

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Abstract: The papers of Roger Levenson, founder of the Tamalpais Press and instructor of a history of the book course at the University of California, Berkeley.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Roger Levenson papers, BANC MSS 98/82 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Levenson, Roger, 1914- --Archives
Evans, Henry Herman, 1918-1990
Updike, Daniel Berkeley, 1860-1941
Taylor, Henry Huntly
Tamalpais Press
Roxburghe Club of San Francisco
Sacramento Book Collectors Club
Printers--California--San Francisco Bay Area
Printing industry--California--San Francisco Bay Area
Women printers--California--San Francisco Bay Area--History--19th century
Printing--technological innovations
Type and type-founding
Faculty papers
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Keepsakes
Ephemera

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by Bancroft Library staff in 2012.

Biographical Information
Roger Levenson (1914-1994) was born in Bangor, Maine and studied printing at the University of Maine. After serving in the military in Hawaii during World War II, Levenson settled in the San Francisco Bay area, where he spent the rest of his life. He founded and operated the Tamalpais Press from circa 1955-1976 when he retired. Levenson also taught a class titled "The History of the Book" at the University of California, Berkeley for twelve years. He was the author of The pressman's trade: a commentary on the traditional handpress (1969) and Women in printing: Northern California, 1857-1890 (1994).

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection consists of scrapbooks, files relating to Levenson's research on women in printing, files from other research projects, subject files relating to printing history and printing technologies, and a collection of printed items from the Tamalpais press and other Bay Area printers.

Series 1: Scrapbooks. circa 1960-1990
Physical Description: Carton 1, folder 1-11
Scope and Content Note
Scrapbook pages documenting Bay area printing and printing history, the Tamalpais Press and other local presses, Roger Levenson's lectures and activities, and Levensen's family history. Included are clippings, photographs, printers' trade cards, and other materials.
Series 2: **Women printers research materials. circa 1872-1994**

**Physical Description:** Carton 1, folder 12-23; carton 2; carton 3, folder 1-7; cardfile box 1

**Scope and Content Note**
Files relating to Levenson's research for his 1994 book, *Women in Printing: Northern California, 1857-1890*. Included are notes, photocopies, some primary source materials, photographic prints, and bibliographic materials. Files contain materials on individual women printers in San Francisco as well as on organizations such as the Women's Co-operative Printing Union. Also included is an alphabetical card file on women printers and imprints (in cardfile box 1).

Series 3: **Other research and projects. circa 1901-1992**

**Physical Description:** Carton 3, folder 8-17

**Scope and Content Note**
Materials relating to the following: the Grabhorn Press; H. H. Taylor and Daniel Berkeley Updike; and Henry Evans (The Porpoise Bookshop, San Francisco).

Series 4: **Printing subject files. circa 1960-1994**

**Physical Description:** Carton 3, folder 18-26; carton 4-5; carton 6, folder 1-5

**Scope and Content Note**
Research files on printing subjects, including typecasting, typefounding, papermaking, and printing presses.

Series 5: **Printed materials from the Tamalpais Press and other presses. circa 1955-1976**

**Physical Description:** Carton 6, folder 6-22; oversize box 1-2; volume 1; oversize folder 1-2

**Scope and Content Note**
A range of printed items from the Tamalpais Press as well as other (mostly Bay Area) presses, including items printed by Levenson for the Sacramento Book Collectors Club and the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco (the latter are in volume 1) and keepsakes from Roger Levenson's talk at the Roxburghe Club.

Series 6: **Slides. circa 1960-1994**

**Physical Description:** Box 1

**Scope and Content Note**
Slides of personal images as well as images Levenson used in publications.