
Inventory of the A.A. and A.M. Cantin Collection, 1933-1977

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University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: A.A. and A.M. Cantin collection

Dates: 1933-1977

Collection number: 2006-3

Creator: Cantin, Alexander A., 1874-1964

Creator: Cantin, A. Mackenzie, 1912-2002

Collector: Environmental Design Archives

Collection Size: 3 manuscript boxes, 2 flat file drawers

Repository: Environmental Design Archives

College of Environmental Design

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California

Physical location: Environmental Design Archives

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California 94720-1820

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Curator.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], A.A. and A.M. Cantin Collection, 2006-3, Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley.

Biographical Note

Alexander (Aimwell) Cantin was born March 4, 1876, and died in 1964. He is possibly best known for designing a series of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph buildings in San Francisco and collaborated with the firm of Miller and Pflueger on the 26-story, Coast Division Building of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company at 140 New Montgomery Street. He designed the first permanent buildings on the campus of the College of Marin, including the Science Building (1927), Harian Hall (1929), the gymnasium (1931) and the first unit of the Engineering building.

(<http://www.marin.cc.ca.us/lrc/photos/archive2.html>) . He is also known for the number of movie theatres he designed throughout the Bay Area beginning in the 1920s including the Orinda Theater and San Francisco's Coronet Theater (now demolished) designed with his son. He was issued his architectural license in 1901, and was a member of the AIA, with over

48 years of active practice. Of lifelong interest to him was the design of decorative columns. He was awarded patents for several of his column designs.

(Alexander) Mackenzie Cantin, A.A.'s son, was born January 21, 1912. He graduated from UC Berkeley's School of Architecture in 1935 earning his architectural license in 1945. Following WWII he entered into practice with his father in 1948, creating the firm Cantin & Cantin and collaborating on a number of projects including theaters, schools, military housing and hospitals. Thereafter, A.M. Cantin, as Cantin & Associates he designed the Rheem and Moraga Centers, theaters, schools, banks, and other commercial structures throughout the Bay Area.

Scope and Content of Collection

The A.A. and A.M. Cantin collection documents approximately fifty-six projects through textual records, drawings and photographs. The collection is arranged in two series: Office Records and Project Records. The office records include biographical information, notable projects, and letters of recommendation.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of project records. Arranged alphabetically, they consist of correspondence, clippings, photographs, and drawings. Also included in the project records are sketches of column designs by A.A. Cantin. He was interested in column design throughout his career, and some of the sketches are noted as pending patents.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

College of Marin.

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company

Architects--California.

Architecture--California.

Motion picture theaters.

Genres and Forms of Material

Architectural records.

Architectural drawings.

Architectural photographs.

Project Index

The following is a list of architectural projects from the A.A. and A.M. Cantin collection. For instructions on interpreting the Project Index, see **The Guide to the Project Index** at <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/pindex/guide.htm>.

The Project Index list is arranged alphabetically by Project/Client Name and contains information, where available, about the location, date, project type, architect, collaborators, photographers, and formats for each project in the collection.

Project/Client Name (location, date, project type, architect) Collaborator (role), Photographer [Format - Ms=Manuscripts, Dr=Drawings, Ph=Photographs]

- Aaron Theater Corp. (Vacaville Theater) (Vacaville, CA; 1965; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
- Unidentified Theater [probably Alhambra Theater] (San Francisco, CA; [1926]; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
- Alhambra Union High School (Martinez, CA; [1903]; educational; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
- American Trust Company (Orinda, CA; 1947; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
- Berkeley Board of Realtors (Berkeley, CA; 1973; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
- Campen Theater (Mountain View, CA; 1926; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
- Cantin, A.M. (Berkeley, CA; 1965; residential; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
- Cantin, A.M. (summer home) (Lake Tahoe, CA; 1941; residential; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
- Carmel Theater (Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA; 1936; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ms]
- Claremont Theater (Oakland, CA; 1926; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
- Clorox Company (CA; c. 1958; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
- College of Marin (Kentfield, CA; c. 1927; educational; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
- Column Designs, 1910-1919 (CA; 1910-1919; commercial; A.A. Cantin)
- Column Designs, 1920-1929 (CA; 1920-1929; commercial; A.A. Cantin)
- Column Designs, 1930-1939 (CA; 1930-1939; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
- Column Designs, 1940-1949 (CA; 1940-1949; commercial; A.A. Cantin)

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- Column Designs, 1950-1959 (CA; 1950-1959; commercial/religious; A.A. Cantin)
 - Column Designs, undated (CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Coronet Theater (CA; [1949]; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Crest Theater (Sacramento, CA; 1949; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Del Mar Theater (CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Design: unidentified bank (n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified garage (n.d.; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified Masonic hall (n.d.; recreational; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified Masonic hall or theater (n.d.; recreational; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified residences (1934; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified schools (n.d.; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified theater (n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Design: unidentified theater for West Coast Theaters, Inc. (CA; 1924; commercial; A.A. Cantin) Collaborator: L. A. Smith (engineer) [Dr]
 - Dimond Theater (Oakland, CA; 1926; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Dos Palos Joint Union High School (CA; 1911; educational; A.A. Cantin) [Ms, Dr]
 - Douglas Elementary School (San Francisco, CA; n.d.; educational) [Dr]
 - Elks Building (San Francisco, CA; 1909; recreational; A.A. Cantin) Photographer: Perry [Ph]
 - Elks Lodge (Alameda, CA; 1961; recreational; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Elks Lodge (Pittsburg, CA; 1962; recreational; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Emmick Memorial (San Francisco, CA; 1940; funerary; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms, Ph]
 - Ford & Lincoln Agency (Alameda, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ms, Ph]
 - Fox Theater (CA; 1961-62; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Glenwood Elementary School (San Rafael, CA; 1962?; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Golden State Theater & Realty Corp. (commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Heights Elementary School (Pittsburg, CA; 1954; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Huff Residence (Cupertino, CA; n.d.; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Joslin Residence (San Francisco, CA; 1925; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Lagunitas School (CA; 1927; educational; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Longfellow Elementary School (Oakland, CA; 1958; educational; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Dr, Ph]
 - Madera Theater (Madera, CA; 1941; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Mandarin Theater (San Francisco, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Martinez Hospital Association (Martinez, CA; n.d.; medical; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Masonic hall (Martinez, CA; 1925; recreational; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - McAlister residence (Santa Clara, CA; n.d.; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Merced County General Hospital (Merced, CA; 1950; medical; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Mergenthaler Linotype Co. (see Ford & Lincoln Agency) (Alameda, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ms, Ph]
 - Merced Unified School District (Merced, CA; 1952; educational; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Mill Valley Theater (Mill Valley, CA; c. 1947; recreational; A.A. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Mill Valley Town & Country Club Clubhouse (Mill Valley, CA; n.d.; recreational; A.A. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Moraga Center (Contra Costa County, CA; c. 1953 ; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms, Dr]
 - National Bank (Martinez, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - New Filmore Theater (CA; 1934; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Oakland T & D Theater (Oakland, CA; 1925; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Oakland Technical High School (auditorium and library) (Oakland, CA; 1960; educational; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
 - Oakland Theater (Oakland, CA; 1925; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Ocean View Heights School (San Francisco, CA; 1950; educational; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
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- Oliver P. Hartzell School (San Rafael, CA; 1956?; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Orinda Theater (Orinda, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ms, Ph]
 - Oroville Theater (CA; 1926; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (misc.) (n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (Main Office) (San Francisco, CA; 1904; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (West office) (San Francisco, CA; 1906; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr, Ph]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (San Francisco, CA; 1895-1908; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ms, Ph]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (San Francisco, CA; 1923-26; commercial; A.A. Cantin) Collaborator: J.R. Miller & Timothy Phflueger [Ms]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (San Jose, CA; 1905; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. (Seattle, WA; 1896; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Piedmont Theater (CA; c. 1934; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Pittsburg Senior High School (Creative Arts Building) (Pittsburg, CA; 1956; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
 - Rheem Center (see Moraga Center)
 - Rheem Insurance Company (Contra Costa County, CA; c. 1957; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Rheem Theater (Contra Costa County, CA; 1957; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Roosevelt Theater (Oakland, CA; 1925; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Sabin, John, "Betsy's Tavern" (Los Altos, CA; n.d.; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Santa Venetia Jr. High School (CA; c. 1959; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Senator Theater (CA; 1926; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr, Ph]
 - Spreckels Residence (San Francisco, CA; 1902; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Stoutenburgh Cemetery Gates (Hyde Park-on-Hudson, NY; 1936; funerary; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Sunset Telephone & Telegraph (Los Angeles, CA; c. 1900; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Tamalpais Center Women's Club (Kentfield, CA; n.d.; recreational; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Theater at Menlo Park (Menlo Park, CA; 1926; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Thomas (n.d.; residential; A.A. Cantin) [Dr]
 - Unidentified (Nanking Fook Woh Co., Chinatown) (San Francisco, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Unidentified city hall (municipal; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Unidentified commercial buildings (n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Unidentified Masonic hall (n.d.; recreational; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Unidentified medical buildings (n.d.; commercial; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Unidentified residences (n.d.; residential; A.A. & A.M. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Unidentified theaters (CA; n.d.; commercial; A.A. Cantin) Collaborator: J. W. Rowell [Dr, Ph]
 - United California Bank (Livermore, CA; 1968; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Van Scharck Residence (San Francisco (Forest Hills), CA; n.d.; residential; A.A. Cantin) Photographer: Walter A. Scott [Ph]
 - Wells Fargo Bank (Modesto, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Wells Fargo Bank, American Trust Company (San Francisco, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]
 - Wells Fargo Bank, American Trust Company (Stockton, CA; n.d.; commercial; A.M. Cantin) [Ms, Dr]
 - Whisman School (Mountain View, CA; n.d.; educational; A.A. Cantin) [Ph]
 - Woodacre School (Lagunitas, CA; 1957; educational; A.M. Cantin) [Ms]

I. Office Records 1903-1957

Series Scope and Content Summary

This consists of one file with biographical information and list of notable projects for both A.A. and A.M. Cantin. There is also a file containing letters of reference from various clients.

Box 1, Folder 2

Letters of Recommendation n.d.

Box 1, Folder 3
Box 1, Folder 4
Box 1, Folder 5
Box 1, Folder 6
Box 1, Folder 7
Box 1, Folder 8

Office Portrait n.d.
Office Publicity Drawings n.d.
Patent Applications 1926-1929
Reference Photographs, France c. 1909-1912
Reference Photographs, Italy c. 1909-1912
Miscellaneous Reference Images n.d.

II. Project Records 1909-1973

Series Scope and Content Summary

Box 1 contains project files with photographs and clippings. Drawings are housed in flat files, as are a few oversized photographs. Some drawings and photos are mounted.

A. Project Files

Scope and Content Note

**See Project Index

B. Photographs

Scope and Content Note

**See Project Index

C. Drawings

Scope and Content Note

**See Project Index
