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

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2006-3
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Collection number: 2006-3

Environmental Design Archives
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

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Miranda Hambro

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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
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Preferred Citation

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](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)
• 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]
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.
I. Office Records 1903-1957

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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