
Guide to the Kistler Printing and Lithography Collection, 1922-1975

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Kistler Printing and Lithography Collection

Dates: 1922-1975

Identification: SC/KPL

Creator: Kistler, William A.

Physical Description: 2.39 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Special Collections

Abstract: William A. Kistler established a printing business in Los Angeles in 1910. After World War I he purchased a lithography firm where both he and his son practiced lithography for several years. The collection contains the commercial work of Kistler Printing and Lithography from the 1920s to 1970s, including proof sheets and paste-ups from *Fifty Photographs* (1947), *First Penthouse Dwellers of America* (1938), and *Dance Memoranda* (1946).

Biographical Information:

William A. Kistler established a printing business in Los Angeles in 1910. After World War I he purchased a lithography firm. His son, Lynton Kistler (1897-1993), learned offset lithography there in the late 1920s, and also began working on lithographic stones. He was one of a few local printers who became proficient with this process. Merle Armitage and Jean Charlot were his first customers. In 1932 Kistler printed Armitage's *The Work of Maier-Krieg* ([NB 588 M25 A7](#)), using the offset process. Vernon Grant's graphic art appears on several advertisements for the company during the 1930s.

In 1936, William Kistler sold his business, but Lynton continued making lithographs out of his garage studio. After briefly opening his own business, he moved to New York in 1941 where he worked in the printing trade. While working for Blanchard Press in New York he published a pamphlet on airplane profile recognition. On returning to Los Angeles in 1945, he resumed working on projects for Merle Armitage who brought him more work from other artists such as Edward Weston, Millard Sheets, and Warren Newcombe and his wife Beatrice Wood.

Kistler stopped making lithographs in 1952 because of an allergic reaction he developed to the acids used in lithography, and the expense of working on stone. He turned to more commercial printing and purchased a plant at 1653 West Temple Street in Los Angeles. The business prospered and his financial situation improved. In 1970, he sold this plant to purchase a larger facility at Washington and Normandie Boulevards. He sold the business in 1976 and retired from commercial printing.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:

Kistler Printing and Lithography

Genre/Form of Material:

Photographic material

Topical Term:

Lithographers -- California -- Los Angeles

Lithography -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century

Accruals:

1976

Processing Information:

Tony Gardner

Conditions Governing Use:

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Preferred Citation:

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Arrangement of Materials:

Series I: Print Jobs, 1922-1971

Subseries A: General, 1924-1965

Subseries B: Books, 1925-1928, 1938, 1946

Subseries C: Cards, 1930, 1950, 1971

Subseries D: Catalogs, Programs, and Exhibitions, 1948-1968

Subseries E: Multiple Print Jobs for the Same Firm, 1922-1971

Series II: Printing Materials, 1975

Scope and Contents

The *Kistler Printing and Lithography Collection* contains the commercial work of Kistler Printing and Lithography from the 1920s to the mid-1970s. Notable contents includes proof sheets and paste-ups from *Fifty Photographs* (1947), *First Penthouse Dwellers of America* (1938), and *Dance Memoranda* (1946) that Lynton Kistler produced with Merle Armitage, as well as eight lithographs he made for artists. The collection has been divided into two main series: Print Jobs (1922-1971) and Printing Materials (1975).

Series I, Print Jobs, consists of five subseries arranged by print jobs or genre. Subseries A, General (1924-1965), Books (1925-1928, 1938, 1946), Cards (1930, 1950, 1971), Catalogs, Programs, and Exhibitions (1948-1968), and Multiple Print Jobs for the Same Firm (1922-1971). The roman number-Arabic number following the title is penciled on the piece and likely refers to the exhibition order since many of these pieces were displayed in 1975. Materials are filed alphabetically within each subseries.

Series II, Printing Materials, contains printing plates, a paper sampler, and a small amount of manuscript material.

Posters and other large flat works are organized in a flat file drawer.

Series I: Print Jobs, 1922-1971

Subseries A: General, 1924-1965

Box 1, Folder 1	Regulators, Pressure Control Valves. VIII-137. Aervalco Engineering Corporation
Box 1, Folder 2	Telephone Directory. VIII-77. Barker Brothers, 1927
Box 1, Folder 3	Enchanted Shores on Soda Bay. VIII-148. C.D. Cornell Corporation
Box 1, Folder 4	Calpet Baseball Handbook of the Pacific Coast League. XI-160. California Petroleum Corporation, 1926
Box 1, Folder 5	Oakwood Cemetary. VIII-91. Chartsworth Holding Corporation
Box 1, Folder 6	Los Angeles Metropolis of Knowledge? [A Sketch for a Great University]. IX-144. City Beautiful Community Club
Box 1, Folder 7	Cosmos Club, V-64, 1927-1928
Box 1, Folder 8	Advertising That Pays. VIII-89. Edward N. Nathan Advertising Agency
Box 1, Folder 9	Madsen Junior. VII-138. Edward R. Bacon Company
Box 1, Folder 10	This is Microdot. VIII-129. Felts Corporation
Box 1, Folder 11	Travelled Road [Reports For 1926]. VIII-109,110,111. Financial Appraisers, 1926
Box 1, Folder 12	Forgedtrue Pistons, VIII-130. Forgedtrue Piston Corporation, 1964-1965; 1964
Box 1, Folder 13	Historical Murals. VI-76. Golden State Insurance Company
Box 1, Folder 14	Size-up 1959-1960. Los Angeles Fire Department Annual Report - Los Angeles Fire Department, 1959-1960, 1960
Box 1, Folder 15	Gas Talk. VIII-96. Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation, 1924
Box 1, Folder 16	Comstock Schools. VIII-34. Macurda - Drisco Schools, Incorporated, 1930
Box 1, Folder 17	From the library of Charles B. Hopper [Bookplate]. XI-156

Box 1, Folder 18	Fasteners. Aerospace, Marine, Industrial. VIII-141. Neoteric Metals, Incorporated
Box 1, Folder 19	Members. VIII-98. New York Employing Printers Association
Box 1, Folder 20	O'Keefe and Merritt Gas Range Owner's Manual. VIII-134. O'Keefe and Merritt
Box 1, Folder 21	28th Annual Exhibition. California Water Color Society. VI-77. Pasadena Art Museum
Box 1, Folder 22	Piccopale Resin. VIII-131. Pennsylvania Industrial Corporation
Box 1, Folder 23	Poly-Optic Systems. VIII-132. Poly-Optic Systems, Incorporated
Box 1, Folder 24	Ruckstell Ford Axle. VII-143-A. Ruckstell Sales and Manufacturing Company
Box 1, Folder 25	Electrical Contractors Since 1928. II-36,41. S.H. Fish Electric Company, Incorporated
Box 1, Folder 26	Scientific Optical Corporation - Scientific Optical Corporation
Box 1, Folder 27	Among The Stars With Clara Bow. VIII-150. Star Books, 1928
Box 1, Folder 28	Columbia Grand Opera Company [Prospectus]. VII-83. The Company
Box 1, Folder 29	Suzanne Lenglen by Mary K. Brown. XI-153. Vanity Fair
Box 1, Folder 30	Price List. VIII-142. Wilhite Machine Works, Incorporated
Box 1, Folder 31	Presenting the new Pierce-Arrow. VIII-92. William E. Bush, Incorporated
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1	Vernon Grant Illustrator. (2 posters). Will A. Kistler Company (1) Golden State Limited. Southern Pacific 16x23". (2) Wood Blocks. A New Note In Printing 12x19"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 2	A Taste of Christmas from the Candy Shop. [Proof sheet]. VIII-114. Marston's, 23x29", 1962
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 3	Footlines. Selected from the Blake, Moffett and Towne Calendar. Blake, Moffett and Towne 26x40"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 4	1969 [Calendar]. VIII-143. Golden State Mutual Life, 11x14", 1969
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 5	Fifty Photographs. Edward Weston. [Proofs]. II-26-31. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1947
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 6	[Color prints] (3). II-43-45. 10x13"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 7	[Untitled. Camping By A. Lake]. (Poster illustrated by HN). 7x42"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 8	[Christmas greetings. 3 posters]. (1) Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Kistler Lithograph Company, 23 x 36". (2) Wishing You Merry Christmas in a Big Way. Will A. Kistler Company, 19 x 25". (3) Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Kistler Lithograph Company, Incorporated. 23 x 35", 1963-1964
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 9	Christopher's Chocolates. 6 posters. (1) Christopher's Chocolates. The Perfect Valentine. (Poster Illustrated By WFR), 7x 26". (2) Remember Mother with Christopher's Chocolates, 7 x 26". (3) Say "Merry Christmas" with Christopher's Chocolates, 7 x 26". (4) Remember Christopher's Chocolates. California's Favorite Candy for Thanksgiving, 7 x 26". (5) Give Christopher's Chocolates for Easter, 7 x 26". (6) Say "Merry Christmas" with Christopher's Chocolates, 7 x 42"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 10	Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (offset). John Kelly. Tall Ship Series. (1) Heading in printer's proof, 20 x 26". (2) Topsail Schooner, printers proof, 20 x 26"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 11	Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (offset). Tyrus Wong. (1) Kicking Horse, 10 x 13". (2) Running Horse, 10 x 13". (3) Printing plate for both lithographs 15½ x 17½"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 12	Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (stone). Myron Nutting. (1) Morning, 12½ x 17". (2) Jason, 13 x 17½". (3) Nocturne, 13 x 17½"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 13	Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (stone). Eugene Berman. Verona, 17½ x 21½"
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 14	Abraham Lincoln portfolios, (2 portfolios), 1968, 1971
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 15	Honore Daumier reproductions

Subseries B: Books, 1925-1928, 1938, 1946

Box 1, Folder 32	[Untitled. Drawing of a woman]. Proof sheet
Box 1, Folder 33	Dance Memoranda. II-34,37,40. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1946
Box 1, Folder 34	First Penthouse Dwellers of America. II-35,38,39. Laboratory of Anthropology, 1938

Box 1, Folder 35 **Sierra Club, Number 45,51,55. V-1,62,63. Mountain Headquarters, Muir Lake, Santa Anita Canyon, 1925-1928**

Subseries C: Cards, 1930, 1950, 1971

Box 1, Folder 36 **E-ne-mo. V-66. Gables Beach Club, 1930**
 Box 1, Folder 37 **Mr. Kistler, Easter. II-60. Thank you note from Richard Bull, 1971**
 Box 1, Folder 38 **[Zamorano Club invitation]. V-67. Zamorano Club, 1950**
 Box 1, Folder 39 **[Untitled. Christmas card]. XI-157**

Subseries D: Catalogs, Programs, and Exhibitions, 1948-1968

Box 1, Folder 40 **Lithographs of June Wayne, Etchings of Ynez Johnston. VI-73. Art Institute of Chicago, 1952**
 Box 1, Folder 41 **Cady Wells Watercolors. VI-72. Cady Wells, 1948**
 Box 1, Folder 42 **Stools, Bars, Game Sets? VIII-124. California-Asia**
 Box 1, Folder 43 **Portfolio of Summer Sportswear Suggestions from "The Sport Shop." VIII-93. Harry Fink and Company**
 Box 1, Folder 44 **Catalogue of the Prints of Jean Charlot Printed by Lynton R. Kistler. This Lithograph... 1-3,6. Lynton R. Kistler**
 Box 1, Folder 45 **Actual Reproductions of Weinstein Original Conceptions in Platinum and Diamond Designs. VIII-94. Mr. Weinstein**
 Box 1, Folder 46 **Merle Armitage Presents Tanagra and Warren Lee. VII-79**
 Box 1, Folder 47 **Handprinted Lithographs of Eugene Berman. 1-5**
 Box 1, Folder 48 **Jean Charlot. A Catalog of Books, Portfolios, Writings, Murals. VI-69, 1968**
 Box 1, Folder 49 **Ambassador Kustom-Bilt Automobile Seat Covers, Tire Covers, Accessories. VIII-40. National Auto Fabrics Manufacturing Company**
 Box 1, Folder 50 **Disposable Products for the Medical Profession. VIII-135. Peel Away Scientific**
 Box 1, Folder 51 **Summary Catalogue. VIII-140. Penta Laboratories, Incorporated, 1963**
 Box 1, Folder 52 **Fire Protection Equipment. VIII-133. Potter-Roemer, 1960**
 Box 1, Folder 53 **June Wayne. VI-74. Santa Barbara Institute of Art, 1953**
 Box 1, Folder 54 **Lithographs by June Wayne. VI-75. The Contemporaries, 1953**
 Box 1, Folder 55 **Tudor Tile. VIII-88. Tudor Potteries, Incorporated**
 Box 1, Folder 56 **Exhibition. Paintings, Drawings and Lithographs by Clinton Adams. VI-70. UCLA Program. A Trip To Mount Wilson Observatory. V-65. Engineers Club**
 Box 1, Folder 57 **Newest Fashion Trends in Lingerie and Girdles. VIII-113. Glydons, Incorporated, 1962**

Subseries E: Multiple Print Jobs for the Same Firm, 1922-1971

Box 2, Folder 1 **Brown-Jordan Regent. VIII-115,117,119. Brown-Jordan, 1962, 1963**
 Box 2, Folder 2 **Brown-Jordan Tamiami. VIII-116,118. Brown-Jordan, 1963**
 Box 2, Folder 3 **Only Complete Line of Low Cost, Space Saving Kitchens... VIII-118,119. Cervitor Kitchens, Incorporated**
 Box 2, Folder 4 **Party-Time or Anything with a Cervitor Portable Home Draft Beer Dispenser. VIII, IV-120,50. Cervitor Kitchens, Incorporated**
 Box 2, Folder 5 **Man Ray. VI-71. Copley Galleries, 1948**
 Box 2, Folder 6 **Yves Tanguy Paintings and Catalogue. VI-78. Copley Galleries, 1949**
 Box 2, Folder 7 **Copley Galleries [letterhead stationary]. III-48,49. Copley Galleries**
 Box 2, Folder 8 **Last Period. Earle C. Anthony, 1927**
 Box 2, Folder 9 **Romance of Transportation in California. Earle C. Anthony, 1928**
 Box 2, Folder 10 **Electra-Motors. Catalog 55. VIII-128. Electra, 1954**
 Box 2, Folder 11 **Electra-Gearmotors. VIII-127. Electra, 1958**
 Box 2, Folder 12 **"Will A. Kistler, Co." [advertisement] In Proceedings Sixteenth Convention. V-68. California State Division**
 Box 2, Folder 13 **Prices for Printing from Handmade Plates at Kistler Lithograph Studio. December Classes in Lithography for Artists. I-1, 2**

- Box 2, Folder 14 **Biographies. [accompanies catalog not included]. XI-158**
- Box 2, Folder 15 **[Christmas greetings cards]. IV-53-59. Lynton R. Kistler**
- Box 2, Folder 16 **Hollywood Bowl by Isobel Morse Jones [prospectus]. I-8. Will A. Kistler Company, 1936**
- Box 2, Folder 17 **Advertising cards for the Will A. Kistler Co. Illustrated by Veron Grant. I-11-18. Will A. Kistler Company**
- Box 2, Folder 18 **Opera. VII-80,81. Los Angeles Grand Opera Association, 1929**
- Box 2, Folder 19 **Opera. VII-82. Los Angeles Grand Opera Association, 1931**
- Box 2, Folder 20 **Woodstock-In-The-Hills. Merrick and Ruddick Incorporated, 1925**
- Box 2, Folder 21 **Mulholland Hills. VIII-145. Merrick and Ruddick Incorporated, 1922-1926**
- Box 2, Folder 22 **Hollywood Country Club and Foothills Subdivision Graphic. VIII-146. Merrick and Ruddick, Incorporated, 1924**
- Box 2, Folder 23 **Souvenir of Exposition. Los Angeles. XI-155. Sunday-Merrick and Ruddick, Incorporated, 1923**
- Box 2, Folder 24 **Ormco Matic 880. VIII-123. Ormco Corporation**
- Box 2, Folder 25 **Annual Report. VIII-122. Ormco Corporation, 1966**
- Box 2, Folder 26 **Catalog III. VIII-121. Ormco Corporation**
- Box 2, Folder 27 **How to Identify Warplanes Friend or Enemy. XI-159. Richfield Oil Corporation of New York, 1942**
- Box 2, Folder 28 **New Deal For Your Motor. VIII-95. Richfield Oil Company of California, 1933**
- Box 2, Folder 29 **Official's Dope Book Football. XI-161. Richfield Oil Company of California, 1932**
- Box 2, Folder 30 **Scripps College Bulletin, Volume 8, Number 4. VIII-85. Scripps College, 1934**
- Box 2, Folder 31 **Scripps College Calendar. VIII-86. Scripps College, 1936**
- Box 2, Folder 32 **Scripps College Calendar. VIII-87. Scripps College, 1940**
- Box 2, Folder 33 **Who? VIII-125,126. Southwestern Engineering Corporation, 1925**
- Box 2, Folder 34 **Southwestern. VIII-143-B. Southwestern Engineering Corporation**
- Box 2, Folder 35 **Tropical Sun Rattan. VIII-117. Tropical Sun**
- Box 2, Folder 36 **Tropical Sun Rattan. VIII-116. Tropical Sun**
- Box 2, Folder 37 **Old Master Drawings. X-149. Zeitlin and Ver Brugge**
- Box 2, Folder 38 **Catalogs, Numbers 209, 224, 229. X-150-152. Zeitlin and Ver Brugge, 1965, 1970, 1971**

Series II: Printing Materials, 1975

- Box 3, Folder 1 **Printing Plates for Illustrations of Lynton R. Kistler, Printer-Lithographer. Catalog of Exhibition, 1975 April 25-June 15**
- Box 3, Folder 2 **Correspondence from Blake, Moffitt and Towne. Paper Dealers. With Roxburgh, A Portfolio of Specimens and Samples of Strathmore Paper**