Finding aid for the Leonardo Olschki papers, 1924-1987, undated

Finding aid prepared by Teresa Morales and Emmabeth Nanol
Descriptive Summary

Title: Leonardo Olschki papers,
Date (inclusive): 1924-1987, undated
Number: 890138
Creator/Collector: Olschki, Leonardo, 1885-1961
Physical Description: 9.5 linear feet (17 boxes)
Repository: The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: German-Italian romance philologist, orientalist, and scholar of medieval and renaissance texts. His papers comprises research papers, his manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, and some personal documents. Annotated proofs for English, German, and Italian editions of Marco Polo's Asia and Genius of Italy are included, along with research notes and related correspondence. Other papers concern some of Olschki's many research interests and his teaching at the University of Heidelberg and the University of California, Berkeley.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in English

Biographical/Historical Note

Leonardo Olschki was a German-Italian romance philologist, a scholar of medieval and renaissance texts and Italian-German literary relations, and an orientalist. He taught at the University of Heidelberg until 1932, and at the University of California at Berkeley.

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights

Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.

Preferred Citation

http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa890138

Acquisition Information


Processing History

Teresa Morales processed the collection and wrote the container list in 1995. Emmabeth Nanol further processed the collection in 2012 under the supervision of Andra Darlington.

Scope and Content of Collection

Leonardo Olschki's archive contains his research papers and manuscripts, personal and professional correspondence, clippings, some personal items, and the correspondence of his wife Kate with editors and scholars after his death. Olschki's correspondence is with friends, editors, and fellow scholars. Some correspondence (1953) refers to his dismissal from the University of Heidelberg in 1932; other letters and documents (1950s) relate to the loyalty oath issue at University of California, Berkeley concerning accusations of communist ties against faculty. Research papers include transcriptions of texts he used in his research, notes related to his writing projects, and texts of his lectures. Several files of research and notes relate to his Marco Polo in Asia book. Two reels of microfilm contain 42 pages of Chinese poetry and an 81 pages copy of a 13th century Latin document that describes journeys of Italians to the Far East. Included in his papers are reviews and commentaries on his published writings, with some related correspondence. The Olschki papers contain proof volumes and complete printed copies with Olschki's extensive annotations for his books, Genius of Italy(with English, Italian and German versions) and Marco Polo's Asia. (English and Italian editions). Kate Olschki's correspondence is with editors and scholars and concerns the re-publication of her husband's work, and a biography of Olschki. These files include an inventory (1972) of Olschki's library.
Finding aid for the Leonardo Olschki papers, 1924-1987, undated ...

**Arrangement note**

**Subjects - Names**
Columbus, Christopher
Pius XII, 1876-1958, Pope
Polo, Marco, 1254-1323?

**Subjects - Corporate Bodies**
American Oriental Society

**Subjects - Topics**
Chinese poetry
Church buildings--Italy
Grail
Grail legends
Loyalty oaths--California
Loyalty oaths--United States
Myth of felt
National socialism and education
Philologists
Private libraries

**Subjects - Places**
Asia--Description and travel
Asia--Study and teaching
Italy--Civilization
Mongolia--Discovery and exploration
Mongolia--History

**Subjects - Titles**
*Genius of Italy* Grail castle and its mysteries *Marco Polo's Asia*

**Genres and Forms of Material**
Microfilms
Photographic prints
Photographs, Original
Scores

**Contributors**
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
Arnoldo Mondadori editore
Cornell University Press
Evans, Arthur, 1942-
Guillén, Jorge, 1893-1984
Kantorowicz, Ernst Hartwig, 1895-1963
Kaschnitz, Marie Louise, 1901-1974
Kristeller, Paul Oskar, 1905-1999
Nin-Culmell, Joaquin, 1908-2004
Pantheon Books
Sansoni (Firm)
University of California Press
Series I. **Memorabilia, 1924-1987, undated**

Physical Description: 0.6 linear feet (2 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

The series contains personal items, including awards, personal photographs, music written in Olschki's honor, and a guestbook.

Arrangement note

Arranged according to honors and awards received with the exception of a grouping of personal photographs.

**Honor from the Republica of Italy, 1958, undated**

**Medal, undated**

Box 1, Folder 1

Scope and Content Note

Green leather presentation box with honor medals.

**Commendation, 1958 June 2**

Box 15*, Folder 1

Scope and Content Note

Includes telegram from San Francisco Italian Consulate General.

**Personal photographs, 1924-1987, undated**

Scope and Content Note

Includes photographs of Olschki and his wife, Olschki's father, friends, colleagues, Pope Pius XII and Pope John Paul XXIII.

**Black-and-white photographs, 1924-1966, undated**

Box 1, Folder 2

Scope and Content Note

Includes identification cards and some correspondence.

**Color photographs, 1959-1987, undated**

Box 16, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 3

**Order of merit, 1958**

Scope and Content Note

Medal and certificate, awarded to Olschki.

**"Homenaje à Leonardo Olschki" by Joaquín Nin-Culmell, 1955**

Box 1, Folder 4

Scope and Content Note

Music sheets.

**Guest book, 1951-1954**

Box 1, Folder 5

Scope and Content Note

Bound notebook signed by friends.
Series II. **Personal and professional correspondence, 1933-1984, undated**

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Scope and Content Note

Most letters are with editors and scholars and concern Olschki's work. A few letters are related to his dismissal from the University of Heidelberg in 1932. Other letters and documents concern the University of California, Berkeley and its faculty loyalty oath requirement. Some personal letters offer Olschki congratulations and birthday greetings. Olschki's letters to Paul Kristeller are photocopies.

Arrangement note

Materials grouped according to names, projects, and institutions they pertain with unclassified and congratulatory letters at the end.

**General and scholarly, 1936-1976**

- **Box 2, Folder 1**
  - 1936-1945

- **Box 2, Folder 2**
  - 1960-1976

- **Box 2, Folder 3**
  - *Ernst Hartwig Kantorowicz, 1943-1964*

  Scope and Content Note

  Includes a black-and-white photograph of Olschki.

- **Box 2, Folder 4**
  - *"Loyalty Oath," 1949-1950 Correspondence*

  Scope and Content Note

  Related material in Box 14*, folder 1.

- **Box 15*, Folder 2**
  - *Newspaper articles*

- **Box 2, Folder 5**
  - *Myth of Felt, 1946-1961, undated*

  Scope and Content Note

  Includes printed order forms for the publication, notes and clippings.

- **Box 2, Folder 6**
  - *University of Heidelberg, 1947-1958*

  Scope and Content Note

  Regarding dismissed compensation.

- **Box 2, Folder 7**
  - *Jorge Guillén, 1954-1955*

- **Box 2, Folder 8**
  - *Marie Luise Kaschnitz, 1954-1959*

- **Box 2, Folder 9**
  - *Landels & Weigel, 1954-1956*

  Scope and Content Note

  Regarding legal suit against University of California, Berkeley.

- **Box 2, Folder 10**
  - *Regarding L'Italia e il Suo Genio, 1951-1960*

  - **Criticism, 1953-1955**
  - **Others, 1951-1960**

- **Box 2, Folder 11**
  - *Regarding L'Asia di Marco Polo, 1947-1961*

  - **Correspondence, 1959-1961**

  Scope and Content Note

  Includes several correspondence in Chinese.

- **Box 15*, Folder 3**
  - *Chinese decorative papers and calligraphy, 1959-1960*

- **Box 2, Folder 14**

- **Box 2, Folder 15**
  - *Congratulatory correspondence, 1959-1960*

  Scope and Content Note

  Includes congratulations regarding 75th birthday, Medal of Honor award.
Series II. Personal and professional correspondence, 1933-1984, undated

Box 2, Folder 16
Unclassified correspondence, 1954-1956

Paul Oskar Kristeller, 1933-1984
Scope and Content Note
Circa 142 photocopied letters including 5 letters from Kate Olschki to Kristeller.

Series III. Research materials and manuscripts, 1924-1982, undated

Physical Description: 3.4 linear feet (4 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Series contains lectures, notes, transcriptions, clippings, articles, and manuscripts for writing projects. Several research materials relate to Olschki's book *Marco Polo in Asia* including 2 microfilm rolls.

Arrangement note
Arranged topically with miscellaneous articles and general bibliographic materials at the end.

*Archivum Romanicum, 1924-1935*

Box 3, Folder 1
"Male cançun," 1924

Box 3, Folder 2
"Ci fait la geste que Turolus declinet," 1935

Box 3, Folder 3
*Dante e l'Oriente* notes, 1938

Box 3, Folder 4
Notes on the work by Herman Pérez de Olivás, circa 1943

Research materials on Bishops of Ferrara, 1959

Box 3, Folder 5
General

Box 3, Folder 6
The Old Man of the Mountain, undated
Scope and Content Note
Notes, manuscript

Box 3, Folder 7
Abhinavagupta, 1956

Box 3, Folder 8
Tervagant, 1959

*Marvels of the West, 1959*

Box 3, Folder 9
Manuscripts and essays

Box 3, Folder 10
Correspondence and notes on American Oriental Society

Box 3, Folder 11
Partial typescript

Box 3, Folder 12
American Oriental Society, Seattle Symposium, 1959
Scope and Content Note
Manuscripts of paper presented and correspondence.

Box 3, Folder 13
Preface for *Songs for Exercise*, 1959
Scope and Content Note
Preface in English, German, Italian for book by Shih-Hsiang Chen

*Marco Polo's Asia, 1954-1981, undated*

Box 3, Folder 14
Chinese Poetry, undated

Photocopies of transcriptions
Scope and Content Note
Three pages of Chinese characters, four pages Italian text.

Box 17
Microfilm rolls

Box 3, Folder 15
Mongolian names, 1960

Box 3, Folder 16
Mongol culture, undated
Scope and Content Note
Miscellaneous notes.
Series III. Research materials and manuscripts, 1924-1982, undated

Box 3, Folder 17  |  Research articles, 1952-1954, undated
- Scope and Content Note
  "Der Throntabernakel: Aus der 300 jährigen Geschichte eines Herrschersymbols" by Professor A. Alföldi, Bern, pages 76-86; *L'Italia che scrive*, October 1954 (whole issue).

- Graphic materials, undated
  - Book cover and indices
  - Proofs, figures 1 to 9
  - *L'Asia di Marco Polo* illustrations, undated
  - Black-and-white photographs and notes
  - Negatives

- English translation, undated
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Photocopy of the translated manuscript; book cover; text for the illustration; notes.

- Addenda, corrections, related correspondence, 1962-1963

- Reviews and criticisms, 1954-1961
- Scope and Content Note
  - Clippings, typewritten copies of articles.

- Papers about the film, 1961
- Scope and Content Note
  - Notes, clippings, correspondence.

- Papers about the television miniseries, 1981
- Scope and Content Note
  - Clippings.

- *L'Etnea nelle Tradizioni orientali del medio evo*, 1959-1960
- Scope and Content Note
  - Multiple manuscripts, notes.

- Mongolian names, 1960


- "*L'Enigma del Pescatore,*" 1951-1961
- Scope and Content Note
  - Notes, manuscripts, book circulation slips, clippings.

- "*Castle of the Fisher King and Its Mysteries,*" 1961
- Scope and Content Note
  - Typewritten manuscripts, notes, appendix, proof copy of the publication.

- *L'Italia e il Suo Genio*, 1964, undated
- Scope and Content Note
  - Photographs, inventory, correspondence.

- Articles regarding presence of Middle Eastern culture in the Far East, 1938, 1960s, 1980s

- Chinese Emperors Bosait and Calet, undated
- Scope and Content Note
  - Latin documents with transcriptions from circa 1325.

- Miscellaneous articles and clippings, 1945-1960
- General bibliographic annotations, circa 1957

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Series III. Research materials and manuscripts, 1924-1982, undated

Box 4, Folder 7-9

**Issues of various periodicals and offprints, 1942-1982**

Scope and Content Note


Series IV. Critiques and commentaries of Olschki's work, 1927-1976, undated

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Scope and Content Note

Series comprises reviews and clippings of Olschki's publications and related correspondence.

Arrangement note

Arranged topically.

**Genius of Italy, 1946-1976, undated**

Box 5, Folder 1-2

Correspondence with publishers, 1950-1976

Publication agreement and memoranda, 1947-1969, undated

Box 5, Folder 3-4

General

Oversize

Box 5, Folder 5-7

Critiques and commentary, 1946-1960

General

Oversize

Box 5, Folder 8

"A Poesia Italiane del Cinquecento" by Michele Losacco and "La Logical Phantastica di Giordano Bruno", 1927-1933

Box 5, Folder 9

Cose fiorentine, 1945

Scope and Content Note

Newspaper clippings.

Box 5, Folder 10

Guillaume Boucher, 1947-1952

Scope and Content Note

Notes, reviews, articles, letters.

Box 5, Folder 11

Galileo, 1954-1959

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, clippings.

Box 5, Folder 12

Grail castle and its mysteries, 1966-1971

Scope and Content Note

Clippings, reviews.

Series V. Business correspondence of Kate Olschki and an inventory, 1961-1987

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Scope and Content Note

Contains letters dealing with the issues of re-publication of Olschki's work after his death. Letters with Arthur Evans includes a biography of Olschki. An inventory of Olschki's library taken on July 16, 1972 is also found in this series.

Arrangement note

Arrangement according to senders' names with the exceptions of three groupings: reproduction permission, miscellaneous, and an inventory of Olschki's library.

Reproduction permissions, 1961-1977


Grail castle and its mysteries 1961-1977

Genius of Italy, 1966-1971
| Box 6, Folder 5 | **Professor Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti, 1967** |
| Box 6, Folder 6 | **Carl Winter University Publications, 1967** |
|                | **Arthur Evans, 1968-1987** |
| Box 6, Folder 7 | **Correspondence, 1968-1987** |
| Box 6, Folder 8 | **Biography of Olschki by Arthur Evans, 1977** |
| Box 6, Folder 9 | **Professor Hans Rheinfelder, 1967-1972** |
| Box 6, Folder 10 | **Paul Oskar Kristeller, 1984** |
| Box 6, Folder 11 | **Miscellaneous, 1962-1986** |
| Box 6, Folder 12 | **Inventory of Olschki library, 1972 July 16** |

**Series VI. Book: *Genius of Italy*, 1947-circa 1958**

- **Physical Description:** 3.2 linear feet (5 boxes)
- **Scope and Content Note**
  The series contains proof copies, and annotated (by Olschki) publication copies of Olschki's book, in English, Italian and German versions.
- **Arrangement note**
  Arranged according to language editions.

- **German edition, 1947-circa 1958**
  - **Box 7**
    - **Photocopies of publication, circa 1958**
      - **Scope and Content Note**
        Photocopied text in 4 bound volumes with annotations.

- **Italian edition, 1947**
  - **Box 8**
    - **Italien: *Genius und Geschichte*, 1947**
      - **Scope and Content Note**
        2 annotated volumes, comb-binding covered with masking tape.

- **Incomplete manuscripts, 1947**
  - **Box 10, Folder 1-2**
    - **Scope and Content Note**
      Typewritten of chapters XVI and XVII with extensive annotations.

- **English edition, 1947**
  - **Box 9**
    - **Photocopies of publication, circa 1947**
      - **Scope and Content Note**
        Five 8 1/2 × 11 inch pressboard binders with annotations.

- **Italian edition, 1947**
  - **Box 10, Folder 3-9**
    - **Manuscripts with annotations, 1947**
  - **Box 11, Folder 1-6**
    - **Scope and Content Note**
      Manuscript with annotations.

**Series VII. Book: *Marco Polo's Asia*, circa 1957-1960**

- **Physical Description:** 0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Five volumes of heavily annotated publications: 3 volumes, Sansoni Editore (Florence), 2 volumes with blank pages interleaved for notes and addenda, 1 without; 1 volume, San Giorgio Maggiore (Venezia); 1 volume with blank pages interleaved, University of California Press (Berkeley).
- **Arrangement note**
  Arranged according to languages.

- **Italian edition, circa 1957**
Box 12  
**G. C. Sansoni - Editore, Firenze**
Scope and Content Note
3 volumes of heavily annotated publications, 2 with blank pages interleaved for notes and addenda.

Box 13  
**San Giorgio Maggiore, Venezia**
Scope and Content Note
1 volume of heavily annotated volume.

Box 13  
**English edition, 1960**
Scope and Content Note
1 volume with slightly annotated and blank pages interleaved, University of California Press (Berkeley).