Finding aid for the Josef Steindl furniture design, circa 1888-1928

Finding aid prepared by Rose Lachman.
Descriptive Summary
Title: Josef Steindl furniture design
Date (inclusive): 1888-1928
Number: 930025
Creator/Collector: Steindl, Josef
Physical Description: 4.0 linear feet(7 boxes, 6 flat file folders)
Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: Architect and professor at the Royal Technical School for Woodworking in Wal. Mesertitsch, and a noted designer of modern, functional furniture in the 20th century. Steindl designed primarily bentwood and metal tubular furniture. He was, however, also a master of historical furniture styles as seen in his work of the 1880s and 1890s and in the ornamentation for his bentwood pieces. Collection comprises 315 original drawings and 571 photographic prints of furniture designs by Steindl, many in historical styles of the 1890s.

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 German

Biographical / Historical Note
Josef Steindl, architect and professor at the Royal Technical School for Woodworking in Wal. Mesertitsch, was a noted designer of modern, functional furniture in the 20th century. His designs were intended for manufacture by the leading furniture factories in Eastern Europe in the early 1900s, the Thonet Bentwood Furniture factory and Jacob and Josef Kohn factory. The two firms merged in Vienna, 1914 (Kohn's archives were destroyed in the late 1930s).

Steindl designed primarily for the bentwood, metal and tubular steel furniture industry in Moravia between 1880 and 1930. However, he was also a master of historical furniture styles as is shown in his work of the 1880s and 1890s. Steindl's command of historical ornament and construction can be seen in his interior designs for cafés, restaurants and various room ensembles. It is also apparent in his ornamental designs for bentwood furniture.

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Preferred Citation
Josef Steindl furniture design, ca. 1888-1928, Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Accession no. 930025.
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa930025

Acquisition Information
The collection was acquired May 25, 1993.

Processing History
Rose Lachman processed the collection and wrote the finding aid.

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection of ca. 315 original drawings and ca. 571 photographic prints of furniture designs by Josef Steindl covers the years from ca. 1888 to 1928. Ninety photographs are cyanotypes, 54 are of blueprints. Each series in the container list describes the drawings first, followed by the photographs. Few images are dated. Steindl assigned series numbers to his designs. These and his signature or monogram are noted. Designs that fall into the category "historic style" are also noted. Photographers' names and furniture manufacturers' stamps, such as Gebrüder Thonet and Jacob and Josef Kohn are also mentioned. Photographers include A. Mocsigay, Strelisky (Budapest), Victor Angerer (Vienna), H. Jandaurek (Teschen), Photographie Olga (Vienna), J. Hybsa and R. Lechner (Vienna).

Arrangement note
The papers are organized in 2 series: Series I. Individual pieces of furniture and room and furniture ensembles; Series II. Miscellaneous.

**Series I. Individual pieces of furniture and room and furniture ensembles, ca. 1888-1928**

**Physical Description:** ca. 882 items

**Scope and Content Note**
Designs for individual pieces of furniture, and ensembles and rooms in photographs and original drawings. Arranged in 2 subseries.

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**Series I.A. Individual pieces of furniture, ca. 1888-1928**

**Physical Description:** ca. 706 items

**Scope and Content Note**
Drawings and photographs of furniture include chairs and armchairs; benches, sofas and loveseats; tables; vitrines, cupboards, sideboards and wardrobes; beds; decorative arts such as clocks, frames, mirrors, music stands; and decorative designs for furniture.

**Box 1, Folder 1**

**Chairs, 1928**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in black ink, 16 items. 14 chair designs with monogram; style designated as modern.

**Box 1, Folder 2**

**Chairs**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in black ink, 9 items. 6 cushioned chair designs with monogram; style designated as classical; one design with and without measurements (2 sheets); sheet of designs with 2 chairs and 5 seatbacks.

**Box 1, Folder 3**

**Chairs and Armchairs**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in black ink, 7 items.

**Box 1, Folder 4**

**Chairs, 1911**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in black ink, 7 items. First drawing has pencil inscription "Von Herrn Victor Thonet am 9/IX/1911..."

**Box 1, Folder 5**

**Chairs**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in black ink, 14 items. 13 designs and folder cover.

**Box 1, Folder 6**

**Chairs**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in black ink, 9 items. 3 sheets with several variations of same chair (2 with Steindl's signature, 1 with monogram).

**Box 1, Folder 7**

**Chairs**

**Scope and Content Note**
Original drawings in colored ink, 4 items. 1 sheet with caption, Gebrüder Thonet, Wien; 3 sheets with Steindl's signature, includes 1 with date 9.VIII.91.
## Series I. Individual pieces of furniture and room and furniture ensembles, ca. 1888-1928

**Series I.A. Individual pieces of furniture, ca. 1888-1928**

| Box 5*, Folder 1 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Original drawings in black ink, 10 items. Each sheet depicts several views of one chair.  
| Drawings intended for a competition. Unsigned. Handwritten in upper right corner is the code word for each chair.  |

| Box 5*, Folder 2 | **Swivel Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Original drawings in black ink, 6 items.  |

| Box 5*, Folder 3 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Original drawings in black ink, 9 items. Each sheet depicts several views of one chair.  
| Unsigned. From series 1:5 and 1:10. 2 sheets from series 1:10 indicate chairs intended for dining room and bedroom.  |

| Box 5*, Folder 4 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Original drawings in black or brown ink, 5 items.  |

| Box 1, Folder 8 | **Chairs and Armchairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Photographs (4 cyanotypes), 25 items. 1 sheet with 11 chairs; 1 mount with photographer's stamp, A. Mocsigay; 2 mounts with stamp of Gebr. Thonet.  |

| Box 1, Folder 9 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Photographs of blueprints, 36 items. Each sheet has Steindl's monogram.  |

| Box 1, Folder 10 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Photographs of blueprints (12) and cyanotypes (8), 20 items. Without monogram; 2 prints with inscription: Wiener-Lager Gerichtsgebäude 5.3.14.  |

| Box 1, Folder 11 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Photographs (4 clippings), 26 items. Photos are from various series numbered at the bottom of each print (series 55=15 prints; 221=1 print; 360=1 print; 363=2 prints; 391=1 print; 392=4 prints; 553=1 print; 738=1 print).  |

| Box 1, Folder 12 | **Chairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Photographs, 55 items. Stamped on verso: Gebrüder Thonet; Series numbered at the bottom of each print (series 75=7 prints; 360=10 prints; 363=1 print; 384=12 prints; 390=1 print; 391=4 prints; 392=1 print; 553=9 prints; 738=10 prints).  |

| Box 1, Folder 13 | **Chairs and Armchairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Photographs, 56 items. 31 photos with numbers written or printed at bottom; 23 without numbers; 2 stamped on verso: Thonet and Gebrüder Thonet.  |

| Box 1, Folder 14 | **Chairs and Armchairs** | Scope and Content Note  
| Cyanotypes, 33 items. 2 stamped on verso: Thonet and Gebrüder Thonet.  |
Box 1, Folder 15  **Chairs and Armchairs**  
Scope and Content Note  
Cyanotypes, 35 items. 24 with series numbered at bottom (1P-20P, and 1 each for 515, 1515, 832, 846). 11 with names for chairs (?) written at bottom.

Box 1, Folder 16  **Chairs, Rocking Chair and Hassock**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs, 7 items. 5 with photographer's name printed on recto: Strelisky [Budapest] and printed on verso with the firm nameplate; rocking chair printed on verso with photographer's nameplate: Victor Angerer, Wien; hassock is unidentified.

Box 1, Folder 17  **Chairs**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs, 8 items. Style of chairs designated as historical. 1 sheet with photographer's name: H. Jandaurek, Teschen; 2 with Thonet stamp on verso.

Box 2, Folder 1  **Seating ensembles**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink, 21 items. Each sheet depicts an arrangement with sofa, chair and table.

Box 5*, Folder 5  **Seating ensembles**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink, 3 items. 2 sheets depict a chair with matching table. 1 sheet depicts a sofa with table. All from series 1:10; 1 sheet with Steindl's monogram and 1 with his signature.

Box 5*, Folder 6  **Sofas, Benches and Loveseats**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink, 13 items. Most sheets show designs from 2 or 3 angles; 2 sheets with Steindl's monogram and 1 with his signature. 11 sheets from series 1:10.

Box 2, Folder 2  **Benches and loveseats**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs (6), cyanotypes (5). 11 items. 1 sheet with Thonet stamp.

Box 2, Folder 3  **Tables**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink (11), photographs (1), 12 items. Designs for tea tables with metal tops; 11 drawings signed with monogram.

Box 2, Folder 4  **Tables**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink, 11 items. Designs for tea tables with glass tops; signed with monogram.

Box 5*, Folder 7  **Tables**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 7 items. 1 sheet with "Arbeitstischchen" (desk) with Steindl's signature and handwritten upper left gives material used for the table (ash decorated with gilt). See also flat file folder 1**. Another desk drawing also has Steindl's signature.
Series I. Individual pieces of furniture and room and furniture ensembles, ca. 1888-1928

Series I.A. Individual pieces of furniture, ca. 1888-1928

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Oversize 1** Table and Decorative Design
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black and colored ink, 2 items. 1 sheet with "Arbeitstischchen" (desk) with Steindl's signature. See also Box 5*, folder 7.

Box 2, Folder 5 Tables and table stands
Scope and Content Note
Photographs (13), cyanotypes (2), 15 items. Table types include a checker board table, desk and plant stand. 2 sheets with Thonet printed on recto, one with inscription, "für Hotel Majestic."

Box 2, Folder 6 Tables and table stands
Scope and Content Note
Photographs, 6 items. Style of tables designated as historical. 1 sheet with photographer's name: H. Jandaurek, Teschen and furniture factory: Jacob & Josef Kohn, Teschen.

Box 2, Folder 7 Vitrines and Cupboards
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black ink (2), colored inks (1), 3 items. 2 designs for the same vitrine. Thonet stamp on verso.

Box 5*, Folder 8 Vitrines
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 6 items. 2 sheets with Steindl's monogram and 1 sheet with his signature.

Box 5*, Folder 9 Vitrines
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 13 items. 7 sheets with Steindl's monogram and 1 with his signature. Some sheets state intended use and give measurements. All are from series 1:10.

Oversize 6** Vitrine and Sideboard
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black ink, 2 items. Both sheets signed by Steindl and from series 1:10.

Box 6*, Folder 1 Sideboards
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black and brown ink, 7 items. 2 sheets with Steindl's monogram and 5 with his signature. All are from the series 1:10.

Box 6*, Folder 2 Sideboards
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 11 items.

Box 6*, Folder 3 Wardrobes
Scope and Content Note
Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 13 items. 2 sheets with Steindl's monogram and 1 with his signature. Several sheets indicate whether the wardrobe is used for linens or clothes. 11 sheets are from the series 1:10.
| Box 6*, Folder 4 | **Nightstands, Washstands and Dressing Table**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black and colored inks or pencil, 7 items. 2 sheets with Steindl's signature. 6 sheets are from the series 1:10. |
| --- | --- |
| Box 6*, Folder 5 | **Beds and Bedframes**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 8 items. 3 sheets with Steindl's monogram. 7 sheets are from the series 1:10. |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | **Wardrobes and Cupboards**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs, 11 items. Style designated as historical; 2 sheets with photographer's name: Photographie Olga, Wien. |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | **Wardrobes and Cupboards, and 1 Bed**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs, 12 items |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | **Decorative Arts, Clocks**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in black and colored inks, 10 items. Each sheet has Steindl's monogram. |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | **Decorative Arts, Clocks**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs, 3 items. Style of clocks designated as historical. |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | **Decorative Arts, Mirrors**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs (4), cyanotypes (1), blueprints (4), 9 items. 1 photograph with photographer's stamp: Photographie Olga, Wien and signed on photo: Jos Slavik. |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | **Decorative Arts, Frames**  
Scope and Content Note  
Photographs, 14 items. All frames in style designated as historical (6 in duplicate). 1 sheet with Steindl's signature lower right; 1 with photographer's name: J. Hybsa; 1 signed by Wilf. Wollmann 1893. |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | **Decorative Arts, Miscellany**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original Drawings in black and colored inks, 5 items. 2 sheets with music stands; 2 sheets with decorative designs, one inscribed for a girl's room; 1 sheet with a high table which opens into a table and chair; none with monogram. |
| Box 7*, Folder 5 | **Decorative Arts, Miscellany**  
Scope and Content Note  
Original drawings in colored inks, 2 items. Sheet of studies with flowers and an ex libris is signed, Jos. Steindl, August 2, 1902; 1 decorative design on graph paper. |
Series I. Individual pieces of furniture and room and furniture ensembles, ca. 1888-1928

Series I.A. Individual pieces of furniture, ca. 1888-1928

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<tr>
<th>Box 6*, Folder 6</th>
<th>Decorative Arts, Miscellany, Screen (1), Mirrors (2), Clocks (2), Fireplaces (2), Chapel with crucifix (1), Rug (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original drawings in black and colored inks or pencil, 9 items. 5 sheets with Steindl's signature; 2 sheets from series 1:10 and 2 from 1:20.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Box 2, Folder 15

| Decorative Arts, Miscellany, Photographs (19) |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Photographs of blueprints (2), 21 items. Objects include candelabrum, candlesticks, vases, chest (signed Tapper '88), decorative seatbacks (signed ?, '88), decorative panel, crucifix, folding screens (1 signed by Steindl), floral design, bed frames, display stand (printed with Thonet stamp), hat/coat racks (1 topped with Thonet advertisement globe and inscribed on verso with date 1925. The 2 blueprint photos are birds with Thonet stamp on verso. |

Box 3, Folder 1

| Decorative Arts, Miscellany |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Photographs, 19 items. All photos in style designated as historical (multiple copies of 6 images). Photos consist of chests and decorative panels. 4 sheets signed by Steindl. |

Box 3, Folder 2

| Decorative Arts, Miscellany |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Photographs, 21 items. All photos in style designated as historical (multiple copies of 6 images). Photos consist of spinning wheel, music stand, hand mirrors and decorative elements. 5 sheets signed by Steindl. |

Series II.B. Room and furniture ensembles, ca. 1888-1928

Physical Description: 176 items

Scope and Content Note

This series contains photographs and original drawings that depict living room and bedroom furniture ensembles, interior views such as the hunting lodge, Jagdhaus Barwinck and several restaurants and cafés, garden furniture, and house floor plans.

Box 7*, Folder 2

| Interior view of 3 walls |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Original drawings in pencil, 3 items. All sheets with Steindl's monogram and numbered 13-15. |

Box 7*, Folder 3

| Floor plan for a house, 1916 |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Steindl designs as a student (2) and sheet of furniture designs, Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 4 items. 2 student works are dated May, 1916 and October, 1916. |

Box 3, Folder 3

| Living room and Bedroom Furniture |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Photographs, 6 items. All photos signed by Steindl and numbered 1-6. |

Box 3, Folder 4

<p>| Interior views of hunting lodge (Jagdhaus Barwinck) 1906 |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Photographs, 6 items. Handwritten inscription on verso with date Sept 1906. |</p>
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<th>Box 7*, Folder 1</th>
<th><strong>Garden Furniture</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Original drawings in black ink or pencil, 43 items. Portfolio with the words &quot;Thonet&quot; and &quot;Gartenmöbel&quot; written on cover. The portfolio contains 42 designs of benches, chairs and tables. One series is numbered 1-26 and another, 4-17.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 5</th>
<th><strong>Garden chairs with and without arms</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographs, 21 items. All mounts have printed inscription: Gebr. Thonet, Bystritz A.H. and the series number written below from 14041-14050 (chairs without arms) and 14136-14148 (with arms).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 6</th>
<th><strong>Garden tables and benches</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographs, 18 items. All mounts have printed inscription: Gebr. Thonet, Bystritz A.H. and the series number written below from 14541 and14550 (tables) and 14237-14250 (benches).</td>
</tr>
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<th>Oversize 3**</th>
<th><strong>Room ensembles</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Original drawings in black ink and watercolor, 1 item. Signed by Steindl. From series 1:20.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Oversize 4**</th>
<th><strong>Room ensembles</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Original drawings in black ink and watercolor, 4 items. Signed by Steindl. From series 1:20.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 7</th>
<th><strong>Room ensembles</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographs, 25 items. Interior views of living room, bedrooms and baby rooms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 8</th>
<th><strong>Room ensembles</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographs (23) and cyanotypes (2), 25 items. Interior views of living rooms, bedrooms, chapel and baby rooms. 1 photo for a bedroom with handwritten inscription on verso and dated 12/1920. Some photos have numbers written on sheet designating specific items.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 1</th>
<th><strong>Interior views of public places</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographs, 8 items. 4 views of a restaurant or tea house; 1 view of the Moscow Thonet exhibition spaces filled with furniture; 3 views of an unfurnished interior.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 7*, Folder 4</th>
<th><strong>Interior view of a coffee house</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photograph, 1 item. Photo identified by imprint: R. Lechner, Wien.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 2</th>
<th><strong>Furniture ensembles</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographs, 8 items. All photos in style designated as historical (2 in duplicate). Photos consist of chests, tables, chairs and a view of four sides of a room with furniture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Box 4, Folder 3

**Interior views of Gothic style room, Photographs, 3 items**

**Series II. Miscellaneous Original Drawings and Photographs, ca. 1888-1928**

**Physical Description:** 8 items

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of photographs and original drawings. Photographs include drawings for a trade school and unidentified photographic portraits, one a group portrait showing Steindl and, possibly, Thonet. The drawings include a design for a garden and monument, and a groundplan and elevation for a crypt.

**Oversize 2**

**Design for a garden and monument**

**Scope and Content Note**

Original drawing in watercolor and black ink, 1 item. Signed by Steindl.

**Oversize 5**

**Ground plan and elevation, possibly for a crypt**

**Scope and Content Note**

Original drawings in black ink, 1 item. Signed by Steindl. from series 1:50.

### Box 4, Folder 4

**Photographs**

**Scope and Content Note**

6 items. One groundplan and elevation for a trade school (Bypritzky?); 1 view of a town square; interior view with woman cooking; 2 unidentified female portraits; photograph of 4 men (one is Steindl and one is possibly Thonet).