
Carey S. Bliss and Leslie E. Bliss papers

Finding aid prepared by Valree M. Weythman.

The Huntington Institutional Archives

The Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: (626) 405-2191

Email: reference@huntington.org

URL: <http://www.huntington.org>

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Carey S. Bliss and Leslie E. Bliss papers

Dates: 1893-1986

Bulk dates: 1903-1986

Collection Call Number: HIA 34.35.1-10

Creator: Bliss, Carey S.

Extent: 10 boxes

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. The Huntington Institutional Archives

The Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: (626) 405-2203

Fax: (626) 449-5720

Email: archives@huntington.org

URL: <http://www.huntington.org>

Abstract: The collection contains the papers of Leslie and Carey Bliss.

Language of Material: The records are in English and German.

Access

Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following [web site](#) .

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Carey S. Bliss and Leslie E. Bliss papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Biography

Leslie Bliss was born in 1889 and died in 1977. He was a graduate of Colgate University and the New York State Library School and began working for the Huntington Library as an assistant in 1915. In 1926, he was appointed head librarian of the Huntington Library which he held until his retirement in 1958, although he remained with the Huntington Library as a consultant. He earned an honorary degree from Colgate University in 1961. While serving as librarian and continuing during his retirement, Leslie Bliss worked with Juanita Brooks to expand the Huntington Library's collection of early Mormon books and manuscripts.

Carey Bliss, the son of Leslie Bliss, was born in 1914 and died in 1994. He earned a degree from Pomona College in 1936 and began working as an assistant curator under Robert O. Schad in 1937. Carey Bliss served as the curator of rare books at the Huntington Library until his retirement in 1982. He was an expert on the history of printing and had an interest in camellia cultivation. Carey Bliss was a longstanding member of the Rounce and Coffin Club, beginning in the 1940s, and served as the librarian for the Zamorano Club.

Scope and Content

The Carey Bliss files comprise the bulk of the collection. The articles and research files contain work created by Carey Bliss while he was a student at Pomona College and while he was a curator at the Huntington library. The correspondence covers his work as a curator, including a single thank you letter from Richard Nixon for the repair of the Nixon's family bible. The lecture files contain notes for a course that Carey Bliss taught at the University of Southern California on the history of books and printing. These notes include a sheet of papyrus in the folder for lectures three and four. The Rounce & Coffin Club files pertain to Carey Bliss's longstanding membership. The files contain meeting invitations and information on exhibitions prepared by the club, including the annual Western Books Exhibition.

The majority of the Leslie Bliss files are correspondence written while Leslie Bliss served as the librarian of the Huntington Library. The Zamorano files contain correspondence to and from Leslie Bliss about books and exhibitions at the Huntington library that were considered relevant to the bibliophilic club's interest. These correspondences also contain information about Leslie Bliss's membership to the club, including letters about his election as an honorary member of the Zamorano's board of governors in 1953.

The miscellaneous files contain items that possess uncertain attribution, are attributed other people, or are equally related to Carey and Leslie Bliss. These files contain correspondence from Jacob Bliss who is presumed to be a relative of Leslie and Carey Bliss. The correspondence between Robert O. Schad and Joseph D. Cone is dated during the time Robert O. Schad was the curator of rare books and Carey Bliss was the assistant curator. The correspondence from Will Bradley contains autobiographical information that is related to an exhibition of his work at the Huntington Library in the 1950s. This exhibition was prepared by Carey Bliss. Amelia Baker's nametag dates to when she worked at Caltech's GALCIT wind tunnel and before her marriage to Carey Bliss.

The Leslie E. Bliss and Upton Sinclair material deals primarily with the possible acquisition of the Sinclair library and archive by the Huntington Library. The material includes correspondence with Upton Sinclair, his wife Mary Craig Sinclair, Huntington Library Staff, and other Librarians; it also includes essays and printed material by Upton Sinclair. The Upton Sinclair library and archive were ultimately acquired by the Lilly Library, Indiana University.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into three series. The first contains the papers of Carey S. Bliss, the second the papers of Leslie E. Bliss, and the last is miscellaneous files.

Personal Names

Bliss, Carey S. -- Archives.

Bliss, Leslie Edgar, 1889-1977 -- Archives.

Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955.

Sterling, George, 1869-1926.

Corporate Names

Huntington Library and Art Collection -- Department of Rare Books.

Subjects

Camellias.

Fine books.

Library science.

Printing--History.

Rare books.

Genre

Articles

Business cards

Invitations

Lecture notes

Letters (correspondence)

Manuscripts

Offprints

Postcards

Printed ephemera

Scrapbooks

Additional Contributors

Bliss, Leslie Edgar, 1889-1977.

Pomfret, John E. (John Edwin), 1898-1981.

Schulz, Herbert Clarence, 1902-.

Sinclair, Mary Craig.

Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968.

Box HIA 34.35.1	Carey S. Bliss: Articles (1933-1985); Carey S. Bliss: Correspondence (1940-1986): Allen - Carter
Folder HIA 34.35.1.1	Articles: The Allen Press (1961-1985)

Folder HIA 34.35.1.2	Articles: Beauties of Aesop [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.1.3	Articles: Camellias (approximately 1975-1985)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.4	Articles: Camellia Books [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.1.5	Articles: Dodoens' Great Herbal of 1583 (1977)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.6	Articles: English Printing in the Eighteenth Century (college paper) (1933)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.7	Articles: Richard J. Hoffman, Printer (1962)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.8	Articles: Julius Firmicus Maternus and the Aldine Edition of the Scriptores Astronomici Veteres (approximately 1938-1975)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.9	Articles: Joseph Moxon [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.1.10	Articles: Typefounding in the United States (approximately 1941)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.11	Correspondence: Lewis & Dorothy Allen (1957-1985)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.12	Correspondence: H. Richard Archer (1958-1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.1.13	Correspondence: Annetta Carter (Willowdale Press) (approximately 1973-1976)
Box HIA 34.35.2	Carey S. Bliss: Correspondence (1940-1986): Cheney - Wong; Carey S. Bliss: Fine Printing Files (1949-1978); Carey S. Bliss: Lizzie Borden Files; Carey S. Bliss: Lectures (1960-1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.1	Correspondence: William M. Cheney (1959-1977)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.2	Correspondence: Joseph D. Cone (1951-1952)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.3	Correspondence: Dr. J.S. Holliday (California Historical Society) (1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.4	Correspondence: Ward Kimball (1969)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.5	Correspondence: Russ Leadabrand (1963)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.6	Correspondence: Ernest A. Linder (1974)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.7	Correspondence: Edward Morrill & Sons, Inc. (1981)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.8	Correspondence: Re: Moxon (1956-1975)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.9	Correspondence: Howard M. Nixon (Gutenberg Bible) (1971)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.10	Correspondence: Richard M. Nixon (1968)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.11	Correspondence: Lawrence Clark Powell (1952-1982)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.12	Correspondence: Will Ransom (1940)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.13	Correspondence: Mrs. H.B. Rosenthal (Gutenberg Ownership) (approximately 1971-1972)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.14	Correspondence: William Edwin Rudge (1941)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.15	Correspondence: Judy Harvey Sahak (Slocum Prize - Scripps College) (1983-1986)

Folder HIA 34.35.2.16	Correspondence: Shirley Sargent (1962, 1981-1982)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.17	Correspondence: Guillermo Tapia (1961)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.18	Correspondence: Roberta Wong (Will Bradley) (1972)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.19	Fine Printing Files: The Allen Press (1958-1978)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.20	Fine Printing Files: Offprints (1949-1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.21	Lizzie Borden Files (approximately 1982)
Folder HIA 34.35.2.22	Lectures: Amateur Boy Printer (approximately 1860s, 1962-1966)
Box HIA 34.35.3	Carey Bliss: Lectures (1960-1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.1	A Bio-Bibliographical Tour (1961-1966)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.2	Collecting Rare Books (1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.3	A Few Highlights in the Book Collecting Career of Henry E. Huntington (1969)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.4	Highlights in the Huntington Library's Medical Collection (1973)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.5	The Huntingtons (incomplete copy) [undated] Includes a copy of a photograph from 1903.
Folder HIA 34.35.3.6	Literature of Printing [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.3.7	The Rare Book Collection at the Huntington Library (1960-1963)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.8	The Rounce & Coffin Club and The Roxburghe Club [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.3.9	Thomas J. Wise - his bibliophilic forgeries and thefts [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.3.10	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures I & II (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.11	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures III & IV (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.12	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures V & VI (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.13	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures VII & VIII (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.14	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures IX & X (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.15	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures XI & XII (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.16	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures I (approximately 1960)
Folder HIA 34.35.3.17	History of Books and Printing (USC) - Lectures I (approximately 1960)
Box HIA 34.35.4	Carey S. Bliss: Personal Papers (1932-1986); Carey S. Bliss: Research (1938-1950)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.1	Personal Papers: Articles about & reviews (1964-1981)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.2	Personal Papers: Diary, December 7 - 31, 1941 (1941)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.3	Personal Papers: Pomona College (1936, 1986) Graduation and 50th reunion papers

Folder HIA 34.35.4.4	Personal Papers: Miscellaneous (1932-1984)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.5	Personal Papers: Belgium, Coonference Trip (1979)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.6	Personal Papers: Central & Northern California Trip (1966)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.7	Personal Papers: London & Paris (1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.8	Research: Re: Steamships (1948)
Folder HIA 34.35.4.9	Research: Steamboats California (1893, approximately 1940s)
Box HIA 34.35.5	Carey S. Bliss: Research (1938-1950); Carey S. Bliss: Rounce & Coffin Club (1939-1986)
Folder HIA 34.35.5.1	Research: ()
Folder HIA 34.35.5.2	Research: ()
Folder HIA 34.35.5.3	Rounce & Coffin Club 1940s (1939-1949)
Folder HIA 34.35.5.4	Rounce & Coffin Club 1950s (1950-1959)
Folder HIA 34.35.5.5	Rounce & Coffin Club 1960s (1960-1969)
Box HIA 34.35.6	Carey S. Bliss: Rounce & Coffin Club (1939-1986)
Folder HIA 34.35.6.1	Rounce & Coffin Club (1971-1977)
Folder HIA 34.35.6.	Rounce & Coffin Club (1981-1986)
Folder HIA 34.35.6.	Rounce & Coffin Club: Western Books (1941-1983)
Folder HIA 34.35.6.	Rounce & Coffin Club: Invitations (1948-1984)
Folder HIA 34.35.6.	Rounce & Coffin Club: Miscellaneous (1941-1966, 1982)
Box HIA 34.35.7	Leslie E. Bliss Files (1911-1962); Miscellaneous (1903-1982): Newspaper Clippings
Folder HIA 34.35.7.1	Leslie E. Bliss: Articles: Zamorano Club (approximately 1935-1952)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.2	Leslie E. Bliss: Correspondence: Thomas M. liams (Colgate University degree) (1959)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.3	Leslie E. Bliss: Correspondence: J. Moneghan (1945)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.4	Leslie E. Bliss: Correspondence: Erwin Morkisch (Re: Bendikson) (1926)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.5	Leslie E. Bliss: Correspondence: Jerry Voorhis (1944-1945, 1953)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.6	Leslie E. Bliss: Correspondence: Zamorano Club (1929-1962)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.7	Leslie E. Bliss: Personal Papers: Diary for Nevada, Arizona, and Utah Trip (1947) Not available due to conservation issues.
Folder HIA 34.35.7.8	Leslie E. Bliss: Personal Papers: Awards, Publications, Memorabilia (1911-1956)
Folder HIA 34.35.7.9	Leslie E. Bliss: Personal Papers: Draft of Memo to Trustees (Opening the Library to the Public) [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.7.10	Miscellaneous: Newspaper Clippings (1 of 2) (1914, 1924-1982)

Folder HIA 34.35.7.11	Miscellaneous: Newspaper Clippings (2 of 2) (1949, 1950, 1960-1977)
Box HIA 34.35.8	Miscellaneous (1903-1982)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.1	Articles: Manuscripts Materials and Implements (R. B. Haselden) [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.8.2	Roland Baughman (1942, 1945, 1967)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.3	Book Collecting Files [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.8.4	Catalogues (approximately 1933-1976)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.5	Correspondence: Jacob Bliss (1918, 1922)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.6	Correspondence: Will Bradley (approximately 1950)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.7	Correspondence: Robert O. Schad / Joseph D. Cone (1950-1954)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.8	Fine Printing: Ephemera (1 of 2) (1903, 1924-1978)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.9	Fine Printing: Ephemera (2 of 2) (approximately 1930-1965)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.10	Fine Printing: Illustrations (approximately 1940s)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.11	Nametag of Amelia Baker (1942)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.12	Papermaking Files (1945)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.13	Henry Perkins 1825-1873 Files [undated]
Folder HIA 34.35.8.14	Photographs (approximately 1917, approximately 1956-1978)
Folder HIA 34.35.8.15	Portraits of Henry E. Huntington [undated]
Box HIA 34.35.9	Photo album [undated] 1 photo album from Carey Bliss
Box HIA 34.35.10	Leslie E. Bliss and Upton Sinclair Material (1938-1957)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.1	Leslie E. Bliss: Autograph notes concerning Upton Sinclair archive ([1956])
Folder HIA 34.35.10.2	Leslie E. Bliss: Notes on the Visit to the Home of Upton Sinclair (1956, July 24)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.3	Leslie E. Bliss: The Upton Sinclair Material: autograph and typewritten carbon copies ([1956])
Folder HIA 34.35.10.4	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: James T. Babb (1957, Jan.-Mar.)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.5	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: William J. Burtscher (1945, July)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.6	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: John E. Pomfret (1956, Aug. 2)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.7	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: David A. Randall (1957, Feb.-Mar.)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.8	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: Herbert Clarence Schulz (1956, July 26)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.9	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: Mary Craig Sinclair (1956-1957)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.10	Leslie E. Bliss Correspondence: Upton Sinclair (1949-1956)

Folder HIA 34.35.10.11	Upton Sinclair: The Einstein I Knew: essay ([1955])
Folder HIA 34.35.10.12	Upton Sinclair: Statement Concerning Books and Papers of Upton Sinclair (1954, May 7)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.13	Upton Sinclair Correspondence: Otto L. Bettman (1955, Dec. 29)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.14	Upton Sinclair Printed Material: Books of Upton Sinclair: pamphlet (1938, Aug.)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.15	Upton Sinclair Printed Material: Clipping and Two Letters Concerning the Novelette, What Didymus Did (1954-1956)
Folder HIA 34.35.10.16	Upton Sinclair Printed Material: Enemy in the Mouth: A Statement by Upton Sinclair ([1955])
Folder HIA 34.35.10.17	Upton Sinclair Printed Material: The Return of Lanny Budd: statement and pamphlets ([approximately 1955])