
Finding aid prepared by Charla DelaCuadra.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.
Prints and Ephemera
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Jay T. Last Collection of Fashion: William Hunt Business Ephemera

Dates (inclusive): 1861-1916

Collection Number: priJLC_FASH_Hunt

Collector: Last, Jay T.

Extent: approximately 125 items

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Abstract: The William Hunt Business Ephemera, a subset within the Jay T. Last Collection of Fashion Prints and Ephemera, contains promotional materials accumulated by jeweler William Hunt of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. About 125 items from approximately 1861-1916 focus on merchandise and supplies solicited to Hunt, mainly by jobbers and manufacturers of jewelers' and watchmakers' tools, parts, products, and services.

Language: English.

Note: Finding aid last updated on September 23, 2016.

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Preferred Citation

Provenance
This collection forms part of the Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, which was donated to the Huntington Library by Jay T. Last in 2005 as a gift in progress. The bulk of the fashion ephemera was transferred to the Library between 2010 and 2013. The Hunt records described in this finding aid were acquired en bloc in 2014 by the Library and are organized according to size and correspondent.

Background of the Jay T. Last Collection
The Jay T. Last Collection is an unparalleled archive of printed paper artifacts that documents American lithographic, social, and business history. The collection began in the early 1970s when physicist and Silicon Valley pioneer Jay Last moved to Southern California and started collecting citrus box labels he found at local flea markets and rummage sales. As his collection grew, Last realized that these labels conveyed important information about commercial printing, graphic design, and social history, and he expanded his collection to include other forms of American visual culture. Today this collection contains more than 200,000 lithographic prints, posters, and ephemera of mostly nineteenth and early twentieth century American origin and represents works by more than five hundred lithographic companies.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Background of William Hunt
William Hunt was born in Dunbar Township, Pennsylvania, on February 2, 1836. He became apprenticed to jeweler and watchmaker Henry W. S. Rigdon of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in 1850 for 4 1/2 years. Following four years of employment elsewhere, Hunt opened his own successful watch, clock, and jewelry repair shop in 1858 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He began adding merchandise by 1860, and in subsequent years the repair shop grew into a sizable mercantile business that remained in operation through at least 1912.

Scope and Content
The William Hunt Business Ephemera, a subset within the Jay T. Last Collection of Fashion Prints and Ephemera, contains promotional materials accumulated by jeweler William Hunt of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. About 125 items from
approximately 1861-1916 consist mainly of advertisements received by Hunt from jobbers and manufacturers of jewelers' and watchmakers' tools, supplies, and services. Advertisements for household objects such as silverware, servingware, utensils, toothpicks, pens, and ornamental items are also included, as is a small number of advertisements for clothing and other fashion accessories.

The materials predominantly consist of leaflets, handbills, price lists, and billheads with manuscript text, as well as small catalogs, envelopes, and trade cards.

Jay T. Last Collection of Fashion Prints and Ephemera

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following two series:

Series I. William Hunt Business Ephemera (small size)
Series II. William Hunt Business Ephemera (large size)

Large size items are arranged numerically by call number and described in the following format:

Title of print. Date
Artist(s) (when known). Printer(s). Publisher(s)

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Genres

Billheads.
Business cards.
Business records -- United States -- 19th century.
Catalogs.
Ephemera.
Ephemera -- United States -- 19th century.
Ephemera -- United States -- 20th century.
Engravings.
Handbills.
Intaglio prints.
Leaflets (printed works).
Letterheads.
Price lists.
Printed ephemera.
Promotional materials.
Relief prints.
Stationery.
Trade cards.

Subjects

Hunt, William, 1836-1916 -- Archives.
Advertising -- House furnishings.
Advertising -- Jewelry.
Advertising -- Watches.
Gems -- Pictorial works.
Jewelry -- Pictorial works.
Jewelry making.
Pens -- Pictorial works.
Tools -- Pictorial works.
Watches -- Pictorial works.
Series I. William Hunt Business Ephemera (small size)

Physical Description: approximately 110 items in 1 binder and 1 flat-top box

Binder 1
Hunt, A-Z by correspondent (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)
Physical Description: approximately 85 items

Box 1
Hunt, A-Z by correspondent (between 8 x 10 inches and 11 x 14 inches in size)
Physical Description: approximately 25 items

Series II. William Hunt Business Ephemera (large size)

Physical Description: 15 items

Arrangement
Items are arranged numerically by call number and described in the following format:
Title of print. Date
Artist(s) (when known). Printer(s). Publisher(s).

priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003656 Boston and Lexington Paint Company. approximately 1867
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003657 Office of David C. Cook, wholesale dealer in needles, oils and attachments. approximately 1874-1875
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003658 Purdy's spheric lamp. approximately 1886-1891
  Printers: Thorn, Chase

priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003659 Price list, February, 1888. (All previous lists are cancelled.) Waltham Watch Tool Co., Waltham, Mass. 1888
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003660 Destroy all previous lists. Price list of American Watch Tool Co. Waltham, Mass. 1886
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003661 Special cash price list of Warne S. Creveling, importer, manufacturers' agent & commission merchant. 1881
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003662 The Hartford Manufacturing Company. approximately 1875-1900
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003663 Heeren Brothers & Co. wholesale jewelers. approximately 1880-1887
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003664 The John Holland Gold Pen Co.'s jeweler's and stationer's assortments. approximately 1886-1895
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003665 Progress. Always send to headquarters for good in our line. approximately 1885-1899
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003666 Diagram of genuine and imitation precious stones of S. Landsberg, importer & wholesale dealer no. 23 John St. N.Y. ©1876
  Printers: New-Yorker Musik-Zeitung

priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003667 Cash bargains! ... B. F. Norris, Alister & Co. approximately 1885-1889
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003668 Sam'l Swartchild, 71 Washington Street, Chicago, wholesale dealer and importer. approximately 1885-1887
  Printers: Jewelers' Journal Print

priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003669 The Meriden Britannia Company's price list of the celebrated "1847- Rogers Bros. - A1." approximately 1873-1879
priJLC_FASH_Hunt_003670 Henry Schade, manufacturer of silver plated ware. approximately 1885-1887