
Jay T. Last Collection of Finance Prints and Ephemera: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Charla DelaCuadra.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.

Prints and Ephemera

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: 626-405-2191

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

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Jay T. Last Collection of Finance Prints and Ephemera

Dates (inclusive): 1794-1926

Bulk dates: 1840-1900

Collection Number: priJLC_FIN

Collector: Last, Jay T.

Extent: approximately 1,075 items

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Prints and Ephemera

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Abstract: The Jay T. Last Collection of Finance Prints and Ephemera contains approximately 1,075 printed items related to finance, banking, auctions, and other monetary products and services in the United States from 1794 to 1926, with the bulk of the content dating from 1840 to 1900. Most items are lithographs, but engravings and woodcuts are also included.

Language: English.

Note:

Finding aid last updated on May 31, 2018.

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Preferred Citation

[Item title, Call number]. Jay T. Last Collection of Finance Prints and Ephemera, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

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 Finance prints and ephemera were transferred to the Library between 2010 and 2012.

Background

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.

Scope and Content

The Jay T. Last Collection of Finance Prints and Ephemera contains approximately 1,075 printed items from the United States dating from 1794 to 1926, with the bulk of the content dating from 1840 to 1900. Items are related to the creation, distribution, and management of money as well as the conduct or transaction of money matters, including the protection or sale of personal and real property by agents, brokers, dealers, or land developers. This category covers accounting, auctions, banking, collection agencies, credits and loans, insurance, investment, and real estate along with the equipment, supplies, and structures associated with these businesses such as cash registers, checks, insurance policies, paper currency, and financial buildings. Most items are lithographs, but engravings and woodcuts are also included.

Materials are arranged in two series: small-size items (11 x 14 inches or less) and large-size items (more than 11 x 14 inches). Small-size items are described broadly at the series level; large-size items and select small-size items are fully inventoried with printers, artists, and publishers indexed by name. The collection includes 54 large-size items comprised mainly of advertising prints and insurance agreements. Small-size items number approximately 1,020 and contain a variety of materials, including trade cards, checks, leaflets, currency, imitation currency, and printed billheads and letterheads (with and without manuscript text). Of note are more than 100 bank checks issued by John H. Piatt & Co. Bankers of Cincinnati, Ohio, dating from 1817 to 1820 (Binder 1). They are signed by various Cincinnati-area businessmen and citizens including shoe store owner James Chute, druggist William Crissey, Methodist preacher Adbeel Coleman, and American Revolutionary War veteran Abraham Chase.

The collection provides a look at the evolution of advertising strategies and contractual language in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The images on the insurance-related materials often include depictions of fires and natural disasters, providing a resource for studying the history of emergency response and firefighting during this era. As graphic materials, the collection highlights developing techniques and trends in printmaking while documenting the artists, engravers, lithographers, printers, and publishers involved in the creative process.

Alternative Form of Materials Available

Visit the [Huntington Digital Library: Jay T. Last Collection](#) to view digitized items from this collection.

Related materials in the Huntington Library

- [Jay T. Last Collection of Firefighting Prints and Ephemera](#)
- [Jay T. Last Collection of Military Prints and Ephemera](#) Includes Confederate currency.
- [Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates](#)

The Huntington Library Historical Prints Collection contains two related items (priHHC_FIN_0000284; priHHC_FIN_0000285) that is listed in the "Related Materials" section at the beginning of Series II in this finding aid.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following two series:

Series I. Finance Prints and Ephemera (small size)

Series II. Finance Prints and Ephemera (large size)

Indexing Terms

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

Genres

Billheads.

Bonds (Negotiable instruments)

Broadsides.

Business cards.

Certificates.

Checks.

Chromolithographs.

Ephemera.

Ephemera -- United States -- 19th century.

Ephemera -- United States -- 20th century.

Engravings.

Handbills.

Intaglio prints.

Leaflets (printed works).

Letterheads.

Lithographs.

Money.

Printed ephemera.

Promotional materials.

Relief prints.

Stationery.

Trade cards.

Subjects

Advertising -- Banks and banking.

Advertising -- Insurance.

Auctions.

Banks and banking -- Pictorial works.

Buildings -- Pictorial works.

Commercial streets -- Pictorial works.

Financial services industry.

Fire engines -- Pictorial works.

Fire fighters -- Pictorial works.

Fires -- Pictorial works.

Insurance.

Lettering -- Pictorial works.

Lotteries.

Women -- Pictorial works.

Printer, Publisher, Artist Index

The following is a complete list of printers, publishers, and artists represented in the fully-cataloged items in this collection.

Anderson, Alexander, 1775-1870

Bailey, Francis, 1735?-1815

Baker, Geo. H. (George Holbrook), 1827-1906

Barker, J. J.

Beach & Barnard

Bigot, Alphonse, approximately 1828-1872 or 1873

Bufford, John Henry, 1810-1870

Clay & Cosack

Croome, William, 1790-1860

Defender Print

E. P. & L. Restein Lith.

E.B. Clayton & Sons

Errett & Anderson

H. T. Darlington & Co.

Hart, Chas. (Charles), active 1870-1880

Hatch & Co.

Hatch Lith. Co.

Henry T. Darlington & Co.

Hobson, R. H., active 1829-1834

Hoffmann, V., 1834-

Horton's Print

J. & E. Norton's Print

J. Ottman Lithographic Company

King & Baird

Knickerbocker, C.

Lane, Nathan

Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.

Mason, William G.

New-Orleans Commercial Bulletin Office

Nissly, Samuel
P.R. Freas & Co.
Packard, Herbert S.
Palm & Fechteler
Ritchie & Dunnavant
Robertson, Wm. C. (Printer)
Rogers, Isaiah, 1800-1869
Shearman & Hart
Shearman, J. A.
Sinclair, Thomas S., approximately 1805-1881
Strobridge Lithographing Company
Thoubboron, J.
Warner, C. L.
Wheeler & Williams
Whitechurch, Robert, 1814-approximately 1880

Series I. Finance Prints and Ephemera (small size) 1794-1926

Physical Description: approximately 1,020 items in 8 binders and 1 flat-top box

Arrangement

Items smaller than 8 x 10 inches are housed in eight binders.

Items that are between 8 x 10 inches and 11 x 14 inches in size are arranged in one box. Items with individual call numbers are arranged numerically. Select items have been fully cataloged and are described in the following format:

Title of print. Date

Artist(s) (when known). Printer(s). Publisher(s).

Binder 1	Banking, A-Z by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 200 items
Binder 2	Insurance, A-D by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 105 items
Binder 3	Insurance, E-Hi by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 110 items
Binder 4	Insurance, Ho-J by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 150 items
Binder 5	Insurance, K-M by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 145 items
Binder 6	Insurance, N-Po by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 135 items
Binder 7	Insurance, Pr-Z by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 155 items
Binder 8	Real Estate, A-Z by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size) Physical Description: approximately 20 items

Box 1

Finance (between 8 x 10 inches and 11 x 14 inches in size)

Physical Description: approximately 20 items

Note

Select items in this box have been fully cataloged and are listed below.

prijLC_FIN_004297 ***To be sold at public vendue, on Monday, the 18th of November inst... 1822***

Printers: Miner's Press

prijLC_FIN_004298 ***Notice. : Will be sold, at public sale, at Hart's Bottom... 1826***

prijLC_FIN_004299 ***Standing timber. 1844***

Printers: Iredell & Butler

prijLC_FIN_004456 ***Protection Insurance Company. Agent of the Protection Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn. approximately 1852-1854***

prijLC_FIN_004459 ***Orient Insurance Co. Hartford, Conn. approximately 1886-1887***

prijLC_FIN_004460 ***Phoenix Insurance Co. Hartford, Conn. 1882***

prijLC_FIN_004461 ***Compliments of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. ©1893***

Printers: Knapp Co. Lith.

prijLC_FIN_004462 ***Compliments of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. ©1895***

Printers: Knapp Co. Lith.

prijLC_FIN_004463 ***Compliments of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. New York. 1902. ©1901***

Printers: American Lithographic Co.

prijLC_FIN_004464 ***Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company. approximately 1893***

Artists: Kinne, C. Mason **Printers:** Bosqui Eng. & Print. Co.

prijLC_FIN_005030 ***\$50 reward! Pocket wallet lost. 1852***

Printers: George F. Nesbitt & Co.

prijLC_FIN_005031 ***This indenture made this first day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four... 1794***

prijLC_FIN_005032 ***Commonwealth Fire Insurance Company of the state of Pennsylvania. approximately 1854-1857***

Printers: Butler, J. M. (John M.)

prijLC_FIN_005034 ***Monmouth Mutual Fire Insurance Co. 1854***

Series II. Finance Prints and Ephemera (large size) 1796-after 1912

Physical Description: 54 items

Related Material

Items in the Huntington Library Historical Prints collection:

priHHC_FIN_0000284 *By Lyne & Brother, auctioneers and real estate agents...* 1871
priHHC_FIN_0000285 *Farms, mills, cottages, country seats, hotels, etc., for sale by R.R. Corson...* approximately 1882-1902 **Printers:** Defender Print

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_FIN_000630 ***McLaughlin & Ryland's bank : corner of Santa Clara and First Streets San Jose Cal. approximately 1872***
Artists: Hoffmann, V., 1834- **Printers:** Baker, Geo. H. (George Holbrook), 1827-1906

- prijLC_FIN_000669 ***Horizontorium. ©1832***
Artists: Mason, William G. **Printers:** Barker, J. J. **Publishers:** Hobson, R. H., active 1829-1834

- prijLC_FIN_000679 ***Merchants' Exchange, New York. approximately 1836-1839***
Artists: Warner, C. L. ; Rogers, Isaiah, 1800-1869 **Printers:** Bufford, John Henry, 1810-1870 **Publishers:** Bufford, John Henry, 1810-1870

- prijLC_FIN_001818 ***Shells of the ocean! approximately 1866***
Printers: Errett & Anderson















- prijLC_FIN_002566 ***National of Hartford. after 1886***
Printers: Palm & Fechteler

- prijLC_FIN_002567 ***North-Western Insurance Company, Oswego, N.Y. approximately 1860***
Printers: Beach & Barnard












- prijLC_FIN_002568 ***Philadelphia Fire & Life Insurance Company,... ©1857***
Printers: King & Baird

- prijLC_FIN_002569 ***The St. Nicholas Insurance Co. approximately 1855-1863***
Printers: Wheeler & Williams

- prijLC_FIN_002570 ***The Firemen's Insurance Co. N. York. by this policy of insurance... 1845***
Artists: Anderson, Alexander, 1775-1870 **Printers:** E.B. Clayton & Sons


prijLC_FIN_002571	<i>Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company. 1827</i> 
prijLC_FIN_002572	<i>By the president and directors of the Insurance Company of North America. 1809</i> 
prijLC_FIN_002573	<i>The Baltimore Equitable Society. No. 932. 1801</i> 
prijLC_FIN_002574	<i>The Western Marine and Fire Insurance Company. 1842</i> Printers: New-Orleans Commercial Bulletin Office 
prijLC_FIN_002575	<i>Aetna Insurance Co of Hartford Conn. 1887. 1887</i> Printers: J. Ottman Lithographic Company 
prijLC_FIN_002576	<i>Albany City Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1862</i> Printers: Knickerbocker, C. 
prijLC_FIN_002577	<i>Columbia Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1869-1874</i> Printers: Robertson, Wm. C. (Printer) 
prijLC_FIN_002578	<i>Equitable Life Assurance Society. after 1912</i> 
prijLC_FIN_002579	<i>Equitable Life Assurance Society. after 1912</i> 
prijLC_FIN_002580	<i>Fire Association of Philadelphia. approximately 1873-1888</i> Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co. 
prijLC_FIN_002581	<i>Harmony Fire and Marine Insurance Co. approximately 1866-1867</i> Artists: Shearman, J. A. 
prijLC_FIN_002582	<i>Hanover Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1873-1888</i> Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co. 
prijLC_FIN_002583	<i>Hanover Fire Insurance Company. approximately 1873-1888</i> Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co. 
prijLC_FIN_002584	<i>The Home Insurance Company of New-York. 1865</i> Printers: Clay & Cosack 

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- prijLC_FIN_002585 ***The building of the Manhattan Life Insurance Company. approximately 1895-1912***
 Artists: Packard, Herbert S. **Printers:** E. P. & L. Restein Lith.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002586 ***Niagara Fire Insurance Company. approximately 1873-1888***
 Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002587 ***North Western Insurance Company Oswego, N.Y. approximately 1863-1867***
 Printers: Lane, Nathan
 
- prijLC_FIN_002588 ***Norwich Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1861-1862***
 Printers: Shearman & Hart
 
- prijLC_FIN_002589 ***Norwich Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1865-1868***
 Printers: Hatch & Co.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002590 ***Phenix Insurance Co. of Brooklyn, New York. approximately 1869-1874***
 Printers: Robertson, Wm. C. (Printer)
 
- prijLC_FIN_002591 ***Springfield, Mass. Fire & Marine Insurance Co. approximately 1864-1866***
 Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002592 ***Standard Life Insurance Co. approximately 1863-1872***
 Printers: Hart, Chas. (Charles), active 1870-1880
 
- prijLC_FIN_002593 ***Thames Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1839-1872***
 Artists: Bigot, Alphonse, approximately 1828-1872 or 1873 **Printers:** Sinclair, Thomas S., approximately 1805-1881
 
- prijLC_FIN_002594 ***The Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn. approximately 1864-1866***
 Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002595 ***Continental Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn. approximately 1867-1872***
 Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002596 ***First National Fire Insurance Company. approximately 1873-1888***
 Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.
 
- prijLC_FIN_002597 ***The Globe Mutual Life Insurance Company New York. approximately 1873-1888***
 Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co.
 
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| prijLC_FIN_002598 | <i>Organized A.D. 1794. Insurance Company of North America Philadelphia. approximately 1871-1886</i>
Printers: Hatch Lith. Co.
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| prijLC_FIN_002599 | <i>Aetna Insurance Co. approximately 1884</i>
Printers: Strobridge Lithographing Company
 |
| prijLC_FIN_002600 | <i>Continental Fire Insurance Co. of New York. approximately 1886-1906</i>
Printers: J. Ottman Lithographic Company
 |
| prijLC_FIN_002601 | <i>Esto perpetua : Continental Fire Insurance Company. approximately 1871-1886</i>
Printers: Hatch Lith. Co.
 |
| prijLC_FIN_004286 | <i>Clay township report, of volunteer bounty expenses... 1866</i>
Printers: Nissly, Samuel
 |
| prijLC_FIN_004287 | <i>\$2,000 reward. 1866</i>
Printers: Horton's Print
 |
| prijLC_FIN_004288 | <i>In the name, and by the authority, of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Thomas Mifflin, governor of the said commonwealth... 1796</i>
Printers: Bailey, Francis, 1735?-1815
 |
| prijLC_FIN_004289 | <i>Public sale. 1839</i>
Printers: P.R. Freas & Co.
 |
| prijLC_FIN_004290 | <i>Doylestown property in the market. approximately 1872-1877</i>
Printers: H. T. Darlington & Co.
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| prijLC_FIN_004291 | <i>Sheriff's sale. 1843</i>
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| prijLC_FIN_004292 | <i>Assignee's sale of valuable real estate and pers'l property! 1877</i>
Printers: Henry T. Darlington & Co.
 |
| prijLC_FIN_005025 | <i>Auction! 1857</i>
Printers: J. & E. Norton's Print |
| prijLC_FIN_005026 | <i>Universal Life Ins. Company. approximately 1873-1888</i>
Printers: Major & Knapp Engraving, Manufacturing & Lithographic Co. |
| prijLC_FIN_005027 | <i>Hartford Fire Insurance Co. approximately 1859-1893</i>
Printers: Thoubboron, J. |

- prijLC_FIN_005028 ***Most valuable read estate and wharf property, in the city of Richmond, Va. to be sold at auction, on the premises, on May 13, 1856. 1856***
 Printers: Ritchie & Dunnavant
- prijLC_FIN_005029 ***The Lycoming County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. 1853 ; 1858***
- prijLC_FIN_005035 ***Mercer County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of New Jersey, ... 1853***
- prijLC_FIN_005036 ***Franklin Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia. 1877***
 Artists: Croome, William, 1790-1860 ; Whitechurch, Robert, 1814-approximately 1880