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

Finding aid prepared by Charla DelaCuadra.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.
Prints and Ephemera
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Jay T. Last Collection of Personal Care Prints and Ephemera

Dates (inclusive): approximately 1832–approximately 1931

Bulk dates: 1860–1900

Collection Number: priJLC_PC

Collector: Last, Jay T.

Extent: approximately 865 items

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

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Abstract: The Jay T. Last Collection of Personal Care Prints and Ephemera contains approximately 865 printed items related to grooming and personal care in the United States from approximately 1832 to 1931, with the bulk of the content dating from 1860 to 1900. Most items are lithographs, but engravings and woodcuts are also included. The collection deals with products and services relating to grooming, cleansing, and preserving one’s hair, scalp, skin, or teeth to promote individual hygiene or to beautify one’s appearance.

Language: English.

Note:

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Preferred Citation
[Item title, Call number]. Jay T. Last Collection of Personal Care 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 Personal Care 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 Personal Care Prints and Ephemera contains approximately 865 printed items related to grooming and personal care in the United States from approximately 1832 to 1931, with the bulk of the content dating from 1860 to 1900. Most items are lithographs, but engravings and woodcuts are also included. The collection deals with products and services relating to grooming, cleansing, and preserving one’s hair, scalp, skin, or teeth to promote individual hygiene or to beautify one’s appearance. Materials focus on consumer goods or acts of assistance that do not require medical direction to purchase or use. Such products include cosmetics, hair oils, perfumes, razors, shaving creams,
shampoos, skin lotions, talcum powder, toothpaste, tooth powder, brushes, combs, hair pins, and wigs. Such services include barbers, hairdressers, wigmakers, and styling salons. 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.

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 14 large-size items comprised mainly of advertising prints and leaflets. Small-size items number approximately 850 and contain a variety of materials, including trade cards, stationery, calendars, leaflets, and printed billheads and letterheads (with and without manuscript text).

**Alternative Form of Materials Available**

Visit the [Huntington Digital Library: Jay T. Last Collection](https://digital.huntington.org) to view digitized items from this collection.

- Huntington Library Californiana Ephemera: Medicine, Personal Care, Pseudo-science, Drugs
- [Jay T. Last Collection of Household Prints and Ephemera](https://digital.huntington.org)
- [Jay T. Last Collection of Medicine Prints and Ephemera](https://digital.huntington.org)
- [Los Angeles County Medical Association Collection](https://digital.huntington.org)

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in the following two series:

- Series I. Personal Care Prints and Ephemera (small size)
- Series II. Personal Care 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](https://digital.huntington.org).

**Genres**

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

**Subjects**

- Advertising -- Perfumes industry
- Advertising -- Toilet preparations
- Beauty, Personal -- Pictorial works
- Butterflies -- Pictorial works
- Cosmetics -- Pictorial works
- Flowers -- Pictorial works
- Hair -- Pictorial works
Men -- Pictorial works.
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.
F. Heppenheimer & Co.
P.S. Duval & Son
Kellogg & Comstock
Dearborn, Nathaniel, 1786-1852
Donaldson Brothers (Firm)
Herline & Co.
Sarony, Major & Knapp Lith.
Traubel, M. H. (Morris H.), 1820-1897
Aiken, Mark M.
Reen, Charles

### Series I. Personal Care Prints and Ephemera (small size) approximately 1845-approximately 1931

**Physical Description:** approximately 850 items in 6 binders and 1 flat-top box

**Arrangement**
Items smaller than 8 x 10 inches are housed in six 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**

**Cosmetics, A-H by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 180 items

**Binder 2**

**Cosmetics, I-Z by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 160 items

**Binder 3**

**Dental Products, A-Z by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 50 items

**Binder 4**

**Perfumes, A-G by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 140 items

**Binder 5**

**Perfumes, H-M by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 155 items

**Binder 6**

**Perfumes, N-Z by company (8 x 10 inches or smaller in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 150 items

**Box 1**

**Personal Care (between 8 x 10 inches and 11 x 14 inches in size)**

**Physical Description:** approximately 15 items

**Note**
Select items in this box have been fully cataloged and are listed below.
Series I. Personal Care Prints and Ephemera (small size) approximately 1845-approximately 1931

- priJLC_PC_004327  Court Street hair cutting and curling room. approximately 1849-1850
  Printers: Dearborn, Nathaniel, 1786-1852

- priJLC_PC_004329  Hoyt's German cologne. ©1883
  Printers: Donaldson Brothers (Firm)

Series II. Personal Care Prints and Ephemera (large size) approximately 1832-approximately 1903

Physical Description: 14 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_PC_001966  Fritzsche, Schimmel & Co's celebrated fruit essences. 1867-1874
  Printers: F. Heppenheimer & Co.

- priJLC_PC_003583  Francois Gregoire & Co. enamel of America. ©1866
  Printers: P.S. Duval & Son

- priJLC_PC_003584  Hall's hair renewer. approximately 1875-1890

- priJLC_PC_003585  Hubbard & Kellogg's hair lustral. approximately 1848-1850
  Printers: Kellogg & Comstock

- priJLC_PC_003586  J. H. White & Co., manufacturers of school bags, razor strops and bibs, North East, MD. approximately 1850-1900

- priJLC_PC_003587  Extract of white lilac : Low Son & Haydon London. approximately 1860-1885

- priJLC_PC_003588  Japanese handkerchief, perfumed with Austen's forest flower cologne. approximately 1867-1888

- priJLC_PC_003589  A. Hawley & Co. Perfumers and chemists. approximately 1866-1872
  Printers: Herline & Co.

- priJLC_PC_003590  Mrs. S.A. Allen's world's hair restorer. approximately 1857-1863
  Printers: Sarony, Major & Knapp Lith.

- priJLC_PC_003591  Glenn's celebrated perfumery and toilet soaps. approximately 1853-1872
  Printers: Traubel, M. H. (Morris H.), 1820-1897
Hoyt’s German cologne is the best. 1886

Satin skin powder: satin skin cream. ©1903

Ward’s vegetable hair oil... approximately 1832
   Printers: Aiken, Mark M.

Perfumery gold medal R & G.A. Wright manufacturers of the celebrated gold medal perfumery... approximately 1856
   Printers: Reen, Charles