Finding Aid for the Fred S. Lang Company Archive 1904-1948

Processed by Ashley Johnston.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Fred S. Lang Company Archive,
Date (inclusive): 1904-1948
Collection number: Press coll. Archives Lang
Creator: Fred S. Lang Company
Extent: 7 boxes (4.5 linear feet)
Repository: William Andrews Clark Memorial Library
Los Angeles, California 90018

Abstract: This collection contains correspondence, ephemera and other materials of and made by The Fred S. Lang Company of Los Angeles, from academic prospectuses to an invitation for an exhibit of Mr. Lang's work held by the Rounce & Coffin Club.

Physical location: This collection is stored at the Southern Regional Library Facility. Please contact Clark Library staff at least 2 weeks in advance if you would like to view the materials in this collection.

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information
Portions of the collection were a gift of Mrs. Fred S. Lang in 1945 or were collected over time by the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library.

Processing History
In December 2009 the entire collection was fully processed and this finding aid was written by Ashley Johnston.

Biography
Fred S. Lang was born in Marshalltown, Iowa on September 22, 1872. In his early teens he worked with his brother to produce a small newspaper on a hand press. Mr. Lang became a California resident in 1887, and married Jewel Fuller in 1900. He operated his own press, The Fred S. Lang Company, from 1895 until the year of his death in 1945.

Scope and Content
This collection, given to the Clark Library by Mrs. Fred S. Lang shortly after her husband's death in 1945, contains invitations, prospectuses, pamphlets and other ephemera printed by The Fred S. Lang Company in Los Angeles, CA. A framed photograph of Mr. Lang as well as awards for excellence in printing are also parts of the collection. Seven wood blocks (from which printed reproductions were made for an exhibit held in Mr. Lang's honor by the Rounce & Coffin Club after his death) were also included as part of the original gift to the Clark Library. The variety of companies and events for which Mr. Lang printed, from the Los Angeles Grand Opera Association to the World Premiere of Walt Disney's FANTASIA, display his role in the developing cultural landscape of Los Angeles.

Arrangement
Series are organized thematically, and then further sorted chronologically when possible.
The collection is organized into the following series:
   Series 1. Fred S. Lang Company Records and Ephemera, 1904-1945. 2 boxes (1.3 linear feet)
   Series 2. Printed Ephemera, 1910-1945. 5 boxes (3.25 linear feet)

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Lang, Fred S., 1872-1945.
Printers -- California -- 20th century.
Small presses -- California -- 20th century.

Genres and Forms
Ephemera -- California -- 20th century.

Series 1. Fred S. Lang Company Records and Ephemera 1904-1945
Physical Description: 2 boxes (1.3 linear feet)
Scope and Content Note
This collection contains material created by and for The Fred S. Lang Company in Los Angeles. Items include an inventory of the original gift to the Clark Library and printed ephemera including prospectuses, awards and greeting cards for the company, as well as two framed awards and a framed photograph of Fred S. Lang.
Arrangement
This series was arranged first thematically and then chronologically where possible.

Box 1, Folder 1  
Accession Records, 1945-1948
Scope and Content Note
Includes a background and brief inventory of the donation of the Fred S. Lang archive to the Clark Library.

Box 1, Folder 2  
Correspondence, 1940
Scope and Content Note
Includes one letter from the University of California Press and Fred S. Lang's reply.

Box 1, Folder 3  
Fred S. Lang Company Prospectuses, 1904, undated

Box 1, Folder 4  
Fred S. Lang Company Greeting Cards, 1919-1926, undated

Box 1, Folder 5  
Fred S. Lang Company Ephemera, undated
Scope and Content Note
Includes objects printed by Fred S. Lang for his own business, including change of address notices and stationery.

Box 1, Folder 6  
Awards, 1927,1931
Scope and Content Note
Awards and certificates given to acknowledge the quality of printing by the Fred S. Lang Company.

Box 2  
Framed Ephemera, 1919, 1926
Scope and Content Note
Includes two framed awards and one framed photograph of Fred S. Lang.

Series 2. Printed Ephemera 1910-1945
Physical Description: 5 boxes (3.25 linear feet)
Scope and Content Note
This series contains ephemera that was printed by The Fred S. Lang Company for a variety of Los Angeles and Southern California area companies and events in the first half of the twentieth century. The items are primarily prospectuses, invitations and pamphlets but there are also seven wood blocks included in the collection.
Arrangement
This series was arranged first thematically and then chronologically where possible.
Box 3, Folder 1  **Academic Prospectuses, 1911-1934, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes academic prospectuses from private schools, such as the Westlake School for Girls and Harvard School for Boys prior to their merger, and military academies in Los Angeles, CA.

Box 3, Folder 2  **Invitations, 1912-1931, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes invitations to a variety of events in Los Angeles, from annual business meetings to golf club openings.

Box 3, Folder 3  **Souvenir Programs, 1905-1948, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes programs and menus from events in the Los Angeles area, including a program from the dedication of the Mary Andrews Clark Memorial Home in 1913.

Box 3, Folder 4  **Printed Ephemera, 1910-1932, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes various printed objects from printed stationery to announcements of classes.

Box 4, Folder 1  **Greeting Cards, 1925-1928, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes greeting cards distributed by businesses and individuals.  
**Note**  
Two items are Christmas cards illustrated with block prints by Erle Kenton (a film director) and sent from Erle and Florence Kenton.

Box 4, Folder 2  **Prospectuses, 1927, 1940, undated**
Box 4, Folder 3  **Reproductions from Wood Blocks, undated**
Box 5, Folder 1  **Pamphlets, 1910-1923**
Box 5, Folder 2  **Pamphlets, 1924-1945, undated**
Box 6  **Wood Blocks, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes 7 wood blocks, from which woodcut print reproductions were made for a Rounce & Coffin Club exhibit in Fred S. Lang’s honor.

Box 7, Folder 1  **Woodcuts (Prints), 1924, undated**  
**Note**  
Includes woodcut prints that were William Andrews Clark Jr.’s holiday greetings from 1924.

Box 7, Folder 2  **Academic Prospectuses (Oversize), 1936-1943, undated**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes academic prospectuses from the Chouinard School of Art.

Box 7, Folder 3  **Souvenir Programs (Oversize), 1940**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes the program from the World Premiere of Walt Disney’s FANTASIA.  
**Note**  
Small card attached indicating “Typographical styling by Fred S. Lang, Los Angeles, Calif.”