Finding Aid to the Roger Levenson and the Tamalpais Press Archive, 1955-1994

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Roger Levenson and the Tamalpais Press Archive,
Date (inclusive): 1955-1994
Collection number: Press coll. Tamalpais
Creator: Levenson, Roger 1914-
Extent: 12 boxes (6.5 linear feet)
Los Angeles, California 90095-1490
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 materials: Collection materials in English
Access
Collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
Acquisition Information
The Tamalpais Press/Roger Levenson Archive was purchased from Sidney Berger, an associate of Roger Levenson's. Some materials were collected independently by the Clark Library as a part of their collection of California fine press materials.
Biographical Note
The Tamalpais Press, founded by Roger Levenson, was a fine printing press located in Berkeley, California that was in operation from circa 1955 until 1976. Printing was done on an 1857 Albion handpress as well as a seventeenth century press (both of which were donated to the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley). The Tamalpais Press printed a wide range of materials from books to event posters and programs to business cards and invitations. The books printed by the press focused mostly on California history subjects.
Roger Levenson was born in Bangor, Maine on 10 October 1914 and learned printing while an undergraduate at the University of Maine. After serving in Hawaii during World War II, Roger settled in the San Francisco Bay Area where he spent the rest of his life. He founded and operated the Tamalpais Press from circa 1955 until 1976 when he retired. In addition to running the Tamalpais Press, Roger was a teacher and lecturer, most notably at the University of California, Berkeley where he taught a course for twelve years on "The History of the Book." He died of cancer on 29 May 1994.
Scope and Content
This collection contains materials associated with the Tamalpais Press, including proofs for books, printed matter, and correspondence to and from the owner of the press, Roger Levenson, covering the years 1953 until 1994.
The collection is organized into the following series:
Series 2. Correspondence, 1960-1984
Series 2. Roger Levenson Files, 1956/1964
Series 5. The Clark Library Collection, Circa 1955/1976

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Subjects
Series 1. **Proofs 1955/1994**

Scope and Content Note
Contains proofs for books printed by the press.

Box 1, Folder 1-7  **Charles A. Murdock Proofs Published in 1970/72**
Scope and Content Note

Box 2, Folder 1  **Shumate : Visit to Rincon Hill . . . Published in 1963**
Scope and Content Note
Contains proofs for the publication "A Visit to Rincon Hill and South Park," by Albert Shumate

Box 2, Folder 2  **Hittell : El Triunfo . . . P6375 No date on materials**
Scope and Content Note

Box 2, Folder 3  **Hart : Fine Printing in Calif. P60112 Published in 1960**
Scope and Content Note

Box 2, Folder 4  **Hammond : Who Saw the Elephant? 1964 P6477 Published in 1964**
Scope and Content Note
Contains the proofs for the children's book "Who Saw the Elephant?" by George P. Hammond.

Box 2, Folder 5  **Lilienthal : A Wm Morris Press Goes West P6187 Published in 1961**
Scope and Content Note

Box 2, Folder 6  **Grimshaw's Narrative, 1964 P6517 (P6485) 1964**
Scope and Content Note
Contains proofs for "Grimshaw's Narrative," by William Robinson Grimshaw

Box 2, Folder 7  **Shaffer : Fray Maturino Gilberti . . . (A6367, P6314 &C., &C. Published in 1962**
Scope and Content Note
Contains proofs for "Fray Maturino Gilberti and His Books," by Ellen Shaffer.

Box 2, Folder 8  **Ottley : A Few Favorite California Books, 1964 A6449 1964**
Scope and Content Note
Contains a newspaper article about "A Few Favorite California Books," by Allan R. Ottley. See Proofs Series, Box 3, Folder 1 for proofs of this title.
Box 2, Folder 9  A Directory of California Wine Growers and Wine Makers in 1860 Published in 1967  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains proofs for "A Directory of Wine Growers and Wine Makers in 1860," by Ernest P. Peninou and Sidney S. Greenleaf

Box 2, Folder 10  Yosemite in 1896 P62253 Published in 1962  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains proofs for the reprint of "Yosemite in 1896."

Box 3, Folder 1  Ottley : A Few Favorite California Books  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains proofs for the publication "A Few Favorite California Books" by Allan R. Ottley.

Box 3, Folder 2-5  Edward G. Kemble/Kemble Occasional Proofs  
Box 4, Folder 1  Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]  
Box 4, Folder 2  Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]  
Box 4, Folder 3  Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]  
Box 4, Folder 4  Charles A. Murdock [Oversize]  
Box 4, Folder 5  Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]  
Box 4, Folder 6  Kemble Occasional [Oversize]

Series 2. Correspondence 1960-1984  
Scope and Content Note  
Correspondence to and from Roger Levenson to various friends and colleagues. The majority of correspondence consists of letters and postcards written by Levenson to Edwin Carpenter of the Huntington Library, dating 1960-1984, though there are also copies of some letters written to Levenson from Carpenter during this same period. There is also some correspondence with Roby Wentz and Sid Berger.  
Arrangement  
This series is arranged in chronological order by correspondent.

Box 5, Folder 1-2  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1960  
Box 5, Folder 3-4  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1961  
Box 5, Folder 5-6  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1962  
Box 5, Folder 7-8  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1963  
Box 5, Folder 9-10  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1964  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes one item written by Carpenter to RL.

Box 5, Folder 11-12  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1965  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes several items written by Carpenter to RL.

Box 5, Folder 13  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1966  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes several items written by Carpenter to RL.

Box 6, Folder 1  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1967  
Box 6, Folder 2  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1968  
Box 6, Folder 3  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1969  
Box 6, Folder 4  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1970  
Box 6, Folder 5  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1971  
Box 6, Folder 6  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1972  
Box 6, Folder 7  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1973  
Box 6, Folder 8  Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1974  
Box 7, Folder 1  Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1975
Series 2. Correspondence 1960-1984

| Box 7, Folder 2 | Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1976 |
| Box 7, Folder 3 | Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1977 |
| Box 7, Folder 4 | Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1978/1984 |
| Box 7, Folder 5 | Correspondence to/from Roby Wentz 1956/1978 |
| Box 7, Folder 6 | Correspondence to/from Roby Wentz |
| Box 7, Folder 7 | Letter to Edwin Carpenter from Tom [last name?]; letter from Edwin Carpenter to Roy [last name?] |
| Box 7, Folder 8 | Correspondence to Sid Berger from Roger Levenson 1990 |
| Box 7, Folder 9 | Correspondence from Mrs. Marsha Evans [includes Roger Levenson obituary] |

Series 3. Roger Levenson Files 1955/1964

Scope and Content Note
Each file contains items printed by the Tamalpais Press during the year indicated on the file.

| Box 7, Folder 9 | Levenson - 1955, 1956 |
| Box 7, Folder 10 | Levenson - 1957 1957 |
| Box 7, Folder 11 | Levenson - 1958 |
| Box 7, Folder 12 | Levenson - 1959 1959 |
| Box 7, Folder 13 | Levenson - 1960 1960 |
| Box 7, Folder 14 | Levenson - 1961 1961 |
| Box 8, Folder 1 | Levenson - 1962 1962 |
| Box 8, Folder 2 | Levenson - 1963 1963 |
| Box 8, Folder 3 | Levenson - 1964 1964 |


Scope and Content Note
Contains material printed by the Tamalpais Press including pamphlets, posters, invitations, announcements, business cards, programs, etc.

| Box 8, Folder 4 | Rolls Royce Owners Club - Northern California No date given |
| Box 8, Folder 5 | California College of the Arts circa 1955/56 |
| Box 8, Folder 6 | Tamalpais Press Job Docket Form |
| Box 8, Folder 7 | The Composers' Forum |
| Box 8, Folder 8 | Invitations for a meeting of the Tamalpais Press |
| Box 8, Folder 9 | Business Cards, Bookplates |
| Box 8, Folder 10 | Stationery |
| Box 8, Folder 11 | Camino, Cable, and Northern Railroad |
| Box 8, Folder 12 | University of California, Berkeley |
| Box 8, Folder 13 | California Historical Society |
| Box 9, Folder 1 | Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad |
| Box 9, Folder 2 | Christmas Exhibition 1959 - UC Berkeley Library |
| Box 9, Folder 3 | Joaquin Miller - Poet of the Sierra |
| Box 9, Folder 4 | North Bay Food and Wine Society |
| Box 9, Folder 5 | Dan Hoffner |
| Box 9, Folder 6 | Antelope and Western Railroad |
| Box 9, Folder 7 | Benjamin Franklin - Republican Printer |
| Box 9, Folder 8 | Sacramento Book Collector's Club |
| Box 9, Folder 9 | Berkeley Wine and Food Society |
| Box 9, Folder 10 | Roxburghe Club |
| Box 9, Folder 11 | Miscellaneous printing including materials for "A Visit to Rincon Hill," and the Roxburghe Club |
| Box 9, Folder 12 | Alta California Bookstore Catalogs |
| Box 9, Folder 13 | Hail Zamorano |
| Box 9, Folder 14 | Tiburcio Vasquez |
| Box 9, Folder 15 | The American Fantasies |
| Box 9, Folder 16 | Eliza W. Farnham |
| Box 9, Folder 17 | Fine Printing in California - James Hart |
| Box 9, Folder 18 | The Kemble Occasional |
| Box 9, Folder 19 | Shadrach E. Stevens Speculations |
Box 9, Folder 20  George Laban Harding
Box 9, Folder 21  Before the Golden Spike
Box Map Drawer, Folder 22  Posters printed by the Tamalpais Press [This folder of oversized items is filed in the map drawer]
Box 10, Folder 1  Dr. Morse's History and other pamphlets
Box 10, Folder 2  Posters and other printed material
Box 10, Folder 3  Directory of California Wine Growers, Berkeley City Club Synchronized Swimmers, and other printed material
Box 10, Folder 4  Roxburghe Club and other printed material
Box 10, Folder 5  Invitations
Box 10, Folder 6  Photograph - Identity Unknown
Box 10, Folder 7  Christmas and other cards
Box 10, Folder 8  Pamphlet "Three Hundred Million Books : The Building of a Special Collection," and other printed materials
Box 10, Folder 9  Ship Ahoy, Ladies
Box 10, Folder 10  Various pamphlets and posters
Box 11, Folder 1  Roxburghe Club, small book "Gee Whiz," other printed material
Box 11, Folder 2  Business Cards
Box 11, Folder 3  Business Cards - Landsdowne Society and California Historical Society
Box 11, Folder 4  Business Cards, Bookplates
Box 11, Folder 5  Pamphlets, including Dan Hoffner and Benjamin Franklin
Box 11, Folder 6-7  Miscellaneous printed material including railroad materials, Sacramento Book Collector's Club Newsletter, food and wine societies, Roxburghe Club and Dan Hoffner.
Box 11, Folder 8  Miscellaneous printed material including Albert Elkus, music programs, religious invitations
Box 11, Folder 9  Newspaper article on Roger Levenson

Series 5. The Clark Library Collection Circa 1955/1976
Scope and Content Note
Contains materials printed by the Tamalpais Press collected by the Clark Library over the years.

Box 12  Miscellany
Scope and Content Note
Contains a variety of items including pamphlets, brochures, programs, posters, business cards, invitations, etc.