Finding Aid of the Collection of Materials by and Relating to the Decorative Designers Firm

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Collection of Materials by and Relating to the Decorative Designers Firm,
Date (inclusive): 1895-1973
Collection number: 1182
Extent: 25 boxes (12.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Emma Redington (Lee) Thayer (ca. 1874-ca. 1973) was the co-founder of Decorative Designers, a New York City based firm that produced binding designs, dust jackets, book illustrations, and advertising material. She specialized in conventionalized decorations and designed most of the bindings, did some lettering, and was successful at dust jacket illustrations. She also published over sixty mystery novels as well as children's books. The collection consists of material related to the work of Lee Thayer and the Decorative Designers (DD) including correspondence, taped interviews, articles and newscaps related to the life and career of Thayer, dust jackets and novels by Thayer, and photocopied bookplate designs, binding designs, and dust jackets by DD.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Collection of Materials by and Relating to the Decorative Designers Firm (Collection 1182). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4232814

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Biography
Decorative Designers (DD) was founded by Henry W. Thayer and Emma Redington Lee, 1895; the New York City based firm produced binding designs, dust jackets, book illustrations, and advertising material; employed a number of talented people including Jay Chambers (1902-16) and used innovative operation methods such as dividing labor according to individual talents and presenting publishers with design models printed on cloth; moved to Chatham, New Jersey (1921); after World War I, they shifted production to dust jackets and advertisements; the company was dissolved in 1932.

Emma Redington (Lee) Thayer was born ca. 1874; co-founder of Decorative Designers, she specialized in conventionalized decorations and designed most of the bindings, did some lettering, and was successful at dust jacket illustrations; she wrote a detective novel (1919) and went on to publish over sixty mystery novels as well as children's books; designed dust jackets for her own books and for books by other authors and also created bookplates; she invented a method for printing gradations of color on book bindings by means of a split-ink roller; died ca. 1973.

Biographical Narrative

During the heyday of decorated publishers' bindings no other American designer produced as many book covers as The Decorative Designers. Founded by Henry W. Thayer, a Brooklyn architect, and Emma Redington Lee, a young mural artist, in 1895, the firm turned out binding designs, dust jackets, book illustrations and advertising material until 1932 when the company and the marriage of Thayer and Miss Lee dissolved. Other graphic designers as talented and prolific as the Thayers worked for the company at various times, the most important being Jay Chambers, who was with The Decorative Designers from 1902 through 1916. The firm produced thousands of book covers at a rapid rate. The number of artists in the organization partly accounted for this. Another factor in the success of the “DD’s” was its efficient and innovative method of operation. Labor was divided according to individual talents: Henry Thayer did lettering and handled business affairs. Lee Thayer (as his wife became known) specialized in conventionalized decorations, Jay Chambers excelled at figure design, and so on. The separation of design and sales functions increased output, as did the unique practice of presenting publishers with design models printed on cloth in order to give a clear idea of the appearance of the completed book. Until 1921, when the Thayers moved the business to Chatham, New Jersey, The Decorative Designers operated in New York City very near the publishing houses that constituted their market.

When decorated bindings went out of style after World War I, owing to increases in the costs of material and labor and to the growing popularity of dust jackets, the firm adapted to the new situation by shifting to the production of dust jackets and advertisements. The pace of production did not slow down until the demise of the company.

Emma Redington (Lee) Thayer (1874-1973) was the artistic workhorse of The Decorative Designers. She designed most of the bindings, did some of the lettering, and turned easily to dust jacket illustrations when that time came. In 1919 she took up another career as a sideline. Using the pen name “Lee Thayer,” she wrote a detective novel the main character of which was a sleuth named Peter Clancy. Lee Thayer published over sixty more mystery novels during the next forty-five years, as well as a handful of books for children. She designed the dust jackets for her own books and continued to produce them for books by other authors. She also created bookplates that reveal the same dedication to the style of Art Nouveau as do her bindings and early dust jackets. Her creative ability had a technical side as well, since she was the inventor of a method for printing gradations of color on book bindings by means of a split-ink roller.

This collection emphasizes the life and work of Lee Thayer rather heavily. This is due primarily to the fact that she was still alive when an exhibition of bindings produced by The Decorative Designers was set up in the College Library at UCLA. The collection, assembled by Professors Charles B. Gullans and John J. Espey of the UCLA Department of English, includes a great deal of material relating specifically to Mrs. Thayer, much of it dating from the years following her Decorative Designers period. Some of the items were provided by Mrs. Thayer herself.

Much of the history of The Decorative Designers has had to be constructed from Lee Thayer's memory. In the absence of company records she has recalled production methods and conditions. She has identified the work of particular employees of the firm and noted the individual characteristics of each. It is largely owing to her recollections that we know anything in detail of the studio which produced more American book covers than any other and whose artistic and technical standards remained always among the very highest.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of material related to the work of Lee Thayer and the Decorative Designers (DD). Includes correspondence related to Thayer, Charles Gullans and DD, taped interviews with Thayer and Gullans (1970), articles and newscippings related to the life and career of Thayer, and dust jackets and novels by Thayer. Also includes photocopied bookplate designs, binding designs, and dust jackets by DD.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

- Correspondence (Box 1).
- Oral history (Box 1).
Articles and newclippings (Box 2).
Ephemera (Box 2).
Association material (Box 2).
Bookplate designs (photocopies of bookplates) (Box 2).
Binding designs (photocopies of bindings and mock-ups) (Box 2).
Dust jacket designs (photocopies of dust jackets with one actual dust jacket without book) (Box 2).
Trade bindings (Boxes 3-17).
Dust jackets (with books) (Boxes 18-19).
Novels by Lee Thayer (Boxes 20-23).

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

Subjects
Thayer, Lee, b. 1874--Archives.
Decorative Designers.
Women bookbinders--United States--Archival resources.
Bookbinding--Specimens.

Genres and Forms of Material
Books.
Book jackets.

Correspondence

Box 1, Folders 1-5  

Physical Description: (49 items, manuscript)
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence re the history of The Decorative Designers and to exhibitions of their bindings held on the Los Angeles and San Diego campuses of the University of California 1970-1971.

a) 31 letters from Lee Thayer to Charles Gullans. Coronado, California. 18 March 1970-20 August 1973 (Holograph).
c) 1 letter from Lee Thayer to John Espey. Coronado, California. 1 July 1970 (Holograph, photocopy).
d) 3 letters from Elizabeth Nichols to Charles Gullans. Coronado, California. 2 September 1970-14 January 1971 (Holograph).

Box 1, Folder 1  

Physical Description: (7 items, 14 pieces)
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence re a proposal to exhibit the work of The Decorative Designers in the UCLA College Library.

4 Autograph letters signed from Thayer to Gullans, Coronado, California.
3 Typescript (carbon) letters from Gullans to Thayer, [Los Angeles].
Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 2

**Thayer - Gullans correspondence. 21 May-8 August 1970.**

Physical Description: (6 items, 11 pieces)

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence re the history of The Decorative Designers and to preparations for the exhibition at UCLA.

2 Autograph letters signed from Thayer to Gullans. Coronado, California.
1 Autograph letter signed (photocopy) from Thayer to John Espey. Coronado, California.
3 Typescript (carbon) letters from Gullans to Thayer, [Los Angeles].

Box 1, Folder 3

**Thayer - Gullans correspondence. 18 August 1970-25 February 1971.**

Physical Description: (16 items, 19 pieces)

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence re the exhibitions at UCLA and UCSD.

9 Autograph letters signed from Thayer to Gullans. Coronado, California.
4 Typescript (carbon) letter from Gullans to Thayer. [Los Angeles]
3 Autograph letters signed from Elizabeth Nichols to Gullans. Coronado, California.

Box 1, Folder 4

**Thayer - Gullans correspondence. 11 March-22 December 1971.**

Physical Description: (11 items, 17 pieces)

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence re Thayer’s career and personal subjects.

9 Autograph letters signed from Thayer to Gullans. Coronado, California.
2 Typescript (carbon) letters from Gullans to Thayer. [Los Angeles]

Box 1, Folder 5

**Thayer - Gullans correspondence. 8 January 1972-4 September 1973.**

Physical Description: (9 items, 13 pieces)

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence relating to personal subjects.

7 Autograph letters signed from Thayer to Gullans. Coronado, California.
2 Typescript (carbon) letters from Gullans to Thayer, [Los Angeles].

Oral History

Box 1, Folders 6-9

**Taped interviews with Lee Thayer conducted by Charles Gullans and John Espey in Coronado, California on 2 May and 21 July 1970.**

Scope and Content Note
Remarks re the history of the Decorative Designers, technical processes involved in printing and stamping bindings, and identification of individual designers for specific bindings.

Box 1, Folder 6

**Interview of Lee Thayer with Charles Gullans, John Espey, Dr. Ira Nichols, and Mrs. Elizabeth Nichols. [Coronado, California], 2 May 1970.**

Physical Description: (1 reel [7in.] Tape)

Box 1, Folder 7

**Transcript (typed) of 2 May 1970 interview.**

Physical Description: (46 leaves)

Box 1, Folder 8

**Interview of Lee Thayer with Charles Gullans and John Espey. Coronado, California, 21 July 1970.**

Physical Description: (1 reel, 1 side only [7in.] Tape)
Transcript (typed) of 21 July 1970 interview.
Physical Description: (31 leaves)

Articles and Newsclippings

Box 2, Folder 1
Thayer, Lee. “For a child's room,” The mentor (vol.16, no.4, serial no.303), May 1928.
Physical Description: (pp.18-19. 1 item, 2 pieces. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 2-6
Newspaper clippings and photocopies of new clippings re the life and career of Lee Thayer.
Physical Description: (6 items)

Box 2, Folder 2
Hartford Daily Times (Connecticut), 20 September 1934.
Physical Description: (1 item, 3 pieces. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 3
Hartford Courant (Connecticut), 11 October 1936.
Physical Description: (1 item, 11 pieces. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 4
Hartford Times (Connecticut), 20 August 1938.
Physical Description: (1 item, 3 pieces. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 5
Honolulu Advertiser, 21 April 1947.
Physical Description: (1 item, 1 piece. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 6
San Francisco Examiner, 14 March 1972.
Physical Description: (1 piece. Clipped article)

Box 2, Folder 6
Physical Description: (1 piece. Clipped article)
Scope and Content Note
Obituary.

Box 2, Folder 7
Physical Description: (1 item, 2 pieces. Photocopy)
Scope and Content Note
Unpublished mock-up article for a proposed features syndicate.

Box 2, Folder 8
Articles of criticism relating to Lee Thayer's skill as a novelist.
Physical Description: 2 items:

Box 2, Folder 8
Physical Description: (pp.148-150. 3 pieces. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 8
Physical Description: (pp.151, 155. 2 pieces. Photocopy)

Ephemera

Box 2, Folders 9-10
Physical Description: (2 items. Photocopies)
Box 2, Folder 9  
**Theater program.** The Chatham [New Jersey] Community Players present “Set a thief” a crooked comedy by Lee Thayer. Performances 27 February-1 March 1930.  
Physical Description: (1 item, 2 pieces. Photocopy)

Box 2, Folder 10  
Director: Lee Thayer. n.p.  
Physical Description: 1 item, 1 pc. Photocopy.

Box 2, Folder 11  
**Newspapers** re the Decorative Designers exhibit at the University of California at San Diego, January-February 1971.  
Physical Description: (3 items)  
Scope and Content Note  
Publicity articles:

- **Coronado Journal** (California), 28 January 1971.  
  Physical Description: (1 pc. Clipped article)

- **San Diego Union**, 21 February 1971.  
  Physical Description: (2 pieces [duplicate copies] Clipped article)

**Association Material**

Box 2, Folder 12  
Physical Description: (8 items)  
Scope and Content Note  
Including signed cards and presentation copies of press pamphlets. With other items related to Arthur W. Rushmore.

Box 2, Folder 12  
**Holmes, Oliver Wendell.** Cacoethes scribendi. with a wood engraving by Fritz Eichenberg. Madison, New Jersey: The Brayers Club, 1946.  
Physical Description: (1 item, 2 pieces)  
Scope and Content Note  
With printed, hand-colored presentation slip “… from Edna & Arthur for Lee with affection.”

Box 2, Folder 13  
Physical Description:

Box 2, Folder 14  
**Christmas greetings from Edna Rushmore to Lee Thayer.**  
Physical Description: 4 items:

Box 2, Folder 14  
Physical Description: (6-page booklet)  
Scope and Content Note  
Presentation copy.

Box 2, Folder 14  
Physical Description: (3 items, 3 pieces)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2, Folder 15 | **Memorial items re Arthur W. Rushmore.**  
Physical Description: 2 items: |
| 2, Folder 15 | **Printed invitation to attend the presentation of Arthur W. Rushmore’s Washington hand-press to the Library of Farleigh Dickinson University. Madison, New Jersey, on 29 October 1971.**  
Physical Description: With cover note from Lee Thayer. Holograph. 4 pieces |
| 2, Folder 15 | **Bookplate of the Rushmore Memorial Collection in the Madison [New Jersey] Public Library.**  
Physical Description: (1 piece) |

**Bookplate Designs**

| Box, Folder 16 | Assorted bookplates designed by Lee Thayer arranged on three sheets. n.p., 1922-1938.  
Physical Description: (3 pieces. Photocopy)  
Scope and Content Note  
13 bookplates, 12 designs. |

**Binding Designs**

| Box, Folder 17 | Designs for trade bindings produced by the Decorative Designers. n.p., v.d.  
Physical Description: (12 items. Photocopies) |
Physical Description: (1 item, 8 pieces. Photocopy)  
Scope and Content Note  
“Being an eight-page display of half-tone reproductions, in miniature, of a few of the book-cover designs produced by this organization.” With autograph attributions of individual responsibility for each design added by Lee Thayer.  
Note  
[Some actual examples of covers depicted in this article may be found in Trade Bindings, (Boxes 3-17)] |
| Box, Folder 18 | Mock bindings designed by the Decorative Designers for the Holliston Mills (Norwood, Massachusetts) to advertize the uses of Holliston book cloths.  
Physical Description: (11 items, 15 pieces [4 duplicates] Photocopy) |

**Dust Jacket Designs**

Physical Description: Dust jacket only. Signed with the Decorative Designers monogram. |
| Box, Folder 20-22 | Dust jackets designed by Lee Thayer. n.p., 1927-1944.  
Physical Description: (26 items. Photocopies) |
Box 2, Folder 20  Dust jackets for books in the “Jalna” series by Mazo de la Roche. [All published by Little, Brown], 1927-1944.  
Physical Description: (7 items, 7 pieces. Photocopy)  
Note  
[See also Dust Jackets (Box 19, Item 14)]  
Titles:  

Box 2, Folder 20  *Finch’s fortune.*  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “DD.”  

Box 2, Folder 20  *Jalna.*  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “DD.”  

Box 2, Folder 20  *The master of Jalna.*  
*Whiteoak harvest.*  
*Whiteoak heritage.*  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “LT ’39.”  

Box 2, Folder 20  *Whiteoaks of Jalna.*  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “DD.”  

Box 2, Folder 20  *Young Penny* (“Jalna,” 1906).  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “LT ’35.”  

Box 2, Folder 21  Dust jackets for mystery novels by Lee Thayer. n.d.  
Physical Description: (6 items, 6 pieces. Photocopy)  
Note  
[See also Dust Jackets (Boxes 18-19)]  
Titles:  

Box 2, Folder 21  *Counterfeit.* Sears.  
*The darkest spot.* Sears.  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “DD.”  

Box 2, Folder 21  *Dead men’s shoes.* Sears.  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “DD.”  

Box 2, Folder 21  *The last shot.* Sears.  
Scope and Content Note  
Signed “DD.”  

Box 2, Folder 21  *The sinister mark.* Doubleday, Page.  
*They tell no tales.* Sears.
Dust Jacket Designs

Box 2, Folder 22  Dust jackets for books by miscellaneous authors. v.d.

Physical Description: (13 items, 15 pieces. Photocopy)
Note
Titles:

Box 2, Folder 22  Bailey, Carolyn S., ed. The story-telling hour. Dodd, Mead.
Box 2, Folder 22  Finlayson, Donald Lord. Michelangelo the man. Crowell.
Scope and Content Note
Signed “LT ’35.”

Box 2, Folder 22  Fraser, Chelsea. The model aircraft builder. Crowell.
Box 2, Folder 22  Freeman, R Austin. The magic casket. Dodd, Mead.
Box 2, Folder 22  Howard, John Tasker. Stephen Foster, America’s troubadour. Crowell.
Scope and Content Note
Signed “LT ’33.”

Box 2, Folder 22  McKenna, Stephen. The oldest god.
Box 2, Folder 22  Mahan, J. Alexander. Marià Theresa of Austria. Crowell.
Box 2, Folder 22  Morris, W.F. The strange case of Gunner Rawley. Dodd, Mead.
Scope and Content Note
Signed “DD.”

Box 2, Folder 22  Rhode, John. Murder at Bratton Grange. Dodd, Mead.
Box 2, Folder 22  Schauffler, Robert Haven. Music weeks and days. Dodd, Mead.
Physical Description: (2 copies)
Scope and Content Note
Signed “LT ’33.”

Box 2, Folder 22  Tales from Shakespeare. Nelson.
Physical Description: (2 copies)
Scope and Content Note
Signed “DD.”

Box 2, Folder 22  Truss, Seldon. Number naught. Dodd, Mead.

Trade Bindings
Scope and Content Note
Boxes 3-17 contain copies of the following books whose decorated bindings were designed by the Decorative Designers. Covers displaying the company monogram are designated by the term “Signed.” All items lacking this designation are unsigned. Binding descriptions are impressionistic rather than scientific, being intended only to facilitate comparison with other copies. when another copy of a listed book is located in the stacks of the University Research Library, that fact is denoted by an asterisk (*).

Physical Description: Deep pink and gold on blue cloth; spine in gold.

Physical Description: Gold on green vertically-ribbed cloth. Newsclipping inserted.
   Physical Description: Signed. Pink and gold on light green cloth; spine in gold.

   Physical Description: Signed. Red, blue-green and gold on steel gray vertically-ribbed cloth.

   Physical Description: Red, white and gold on dark blue cloth.

   Physical Description: Red, white and gold on dark blue cloth with blindstamped fleurs-de-lis.

Box 4 7) Barrie, J. M. *The little minister. III. New York: Crowell, c1891 [but issued ca. 1904]*
   Physical Description: Gloss and matte gold on green cloth.

   Physical Description: Dark blue and gold on gray-blue cloth; spine in gold.

   Physical Description: Light green, dark green and gold on beige cloth. Design extends over front and back covers.

   Physical Description: Light green, dark green, brick red and gold on beige cloth. Design extends over front and back covers.

   Physical Description: Signed. White, black and gold on red cloth. Presentation copy from Brady with the dedication retracted.
   Scope and Content Note
   With: another copy in variant binding (Green, black and maize on red cloth).

   Physical Description: Signed. Brown and gold on blue cloth; spine in gold. With dust jacket.
   Scope and Content Note
   Inserted note questions whether this design was done for the 1st (1905) or 2nd (1909) edition.

   Physical Description: Signed. Light green, salmon and gold on dark blue cloth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors/Editors</th>
<th>Publisher/Location</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fata morgana, With illustrations by the author</td>
<td>Castaigne, André</td>
<td>New York: Century, 1904</td>
<td>Signed. Light green, cream and gold on dark green cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Poems</td>
<td>Daskam, Josephine</td>
<td>New York: Scribner’s, 1903</td>
<td>Signed Gloss and matte gold on deep red cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Famous composers (2 vol.)</td>
<td>Dole, Nathan Haskell</td>
<td>New York: Crowell, c1891, 1902</td>
<td>Gold on deep red cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The dread and fear of kings</td>
<td>Ellis, J. Breckenridge</td>
<td>Chicago: A.C. McClurg, 1900</td>
<td>Aqua on midnight blue cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Under the jack-staff</td>
<td>Fernald, Chester Bailey</td>
<td>New York: Century, 1903</td>
<td>Signed. Gloss and matte gold on blue-green cloth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
   Physical Description: Green and gold on lilac cloth.
   Note
   (URL has a copy dated 1897 with slight color variation in binding)

   Physical Description: Signed. Aqua, blue and gold on rust vertically-ribbed cloth.

   Physical Description: Pink, pale blue and gold on green cloth with oval inlay.

   Physical Description: Gray and gloss and matte gold on navy blue cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Gloss and matte gold on green cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Lavender, white and gold on dark green cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Gloss and matte gold on brownish gray coarsely-woven cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Dark green, yellow and gold on pea-green cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Magenta and blue on green cloth. With dust jacket that repeats cover design.

   Physical Description: Signed. Brown and black on gray cloth.

   Physical Description: 2 vols. Silver on gray vertically-ribbed cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Brown, pale green and gold on gray cloth.

   Physical Description: Signed. Vermillion, yellow, light green and gold on forest green cloth.
Physical Description: Signed. Dark green and brown on tan cloth.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is a reissue of the Century edition with possible changes in binding colors. |
Physical Description: Light green and gold on dark green cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Gloss and matte gold on dull green cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Pale green, orange and black on light green cloth. |
Physical Description: Gloss and matte gold on dark green cloth. |
Physical Description: Brown on grayish brown paper over boards with inlay. Cover unsigned, but frontispiece and page decorations throughout are signed. |
Physical Description: Maize, green and gold on wheat cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Dark green and brown on pale chartreuse cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Light green and gold on brown cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. White and gloss and matte gold on steel gray vertically-ribbed cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Blue, flesh pink and gold on biege cloth. |
Physical Description: Pale green, light green, violet and gloss and matte gold on dark green cloth; spine in gold. |
Physical Description: Burnt green and gold on green suede. |
Physical Description: Green and gold on red vertically-ribbed cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Gold on embossed blue cloth. |
Physical Description: White and gold on dark green cloth. |
Physical Description: Gloss and matte gold on blue-green cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Gold on blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Gloss and matte gold on forest green cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. White, black and gold on blue-gray cloth. |
Physical Description: White and gold on cornflower blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Gloss and matte gold on wine red vertically-ribbed cloth.  
With dust jacket. |
Physical Description: Signed. Aquamarine and dark blue on olive green cloth; gold lettering on spine. |
Physical Description: Signed. Orange, white and gold on blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Wine red and dark green on gray paper.  
Scope and Content Note  
[This is special edition in paper covers] “Macmillan’s paper novels.” |
Physical Description: Signed. Gold on navy blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. White, sea green, brown and gold on light blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Gold on dark blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Maize, sea green and black on biege coarsely woven cloth. |
Physical Description: Sea green and gold on blue-green vertically-ribbed cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. White and gloss and matte gold on red cloth. |
Physical Description: Seven paperback school texts with signed, two-tone covers.  
Copyright dates are no indication of the date of design.  
Scope and Content Note  
Titles:  
*Classic dialogues and dramas.*  
*Exelsior dialogues.*  
*Little people's dialogues.*  
*Little people's speaker.*  
*Primary recitations.*  
*Schoolday dialogues.*  
*Young people's speaker.* |
Physical Description: Signed. Red, light green and gold on dark green cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Blue on pale green paper. |
Physical Description: Signed. Grayish blue shading to yellowish gray and gold on midnight blue cloth. |
Physical Description: Signed. Cream and silver on bluish gray paper onlay over cloth.  
Scope and Content Note  
Reissue with paper onlay cover of the novel originally issued by Putnam in 1909 with a cover by Margaret Armstrong. |
Physical Description: Signed. Brown and black on bluish gray cloth.  
Note  
[Same pattern as on Box 8, item 37] |
Physical Description: Signed. Brick red and cream on grayish green cloth. |
### Scope and Content Note

With dust jacket reproducing Varian’s frontispiece.

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</table>

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<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Signed. Red, yellow and dark green on aqua cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note With dust jacket reproducing Varian’s frontispiece.</td>
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</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Dark green and white on olive green cloth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Signed, Dark green and greenish white on olive green cloth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Gold on blue, blindstamped vertically-ribbed cloth.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Orange, brown, dark green, gray-green and white on tan paper over boards. With dust jacket that repeats cover design. 10 text pages, title page and endpapers are decorated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Signed. Grass green and gold on forest green cloth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Blue-gray and white on dark blue cloth.</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Light green, greenish white and gold on greenish tan cloth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Signed. Light green and gold on burgundy cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note With dust jacket carrying design different from cover.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Green, black and gold on beige cloth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 15
   Physical Description: Signed. Light green, greenish white and gold on dark green cloth.

Box 16
   Physical Description: Signed. Aqua and black on blue cloth.

Box 16
   Physical Description: Yellowish green, aqua and gold on blue-green cloth.

Box 16
   Physical Description: Signed. Burnt orange, black and white on green cloth.
   Scope and Content Note
   Presentation copy.

Box 16
   Physical Description: Signed. Purple and dark green on straw cloth, with oval inlay.
   Note
   Design also used for later editions in this series of novels for girls.

Box 16
   Physical Description: Cream, gray and gloss and matte gold on purple cloth.

Box 16
   Physical Description: Signed. Grass green, dark green, white and gold on lavender cloth.
   Scope and Content Note
   With: another copy.

Box 17
   Physical Description: Signed. Maize, black and gloss and matte gold on light brown cloth.

Box 17
   Physical Description: Yellow, aquamarine, mottled blue and gold on dark blue cloth.
   Scope and Content Note
   Endpapers signed “Arthur Covey (with the company monogram following).”

Box 17
   Physical Description: Gloss and matte gold on aqua cloth [“by C.E.L. Wingate” on cover].

Box 17
   Physical Description: Signed. Blue, orange and gold on dark olive green cloth.
Note
(See also Dust Jacket Designs, Box 2)

Scope and Content Note
Boxes 18 and 19 contain copies of books with dust jackets designed by Lee Thayer. All but one of the books in this section are Mrs. Thayer's own mystery novels. They are listed by title.

Box 18
1) Accessory after the fact. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1943.
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’43.”

Box 18
   Physical Description: With dust jacket and endpapers signed “LT ’45.”

Box 18
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed with the Decorative Designers' monogram.

Box 18
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ‘54.”
   Physical Description: With: another copy.

Box 18
5) Five bullets. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1944.
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’44” glued to endpapers.

Box 18
6) Guilt is where you find it. New York: Dodd, Mead, c.1957.
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’56.”
   Physical Description: With: another copy.

Box 19
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’45.”

Box 19
8) Hanging’s too good. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1943.
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’43” glued to endpapers, in plastic wrapper.

Box 19
   Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’46.”

Box 19
    Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT” in plastic wrapper.

Box 19
    Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ‘57.” Presentation copy to Alice and John [Espey].

Box 19
    Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ‘55.”

Box 19
    Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ‘50.”

Physical Description: With dust jacket signed “LT ’46.”

Note

(See also Dust Jacket Designs, Box 2, folder 20)

**Novels by Lee Thayer**

Scope and Content Note

Mystery novels written by Lee Thayer and published 1921-1966, some with decoration by Thayer or derived from the work of the Decorative Designers; one children's book written by Thayer under a pen name.

Box 20


Scope and Content Note

With: another copy.

Box 20


Physical Description: Unsigned cover design based on the dust jacket design, signed “DD,” used for the Sears edition.

Scope and Content Note


Note

[See Dust Jacket Designs (Box 2, folder 21)]

Box 20


Physical Description: Title page design, signed “DD,” repeats dust jacket design.

Note

[See Dust Jacket Designs (Box 2, folder 21)]

Box 20


Physical Description: With dust jacket not by Lee Thayer, unsigned.

Scope and Content Note

Presentation copy to Alice and John Espey.

Box 21


Physical Description: With dust jacket not by Lee Thayer, unsigned.

Box 21


Physical Description: With dust jacket, unsigned, possibly by Lee Thayer.

Box 21


Physical Description: Design on endpapers signed “LT ’42.”
   Physical Description: With dust jacket, unsigned.
   Scope and Content Note
   Presentation copy to Alice and John Espey.

   Physical Description: Endpaper design unsigned, probably by Lee Thayer.

   Physical Description: Cover design unsigned.

   Physical Description: “Frontispiece by the author.”

   Physical Description: Frontispiece by Clarence Rowe.

   Note
   Published by arrangement with Doubleday, Page and Company.

**Bindings**

   Physical Description: Light green, yellow, and gold on dark green.
   Scope and Content Note
   Dummy.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 May 1979]

   Physical Description: Yellowish white and gold on red.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 May 1979]

   Physical Description: Light bluish green, orangish yellow, and reddish brown on dark blue.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 May 1979]
32) Cover design [for] *The Century Magazine* (vol.74, no.1), May 1907.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 May 1979]

   Physical Description: Tan and dark brown binding with grey dustjacket and green ties. Decorations by W.S. Hadaway.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 May 1979]

   Physical Description: Red and gold binding. Lacking ties. Large paper edition.
   Scope and Content Note
   no.97 of 250 copies.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 May 1979]

   Physical Description: Signed with the DD monogram.

   Physical Description: Signed.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 December 1981]

   Physical Description: Unsigned.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 December 1981]

   Physical Description: Signed.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 December 1981]

   Physical Description: Signed.
   Note
   [Addition, 21 December 1981]

   Note
   [Addition, 21 December 1981]
   Note
   [Addition, 21 December 1981]

   Note
   [Addition, December 1984]

   Physical Description: Designed by Lee Thayer.
   Note
   [Addition, December 1984]

   Note
   [Addition, December 1984]

   Physical Description: (354pp. Paperback. Signed Decorative Designers cover)
   Note
   [Addition, December 1984]