Guide to the Whitney T. Genns Photograph Collection

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Guide to the Whitney T. Genns Photograph Collection, ca. 1941-1978

Collection number: Mss 39

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Date Completed:
24 January 2003
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Whitney T. Genns Photograph Collection,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1941-1978
Collection Number: Mss 39
Creator: Genns, Whitney T.
Extent: .2 linear feet (1 half-size document box)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical Location: Del Sur
Language: English.
Access Restrictions
None.
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Preferred Citation
Whitney T. Genns Photograph Collection. Mss 39. Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Acquisition Information
Undetermined.

Biography
Whitney T. Genns, long considered the dean of Santa Barbara's antiquarian book dealers, was born on April 13, 1900 in New Orleans. The family soon moved to the small town of Closter, New Jersey when his father took a job in New York City. When the United States entered World War I, Whitney Genns joined the venerable New York 7th Regiment and fought in France. Returning to New York after the war, he entered the newspaper trade, where he would earn a good living for many
years. In the 1930s, after working in New Orleans and Washington, D.C., he settled in California with his wife Edna. He opened his first bookshop in San Diego in 1938.

Whitney Genns moved to Santa Barbara in the latter 1950s and established a small antiquarian bookshop in the downtown area, first at 20 El Paseo and later at 116 De La Guerra Street. He was a founding member of the Southern California Chapter of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, and also a member of the American Society of Appraisers. His skill in both fields made him a popular figure among local bibliophiles, and he worked closely with UCSB's librarians for many years. He also donated numerous materials to the UCSB Library's Wyles Collection. He finally closed his bookshop just weeks before his death, from cancer, on May 6, 1979.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

Photographs, mainly b/w, of the Genns family and bookstore in Santa Barbara. Most of the photos are undated but the bulk seem to be latter 1950s to 1978.

**Related Materials**

Oral history with Whitney Genns, conducted by Gibbs M. Smith, Feb. 1971 (OH 41).

Whitney Genns also donated a number of items to the William Wyles Collection, including the New York National Guard, 7th Regiment Collection (Wyles Mss 40).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1: 1</th>
<th>Antiquarian Booksellers of America, Southern California Chapter, in Hollywood, Jan. 12, 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1: 2</td>
<td>Bookstore - San Diego (first store), n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1: 3</td>
<td>Black/white (El Paseo and De La Guerra stores), 1962-1963, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1: 3 - 4</td>
<td>Bookstore - Santa Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1: 4</td>
<td>Color (El Paseo and De La Guerra stores), 1962-1963, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1: 5</td>
<td>Dogs, 1941, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1: 7</td>
<td>Genns, Whitney T. (snapshots), n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1: 8</td>
<td>Mexican Postcards (Tecate), n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1: 10</td>
<td>Miscellany (not Santa Barbara), n.d.</td>
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