Guide to the Hobart O. Skofield oral history OH 6

Preliminary arrangement and description by Special Collections staff; latest version, D. Tambo and Zachary Liebhaber, Mar. 29, 2017.

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Date: circa 1982
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Scope and Content
The collection contains tapes and transcripts of interviews with Hobart O. Skofield, conducted by UCSB Library Oral Historian David E. Russell in 1982. Skofield discusses family and life history, working at the Printing House of William Edwin Rudge, life in Santa Barbara, California, collecting works on printing, donating and helping build the collection at the University of California Santa Barbara Library.

Related Material
American Institute of Graphic Arts Collection, ca. 1923-1977 [bulk dates 1971-1977]. Correspondence, flyers, invitations, memoranda, notices, and other mailings, mainly relating to the AIGA Fifty Books of the Year Show and other organization activities. Mainly items sent to Hobart Skofield, who was an AIGA member from 1932. Provenance: Gift of Hobart Skofield. Printers Mss 3.

American Printing History Association Collection, ca. 1974-1983. Bylaws, membership directories and information, flyers, conference notices and programs, and other mailings relating to activities of the American Printing History Association (APHA), including the Southern California Chapter of APHA. These mainly are items sent to Hobart Skofield, who was an APHA member. Printers Mss 4.

Beilenson [Peter] Collection, ca. 1929-1980. Biographical information, lists, prospectuses, printing specimens, and other ephemera, mainly about Peter Beilenson, Peter Pauper Press (Mount Vernon, NY), and the Walpole Printing Office (New Rochelle, NY). Early in his career, Beilenson was associated with the William Edwin Rudge firm. Also, correspondence between Edna Beilenson (widow of Peter Beilenson) and Hobart Skofield (former Rudge associate), who assembled the collection. Printers Mss 5.

Dothard [Robert Loos] Collection, ca. 1938-1963. Correspondence, Christmas cards, stock certificates and ephemera of Robert Loos Dothard, ca. 1938-1963, mainly relating to the printing firm of William E. Rudge's Sons, Inc. Dothard was one of the five original partners of the firm and the firm's typographer for several years. He later had a long, distinguished career as a book designer, with many of his books being accepted for the Fifty Books exhibitions of the American Institute of Graphic Arts. .2 linear ft. Printers Mss 6.


Erickson [Edward O.] Collection, 1972-1984. Mainly copies of correspondence between Edward O. Erickson and Hobart Skofield, both William Edwin Rudge Press alumni, about the history of Rudge and other printing firms, and associates such as Ralph Dueneawald, Milton Glick, and Bruce Rogers. .2 linear ft. Printers Mss 8.


Guide to the Hobart O. Skofield Collection, ca. 1927-1987. The collection contains two main series, the Personal/Family series, which primarily includes material re Hobart O. Skofield, his father Ray L. Skofield, and a large number of genealogical files; and the Printers/Presses series, which includes a large amount of material relating to Hobart O. Skofield's association with the Rudge printing firm, as well as long-term correspondence with other prominent printers, and research files on numerous mostly-American presses. The UCSB Special Collections Printers Collection is named after Skofield, who also donated several thousand printed items and established an endowment to support the collection. 47 linear ft. For further details, see guide to the collection. Printers Mss 1.


William Edwin Rudge [Firm] Collection, ca. 1903-1983 [bulk 1940s-1950s]. The collection was acquired over many years, ca. 1966-1999, from family members Fred Rudge and Edwin Rudge (WERIII), as well as Edwin Rudge's daughter, Joanna Rudge Long. Former Rudge employee and UCSB Special Collections consultant Hobart O. Skofield did much of the work accumulating the manuscript and related Rudge imprint collection, and also acquired materials from other Rudge alumni and various dealers. The collection contains the following series: Series I: Biographical/Family/Bibliographical; Series II: Rudge Business Files; Series III: Presses and Printers; Series IV: Rudge Alumni. Series V: Photographs; Series VI: Artifacts; Series VII: Oversize. ca. 48 linear ft. For further details, see the guide to the collection. Printers Mss 2

Background/Research Materials

Bibliography of Soundings articles relating to William Edwin Rudge firm and other printing subject matter 1970-1975

Copy of "In Memoriam: Hobart O. Skofield," by Christian Brun, Soundings 1991

Transcripts

Early - some arranged by tape number and some by chapter


Ch. 1: Family - ancestors, early life in Maine, growing up in New York City, father's occupation as financier, attending Choate School in senior high, then Amherst College, short career in banking in New York City, beginning interest in fine printing, meeting William Rudge, working in composing room at Rudge firm but seldom seeing Rudge, Bruce Rogers

Ch. 2: California - leaving Rudge firm and coming to Santa Barbara where parents were living, staying at their ranch, flying lessons, road trip out to California in 1931 and living at different ranch owned by father.

Ch. 3: World War II - with Patton's Third Army after D-Day, received Bronze Star for meritorious service, earlier in 1930s leaving Shauer's printing firm and coming out to California, going on Rancheros Visitadores trek and being member of that group, riding with H. L. Hitchcock, other friends including Samuel J. Stanwood.
Ch. 4, UCSB, Printers Collection - started collecting books on printing while at Rudge's, gave collection to Santa Barbara College of the University of California, when it was on the Riviera campus (the initial collection of 450 items was second special collection at the library, after the Wyles collection), helped Head of Special Collections Chris Brun build the collection, discussion of Printing House of William E. Rudge's Sons, Inc and how it changed over the years, William Rudge Sr. and Jr., Aquatone Process, Smithsonian Process, decline of Rudge company with later managers, and eventual closure in 1936.

Audiocassettes

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