Kistler Printing and Lithography

Finding Guide by Tony Gardner

2 ms boxes, 1 ov box, 1 map case drawer
(1.5 linear ft.)

Call No. NE2312.K48 A65

History

William A. Kistler established a printing business in Los Angeles about 1910. After World War I he purchased a lithography firm. His son Lynton Kistler (1897-1993) learned offset lithography there in the late 1920s and also began working on lithographic stones. He was one of a few local printers who became proficient with this process. Merle Armitage and Jean Charlot were his first customers. In 1932 Kistler printed Armitage’s *The Work of Maier-Krieg* [NB588.M25A7] using the offset process. Vernon Grant’s graphic art appears on several advertisements for the company during the 1930s.

During the Depression in 1936, William Kistler sold his business. Lyton continued making lithographs out of his garage studio. After briefly opening his own business he moved to New York in 1941 where he worked in the printing trade. While working for Blanchard Press in New York he published a pamphlet on airplane profile recognition [Item 2-27].

On returning to Los Angeles in 1945, he resumed working on projects for Merle Armitage who brought him more work from other artists such as Edward Weston, Millard Sheets, and Warren Newcombe and his wife Beatrice Wood. Most of the books Lynton produced with Merle Armitage are in the Library’s Armitage-Kistler collection in Special Collections.

Kistler stopped making lithographs in 1952 because of an allergic reaction he developed to the acids used in lithography and the expense of working on stone. He turned to more commercial printing and purchased a plant at 1653 West Temple Street. The business prospered and his financial situation improved. In 1970 he sold this plant to purchase a larger facility at Washington and Normandie Boulevards. He sold the business in 1976 and retired from commercial printing.

Provenance

Carl Haverlin, a friend of Lynton Kistler’s since grammar school, and Lynton Kister donated the materials in the collection after the 1975 library exhibition at California State University, Northridge. Among them are eight of his lithographs donated in 1976 (Six Honore Daumier reproductions were also included in this gift). The Merle Armitage books in the Armitage-Kistler book collection were included in the gift. Additional Armitage books were purchased by the library in subsequent years.

Scope & Contents Note

The collection contains the commercial work of Kistler Printing and Lithography from the 1920s to the mid 1970s. There are some proof sheets and paste-ups from *Fifty Photographs* (1947), *First Penthouse Dwellers of America* (1938), and *Dance Memoranda* (1946) that Lynton Kistler produced with Merle Armitage as well as eight lithographs he made for artists (MC-10 to MC-13).

Organization
Boxes 1-2 are arranged by print jobs or genre. The first grouping are one-time print jobs, followed by catalogs, programs, exhibitions, or multiple print jobs for individual companies arranged alphabetically (e.g print jobs for Brown-Jordan are grouped together). The roman number-arabic number (e.g. VIII-142) following the title is penciled on the piece. It probably refers to the exhibition order since many of these pieces were displayed in 1975. Oversize box 1 (ovbox 1) contains printing plates and a paper sampler. Posters and other large flat works are organized in a map case drawer.

**Related Special Collections and Archives Collections**

- Armitage-Kistler Collection

**Secondary Sources**


**Box Listing**

**Box 1**

**Print Jobs.**

1-01 Regulators, Pressure Control Valves. VIII-137. Aervalco Engineering Corp., n.d..


1-03 Enchanted Shores on Soda Bay. VIII-148. C.D. Cornell Corp., n.d..


1-05 Oakwood Cemetary. VIII-91. Chatsworth Holding Corporation, n.d..

1-06 Los Angeles Metropolis of Knowledge? [A sketch for a great university]. IX-144. City Beautiful Community Club, n.d..


1-08 Advertising that Pays. VIII-89. Edward N. Nathan Advertising Agency, n.d..


1-10 This is Microdot. VIII-129. Felts Corp., n.d..


1-13  Historical Murals. VI-76. Golden State Insurance Co., n.d..
1-16  Comstock Schools. VIII-34. Macurda - Drisco Schools, Inc., 1930.
1-17  From the Library of Charles B. Hopper [Bookplate]. XI-156. n.p., n.d..
1-26  Scientific Optical Corp. -. Scientific Optical Corp., n.d..
1-29  Suzanne Lenglen by Mary K. Brown. XI-153. Vanity Fair, n.d..

1-33  Dance Memoranda. II-34, 37, 40. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1946.
1-34  First Penthouse Dwellers of America. II-35, 38, 39. Laboratory of Anthropology, 1938.
1-35  Sierra Club, no. 45, 51, 55. V-1, 62, 63. Mountain Head Quarters, Muir Lake, Santa Anita Canyon, 1925-1928.

Print Jobs. Cards.

Print Jobs. Catalogs, Programs, Exhibitions.
1-42  Stools, Bars, Game Sets?. VIII-124. Calif-Asia, n.d..
1-44  Catalogue of the Prints of Jean Charlot Printed by Lynton R. Kistler. This Lithograph….. I-3, 6. Lynton R. Kistler, n.d..
1-45  Actual Reproductions of Weinstein Original Conceptions in Platinum and Diamond Designs. VIII-94. Mr. Weinstein
1-47  Handprinted Lithographs of Eugene Berman. I-5. n.p., n.d..
1-50  Disposable Products for the Medical Profession. VIII-135. Peel Away Scientific, n.d..
1-54  Lithographs by June Wayne. VI-75. The Contemporaries, 1953.
1-55  Tudor Tile. VIII-88. Tudor Potteries, Inc., n.d..
1-56  Exhibition. Paintings, Drawings and Lithographs by Clinton Adams. VI-70. UCLA, n.d..

Box 2
Print Jobs. Multiple Pieces for the Same Firm.


2-08 Last Period. -. Earle C. Anthony, 1927.

2-09 Romance of Transportation in California. -. Earle C. Anthony, 1928.


2-12 "Will A. Kistler, Co."[advertisement] in Proceedings sixteenth Annual Convention. V-68. California State Division,

2-13 Prices for Printing from Handmade Plates at Kistler Lithograph Studio. December Classes in Lithography for Artists. I-1, 2.

2-14 Biographies. [Accompanies catalog not included]. XI-158. , ,

2-15 [Christmas Greetings cards]. IV-53 - 59. Lynton R. Kistler, ,


2-24 Ormco Matic 880. VIII-123. Ormco Corporation, n.d..
2-26 Catalog III. VIII-121. Ormco Corporation, n.d..
2-27 How to Identify Warplanes Friend or Enemy. XI-159. Richfield Oil Corporation of New York, 1942.
2-28 New Deal for Your Motor. VIII-95. Richfield Oil Company of California, 1933.
2-31 Scripps College Calendar, 1936. VIII-86. Scripps College, 1936.
2-32 Scripps College Calendar 1940. VIII-87. Scripps College, 1940.
2-34 Southwestern. VIII-143-B. Southwestern Engineering Corporation, n.d..
2-35 Tropical Sun Rattan. VIII-117. Tropical Sun, n.d..
2-36 Tropical Sun Rattan. VIII-116. Tropical Sun, n.d..
2-37 Old Master Drawings. X-149. Zeitlin & Ver Brugge, n.d..

OV Box 1. Printing materials.
1-02 Correspondence from Blake, Moffitt & Towne. Paper Dealers. With Roxburgh, A Portfolio of Specimens and samples of Strathmore paper.

Map Case.
MC-02 A Taste of Christmas from the Candy Shop. [proof sheet]. VIII-114. Marston's, 1962. 23 x 29”
MC-03 Footlines. Selected from the Blake, Moffett & Towne Calendar. Blake, Moffett & Towne, n.d.. 26 x 40”
MC-06  [Color prints] (3).  II-43 - 45.  n.p., n.d..  10 x 13"
MC-07  [Untitled.  Camping by a lake].  (Poster illustrated by HN).  n.p., n.d..  7 x 42"
MC-09  Christopher's Chocolates.  6 posters.  (1.) Christopher's Chocolates.  The Perfect Valentine.  (Poster illustrated by WFR).  -.  Christopher's Chocolates, n.d..  7 x 26".  (2.) Remember Mother with Christopher's Chocolates.  -.  Christopher's Chocolates, n.d..  7 x 26".  (3.) Say "Merry Christmas" with Christopher's Chocolates.  -.  Christopher's Chocolates, n.d..  7 x 26".  (4.) Remember Christopher's Chocolates.  California's Favorite Candy for Thanksgiving.  -.  Christopher's Chocolates, n.d..  7 x 26".  (5.) Give Christopher's Chocolates for Easter.  -.  Christopher's Chocolates, n.d..  7 x 26".  (6.) Say "Merry Christmas" with Christopher's Chocolates.  -.  Christopher's Chocolates, n.d..  7 x 42"
MC-10  Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (offset).  John Kelly.  Tall Ship Series.  (1.) Heading in, printer's proof, 20 x 26".  (2.) Topsail schooner, printers proof, 20 x 26".
MC-11  Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (offset).  Tyrus Wong.  (1.) Kicking horse, 10 x 13".  (2) Running horse, 10 x 13".  (3.) Printing plate for both lithographs, 15 ½ x 17 ½"
MC-12  Lynton Kistler artist lithographs (stone).  Myron Nutting.  (1.) Morning, 12 ½ x 17".  (2.) Jason, 13 x 17 ½".  (2.) Nocturne, 13 x 17 ½".