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

Processed by Jeffrey Thompson.

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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)

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. William Andrews Clark Memorial Library
Los Angeles, California 90095-1490

Abstract: Papers of Tamalpais Press and its founder Roger Levenson, dating from 1955-1994, including correspondence, job files, proofs and related ephemera.

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.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Roger Levenson and the Tamalpais Press Archive, Press coll. Tamalpais, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

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 1. Proofs, 1955/1994

Series 2. Correspondence, 1960-1984

Series 2. Roger Levenson Files, 1956/1964

Series 3. Roger Levenson Files, 1955/1964

Series 4. Miscellany, Circa 1955/1994

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

Contains proofs for the book "Charles A. Murdock, Printer and Citizen of San Francisco: An Appraisal," by George L. Harding

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

Contains proofs for the book "El Triunfo de la Cruz: The First Ship Built in the Californias," by Theodore H. Hittell.

Box 2, Folder 3

Hart : Fine Printing in Calif. P60112 Published in 1960

Scope and Content Note

Contains proofs for the book "Fine Printing in California," by James D. Hart.

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

Contains proofs for "A William Morris Press Goes West," by Theodore M. Lilienthal.

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	<p>A Directory of California Wine Growers and Wine Makers in 1860 Published in 1967</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Contains proofs for "A Directory of Wine Growers and Wine Makers in 1860," by Ernest P. Peninou and Sidney S. Greenleaf</p>
Box 2, Folder 10	<p>Yosemite in 1896 P62253 Published in 1962</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Contains proofs for the reprint of "Yosemite in 1896."</p>
Box 3, Folder 1	<p>Ottley : A Few Favorite California Books</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Contains proofs for the publication "A Few Favorite California Books" by Allan R. Ottley.</p>
Box 3, Folder 2-5 Box 4, Folder 1 Box 4, Folder 2 Box 4, Folder 3 Box 4, Folder 4 Box 4, Folder 5 Box 4, Folder 6	<p>Edward G. Kemble/Kemble Occasional Proofs</p> <p>Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]</p> <p>Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]</p> <p>Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]</p> <p>Charles A. Murdock [Oversize]</p> <p>Charles A. Murdock Proofs [Oversize]</p> <p>Kemble Occasional [Oversize]</p>
	<p>Series 2. Correspondence 1960-1984</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Arrangement</p> <p>This series is arranged in chronological order by correspondent.</p>
Box 5, Folder 1-2 Box 5, Folder 3-4 Box 5, Folder 5-6 Box 5, Folder 7-8 Box 5, Folder 9-10	<p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1960</p> <p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1961</p> <p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1962</p> <p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1963</p> <p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1964</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Includes one item written by Carpenter to RL.</p>
Box 5, Folder 11-12	<p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1965</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Includes several items written by Carpenter to RL.</p>
Box 5, Folder 13	<p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1966</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Includes several items written by Carpenter to RL.</p>
Box 6, Folder 1 Box 6, Folder 2 Box 6, Folder 3 Box 6, Folder 4 Box 6, Folder 5 Box 6, Folder 6 Box 6, Folder 7 Box 6, Folder 8 Box 7, Folder 1	<p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1967</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1968</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1969</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1970</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1971</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1972</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1973</p> <p>Correspondence to Edwin Carpenter 1974</p> <p>Correspondence to/from Edwin Carpenter 1975</p>

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

Series 4. **Miscellany Circa 1955/1994**

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.