



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Willis Polk scrapbooks

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Willis Polk scrapbooks
Date:	1908-1924
Identifier:	AAA.polkwill
Creator:	Polk, Willis, 1867-1924
Extent:	5 Volumes ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1975 by the California Historical Society.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the California Historical Society after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 983 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Architect; San Francisco, Calif. Played an important part in shaping the city of San Francisco in the early part of the 19th century. Joined the firm of D.H. Burnham & Co. in Chicago. Following the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, Burnham set up an office in San Francisco, placing Polk in charge and with a partnership interest. It was one of the primary firms involved in the reconstruction of San Francisco. In 1911, Polk took over the San Francisco office and the name was changed to Willis Polk & Co. Some of his projects include the civic center, the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915, the Chronicle Building, the Pacific Club, Women's City Club Building, major business buildings and homes of prominent citizens. Polk ran for mayor in 1915.

Scope and Contents

Five scrapbooks of clippings documenting Polk's career and many important Bay Area events during his time in San Francisco. Subjects of the clippings include the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, the San Francisco civic center, and his partnership with D.H. Burnham and the subsequent establishment of his own firm in San Francisco.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Architecture -- California -- San Francisco

Names:

D.H. Burnham & Co.

Panama-Pacific International Exposition (1915 : San Francisco, Calif.)

Occupations:

Architects -- California -- San Francisco

Functions:

Architectural firms -- California -- San Francisco