



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Mary Margaret Sittig research material on Louis Prang, 1860-1978, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Mary Margaret Sittig research material on Louis Prang  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.sittmary   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1860-1978  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Sittig, Mary Margaret  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 3.5 Linear feet  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | Art historian Mary Margaret Sittig's research material on Louis Prang dates from 1860 to 1978 and measures 3.5 linear feet. Found within the papers are biographical material for Louis Prang and for Mary Margaret Sittig, collected letters from various members of the Prang family, and scattered letters to Sittig from friends. Additional collected research materials include scattered personal business records for Louis Prang and his wife, notes and writings, art work, printed material, and photographs. |

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers were donated by Mary Margaret Sittig's brother James C. Sittig in 2001, in memory of Charlotte, Edgar, and Mary Sittig.

### Related Material

The Archives also holds the Louis Prang papers, 1848-1932.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed by Jean Fitzgerald in December 2010.

### Preferred Citation

Mary Margaret Sittig research material on Louis Prang, 1860-1978. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical Note

Mary Margaret Sittig was a doctoral student at George Washington University in Washington D.C. working on a dissertation about the life and work of Boston lithographer Louis Prang (1824-1909), often referred to as the "father of the American Christmas card." Sittig completed her Master's theses *L. Prang and Company, Fine Art Publishers* in 1970, but died before completing her doctoral dissertation.

In 1864, Prang visited Europe to study the latest techniques in German lithography. He returned to Boston to create high quality reproductions of major works of art using a lithographic process he called "chromos." In 1874, he began producing greeting cards for the popular market in England and began selling the Christmas card in the United States the next year. Also in 1874, Prang began publishing books for drawing and elementary art study for public schools. This latter activity proved so successful that he formed the Prang Educational Company in 1882.

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## Scope and Content Note

Art historian Mary Margaret Sittig's research material on Louis Prang dates from 1860 to 1978 and measures 3.5 linear feet. Found within the papers are biographical material for Louis Prang and for Mary Margaret Sittig, collected letters from various members of the Prang family, and scattered letters to Sittig from friends. Additional collected research materials include scattered personal business records for Louis Prang and his wife, notes and writings, art work, printed material, and photographs.

Biographical material concerning Louis Prang includes a record book and genealogy listing Prang family members, ephemera, and scattered family papers. Biographical material concerning Mary Margaret Sittig includes resumes, a photograph of Sittig, and scattered ephemera. Letters primarily consist of scattered communications between miscellaneous Prang family members, and a few business-related letters. Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig are primarily from friends and discuss her research activities. Personal business records consist of an account book for Louis Prang's wife, Rosa, and miscellaneous receipts for Louis Prang.

Notes and writings primarily consist of photocopies of research material on Louis Prang collected by Mary Margaret Sittig and include a typescript of her thesis *L. Prang and Company, Fine Art Publishers*. Art work consists of ink drawings, watercolor sketches, an etching, a block print, and an oil painting on fabric.

Printed material concerning Louis Prang includes clippings, commercial lithographs of book illustrations, chromolithographs of ceramics from the Walters Collection, and printed reproductions of work by others.

Photographs are of Louis Prang, his wives Rosa Prang and Mary Dana Hicks Prang, miscellaneous Prang family members, and of scattered art work. There is also the Prang Family Photograph Album that contains annotations, but no photographs.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1881-1973 (Box 1; 10 folders)
- Series 2: Letters, 1864-1974 (Box 1; 23 folders)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1875-1917 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1890-1978 (Box 1; 16 folders)
- Series 5: Art Work, circa 1880 (Box 1; 9 folders)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1866-1972 (Box 1-8; 2.5 linear feet)
- Series 7: Photographs, 1860-1957 (Box 3, 7; 6 folders)

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Chromolithography
- Greeting cards industry
- Lithographers
- Lithography

### Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Etchings
- Paintings
- Photographs
- Prints
- Watercolors

### Names:

- Heinzen, Rosa Prang
- L. Prang & Co.
- Prang, Louis, 1824-1909

### Occupations:

- Art historians -- Pennsylvania

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1881-1973

*(Box 1; 10 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Biographical material concerning Louis Prang includes listings of Prang family members, a certificate of esteem for Louis Prang, a ship's passenger list, material from Prang's funeral and from the funeral of his mother, and an employment application for Prang's granddaughter Henriette Heinzen. Biographical material concerning Mary Margaret Sittig includes resumes, application forms for federal employment, receipts, and a photograph of Sittig.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1    | Prang Family Record Book, 1891   |
| Box 1, Folder 2    | A Genealogical List of Prang Family Members, a Certificate of Esteem for Louis Prang, and a Passenger List from the Ship Columbia, 1881-1900 |
| Box 1, Folder 3    | Booklet "Addresses at the Memorial Services of Mrs. Rosa Prang," 1898  |
| Box 1, Folder 4-5  | Miscellaneous Material Concerning the Funeral of Louis Prang, 1909   |
| Box 1, Folder 6    | Employment Application of Henriette Heinzen, 1933  |
| Box 1, Folder 7-10 | Biographical Material Concerning Mary Margaret Sittig, 1961-1973<br>(4 folders)  |

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## Series 2: Letters, 1864-1974

(Box 1; 23 folders)

Scope and Contents: Letters primarily consist of scattered communications between miscellaneous Prang family members. Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig are primarily from friends and discuss her research activities.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 11    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families from Unidentified Correspondents, circa 1860-circa 1978               |
| Box 1, Folder 12    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families from Correspondents with Unknown Surnames, circa 1860-circa 1978      |
| Box 1, Folder 13    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families from Correspondents with Surnames "A" - "O", circa 1860-circa 1978    |
| Box 1, Folder 14    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families from Correspondents with Surnames "P", circa 1860-circa 1978          |
| Box 1, Folder 15    | 15 Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families from Correspondents with Surnames "R" - "Z", circa 1860-circa 1978 |
| Box 1, Folder 16    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1864-1887  |
| Box 1, Folder 17    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1891-1899  |
| Box 1, Folder 18    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1900-1903  |
| Box 1, Folder 19    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1904-1908  |
| Box 1, Folder 20    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1909-1912  |
| Box 1, Folder 21    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1913-1914  |
| Box 1, Folder 22    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1915-1923  |
| Box 1, Folder 23    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1924-1927  |
| Box 1, Folder 24    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1928   |
| Box 1, Folder 25    | Letters to the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1963   |
| Box 1, Folder 26    | Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 1, Folder 27    | Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig, 1968-1969  |
| Box 1, Folder 28-30 | Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig, 1970   |

(3 folders)

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 31-32 | Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig, 1971<br>(2 folders) |
|---------------------|--|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig, 1973-1974 |
|------------------|--|

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## Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1875-1917

*(Box 1; 2 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Personal business records consist of an account book for Louis Prang's wife, Rosa, and miscellaneous receipts for Louis Prang.

Box 1, Folder 34 Account Book for Rosa M. Prang, 1875

Box 1, Folder 35 Miscellaneous Receipts for Louis Prang, 1899-1917

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## Series 4: Notes and Writings, 1890-1978

(Box 1; 16 folders)

Scope and Contents: Notes and writings primarily consist of photocopies of research material on Louis Prang collected by Mary Margaret Sittig, but include a typescript of her thesis *L. Prang and Company, Fine Art Publishers*, compilations of writings and poems by Henriette Heinzen, and miscellaneous notes by members of the Prang and Heinzen families.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 36    | Hand-made Book "School Reminiscences" by Henriette Heinzen, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 1, Folder 37-40 | Henriette Heinzen's Album of Poems and Inserted Printed Material, 1899-1931 (4 folders)  |
| Box 1, Folder 41    | Miscellaneous Notes by Members of the Prang and Heinzen Families, 1890, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 1, Folder 42    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of 1869 Article "What Pictures Shall I Hang on My Walls?" by Harriet Beecher Stowe, circa 1860-circa 1978 |
| Box 1, Folder 43    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of Microfilm of an 1875 Catalog of Art Sale from the Louis Prang Collection, circa 1860-circa 1978        |
| Box 1, Folder 44    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of Microfilm of an 1893 Auction Catalog, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 1, Folder 45    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of an 1892 Art Work Catalog Collection of L. Prang and Company of Boston, circa 1860-circa 1978           |
| Box 1, Folder 46    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of 1899 Catalog Louis Prang's Collection of Oil and Water-Color Paintings, circa 1860-circa 1978          |
| Box 1, Folder 47    | Thesis Typescript <i>L. Prang and Company, Fine Art Publishers</i> by Mary Margaret Sittig, 1970                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 48    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of Typescript "Kingly Print: An American Chromo" by Lucy E. Leitzell, 1972                                |
| Box 1, Folder 49    | Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of Indiana Historical Society Lectures, Autographed by Lillian B. Miller, 1974                            |
| Box 1, Folder 50-51 | Miscellaneous Notes by Sittig, 1978, circa 1860-circa 1978 (2 folders)   |

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## Series 5: Art Work, circa 1880

*(Box 1; 9 folders)*

Scope and Contents: Art work includes ink drawings, watercolor sketches primarily of floral borders, young girls, and scenic views, an etching signed by Ellen Day Hale, a block print of a Native American design, and an oil portrait painting of an unidentified man on fabric.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 52    | Ink Drawings, circa 1880                               |
| Box 1, Folder 53-58 | Watercolor Sketches, circa 1880<br>(6 folders)         |
| Box 1, Folder 59    | Etching Signed by Ellen Day Hale, circa 1880           |
| Box 1, Folder 60    | Block Print of a Native American Design, circa 1880    |
| Box 5, Folder 1     | Oil Portrait Painting on Fabric, circa 1860-circa 1978 |

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## Series 6: Printed Material, 1866-1972

*(Box 1-8; 2.5 linear feet)*

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings, commercial lithographs of book illustrations, chromolithographs of ceramics from the Walters Collection and of work by others, *The Card Autograph Album* by L. Prang and Co., color lithographs of miniature pictures of mammals, birds, fish, insects, and miscellaneous subjects, calendars, miscellaneous greeting cards including salesmen's sample books of cards, programs, labels, and advertising cards. There are chromolithographed and block-printed fabric items including fabric squares, a fabric-covered box, shawls, and fabric-covered portfolio covers displaying images primarily of flowers and young girls. The books published by L. Prang and Co. include *Prang's Standard Alphabets*, *American Text-Books of Art Education*, *The Prang Elementary Course in Art Instruction*, *Illustrations of the History of Art*, and *Yawcob's Dribulatons* that is autographed by Charles Follen Adams (a.k.a. Yawcob Strauss). Books published by others are primarily German children's books with fine illustrations. There is also a large portfolio of machine-cut stencil designs.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 61    | Clippings, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 1, Folder 62    | Clippings, 1918-1946  |
| Box 1, Folder 63    | Clippings, 1952-1972  |
| Box 1, Folder 64    | Commercial Lithographs of Book Illustrations, circa 1860-circa 1978   |
| Box 1, Folder 65-68 | Chromolithographs of Ceramics from the Walters Collection, circa 1860-circa 1978<br>(4 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4) |
| Box 1, Folder 69-73 | Chromolithographs of Art Work by Others, 1866-1903, circa 1860-circa 1978<br>(5 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4)        |
| Box 1, Folder 74    | The Card Autograph Album by L. Prang and Co., 1871  |
| Box 2, Folder 1     | Color Lithographs of Miniature Pictures of Mammals, circa 1860-circa 1978   |
| Box 2, Folder 2     | Color Lithographs of Miniature Pictures of Birds, circa 1860-circa 1978   |
| Box 2, Folder 3     | Color Lithographs of Miniature Pictures of Fish and Sea Creatures, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 2, Folder 4     | Color Lithographs of Miniature Pictures of Insects, circa 1860-circa 1978   |
| Box 2, Folder 5     | Color Lithographs of Miniature Pictures of Miscellaneous Subjects, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 2, Folder 6-7   | Calendars, 1888-1952  |

(2 folders; Oversized Material Housed in OV 8)

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 8     | New Year's Cards, circa 1860-circa 1978   |
| Box 2, Folder 9-11  | Valentine's Day Cards, circa 1882-1893<br>(3 folders)   |
| Box 2, Folder 12-13 | Easter Cards, 1880s<br>(2 folders)  |
| Box 2, Folder 14    | <a href="#">Christmas Cards, circa 1881-1890</a>  |
| Box 2, Folder 15    | Christmas Cards, circa 1881-1890  |
| Box 2, Folder 16    | <a href="#">Christmas Cards, circa 1881-1890</a>  |
| Box 2, Folder 17    | Christmas Cards, circa 1881-1890  |
| Box 2, Folder 18    | Birthday Cards, 1870s-1890s   |
| Box 2, Folder 19-21 | Miscellaneous Printed Cards, circa 1870-1887<br>(3 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4)                                       |
| Box 2, Folder 22-23 | Programs, 1881-1903<br>(2 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4)  |
| Box 2, Folder 24    | Miscellaneous Labels and Advertising Cards, circa 1860-circa 1978<br>(Oversized Material Housed in OV 8)                              |
| Box 2, Folder 25-26 | Chromolithographed and Block-Printed Fabric Items, circa 1860-circa 1978<br>(2 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 5 and Box 6) |
| Box 2, Folder 27    | Book Prang's Standard Alphabets, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 2, Folder 28    | Book Prang's Prize Babies, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 2, Folder 29    | Book Language of Flowers, Illustrated by Kate Greenaway, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 2, Folder 30    | Book Prang's Natural History Series for Children, 1878  |
| Box 2, Folder 31-37 | Books American Text-Books of Art Education, Numbers 2-7 and 9, Published by L. Prang and Co., 1879-1888<br>(7 folders)                |
| Box 2, Folder 38    | Book Der Kinder Wundergarten by Friedrich Hofmann, 1882   |
| Box 2, Folder 39    | Book Prinzessin Wunderhold by J. Trojan, 1883   |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 40  | Book Drei Gute Freunde, 1884  |
| Box 2, Folder 41  | Book A Gay Day for 7 by Mrs. Rose Mueller Sprague, Published by L. Prang and Co., 1887  |
| Box 2, Folder 42  | Book Autograph Recipes Published by L. Prang and Co., 1888  |
| Box 2, Folder 43  | Book The Baby's Bouquet by Walter Crane, 1890   |
| Box 2, Folder 44  | Book Das Schönste UBC Buch für die Jugend, 1890   |
| Box 2, Folder 45  | Book Yawcob's Dribulatons, Published by L. Prang and Co., 1894  |
| Box 2, Folder 46  | Book Flora's Feast by Walter Crane, 1895  |
| Box 3, Folder 1   | Book Dream Pansies by Bessie Gray, 1897   |
| Box 3, Folder 2-3 | Books The Prang Elementary Course in Art Instruction, 1897-1898<br>(2 folders)  |
| Box 4, Folder 1   | Oversized Commercial Lithograph of Abraham Lincoln, 1865  |
| Box 4, Folder 2   | Oversized Chromolithographs of Ceramics from the Walters Collection, circa 1860-circa 1978,<br>(from Box 1, Folder 68)  |
| Box 4, Folder 3   | Oversized Chromolithographs of Art Work by Others, circa 1866-1869<br>(from Box 1, Folder 73)   |
| Box 4, Folder 4   | <a href="#">Two Oversized Salesmen's Sample Books of Miscellaneous Cards, circa 1860-circa 1978,</a><br>(from Box 2, Folder 19)   |
| Box 4, Folder 5   | <a href="#">Five Oversized Miscellaneous Printed Cards, 1870-1884,</a><br>(from Box 2, Folder 21)   |
| Box 4, Folder 6   | Two Copies of Oversized Program The Prang Souvenir, 1881<br>(from Box 2, Folder 22)   |
| Box 5, Folder 2-5 | Two Oversized Chromolithographed and Embroidered Shawls (?) and a Chromolithographed Portfolio Cover; Oversized Fabric-Covered Portfolio Decorated with a Block Print Design, circa 1860-circa 1978,<br>(from Box 2, Folder 25) |
| Box 6, Folder 1   | Oversized Chromolithographed Fabric-Covered Box; Eight Chromolithographed Fabric Squares, circa 1860-circa 1978,<br>(from Box 2, Folder 25)   |
| Box 7, Folder 1-4 | Oversized Books Illustrations of the History of Art, Series 1 - IV, 1879  |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | (4 folders)   |
| Box 7, Folder 5-6 | Oversized Portfolio of Machine-Cut Stencil Designs, circa 1860-circa 1978<br>(2 folders)          |
| Box OV 8, Folder  | Oversized Calendar Page, 1952,<br>(from Box 2, Folder 7)  |
| Box OV 8, Folder  | Oversized Advertisement for Prang's Valentines, circa 1860-circa 1978,<br>(from Box 2, Folder 24) |

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## Series 7: Photographs, 1860-1957

(Box 3, 7; 6 folders)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Louis Prang, miscellaneous Prang family members, and scattered art work including the painting *The Valley of Wyoming* by Jasper Cropsey, and a still life arrangement of a table setting signed by Antoinette Perrett. There is also the Prang Family Photograph Album that contains annotations, but no photographs.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 3, Folder 4 | Prang Family Photograph Album, circa 1860  |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Photographs of Louis Prang, Rosa Prang, and Mary Dana Hicks Prang, 1905, circa 1860-circa 1978<br>(Oversized Material Housed in Box 7) |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Photographs of Miscellaneous Prang Family Members, 1925-1957, circa 1860-circa 1978  |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Photograph of Painting <i>The Valley of Wyoming</i> by Jasper Cropsey, circa 1860-circa 1978   |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Photograph of Drawing of an Unidentified Woman and of a Lithograph of an Unidentified Man, circa 1860-circa 1978                       |
| Box 7, Folder 7 | Oversized Photograph of Louis Prang, circa 1860-circa 1978,<br>(from Box 3, Folder 5)  |
| Box 7, Folder 7 | Oversized Photograph of a Still Life Arrangement of a Table Setting Signed by Antoinette Perrett, circa 1860-circa 1978                |

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