



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

December 22, 2010

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Mary Margaret Sittig research material on Louis Prang
Identifier:	AAA.sittmary
Date:	1860-1978
Extent:	3.5 linear feet
Creator:	Sittig, Mary Margaret
Language:	English
Summary:	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.

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.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Mary Margaret Sittig research material on Louis Prang is owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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.

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.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

- 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)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Cultures:

Art historians -- Pennsylvania
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

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1881-1973

(Box 1; 10 folders)

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 <i>Columbia</i> , 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 <i>(4 folders)</i>

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Series 2: Letters, 1864-1974

(Box 1; 23 folders)

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 <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 31-32	Letters to Mary Margaret Sittig, 1971 <i>(2 folders)</i>
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)

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)

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 <i>Collection of L. Prang and Company of Boston</i> , circa 1860-circa 1978
Box 1, Folder 46	Notes by Sittig: Photocopy of 1899 Catalog <i>Louis Prang's Collection of Oil and Water-Color Paintings</i> , 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)

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 <i>(6 folders)</i>
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)

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 Dribulations* 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 (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 (5 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4)
Box 1, Folder 74	<i>The Card Autograph Album</i> 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 (3 folders)

- Box 2, Folder 12-13 Easter Cards, 1880s
(2 folders)
- Box 2, Folder 14-17 Christmas Cards, circa 1881-1890
(4 folders)
- Box 2, Folder 18 Birthday Cards, 1870s-1890s
- Box 2, Folder 19-21 Miscellaneous Printed Cards, circa 1870-1887
(3 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4)
- Box 2, Folder 22-23 Programs, 1881-1903
(2 folders; Oversized Material Housed in Box 4)
- Box 2, Folder 24 Miscellaneous Labels and Advertising Cards, circa 1860-circa 1978
(Oversized Material Housed in OV 8)
- Box 2, Folder 25-26 Chromolithographed and Block-Printed Fabric Items, circa 1860-circa 1978
(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
(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 Dribulations*, Published by L. Prang and Co., 1894
- Box 2, Folder 46 Book *Flora's Feast* by Walter Crane, 1895

Box 3, Folder 1	Book <i>Dream Pansies</i> by Bessie Gray, 1897
Box 3, Folder 2-3	Books <i>The Prang Elementary Course in Art Instruction</i> , 1897-1898 (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, (from Box 1, Folder 68)
Box 4, Folder 3	Oversized Chromolithographs of Art Work by Others, circa 1866-1869 (from Box 1, Folder 73)
Box 4, Folder 4	Two Oversized Salesmen's Sample Books of Miscellaneous Cards, circa 1860-circa 1978, (from Box 2, Folder 19)
Box 4, Folder 5	Five Oversized Miscellaneous Printed Cards, 1870-1884, (from Box 2, Folder 21)
Box 4, Folder 6	Two Copies of Oversized Program <i>The Prang Souvenir</i> , 1881 (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, (from Box 2, Folder 25)
Box 6, Folder 1	Oversized Chromolithographed Fabric-Covered Box; Eight Chromolithographed Fabric Squares, circa 1860-circa 1978, (from Box 2, Folder 25)
Box 7, Folder 1-4	Oversized Books <i>Illustrations of the History of Art, Series 1 - IV</i> , 1879 (4 folders)
Box 7, Folder 5-6	Oversized Portfolio of Machine-Cut Stencil Designs, circa 1860-circa 1978 (2 folders)
Box OV 8, Folder	Oversized Calendar Page, 1952, (from Box 2, Folder 7)
Box OV 8, Folder	Oversized Advertisement for Prang's Valentines, circa 1860-circa 1978, (from Box 2, Folder 24)

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Series 7: Photographs, 1860-1957

(Box 3, 7; 6 folders)

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 <i>(Oversized Material Housed in Box 7)</i>
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, <i>(from Box 3, Folder 5)</i>
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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