



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Kelsey Company Records

NMAH.AC.0377

NMAH Staff

1990

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## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Kelsey Company Records and Amateur Journalism Collection   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1873-1964  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0377   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Kelsey Press Co.   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 15 Cubic feet (54 boxes )  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | Archival materials documenting the business history of the Kelsey Press Company, amateur newspapers, and publications of owners of Kelsey presses. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by NMAH staff.

### Preferred Citation

Kelsey Company Records and Amateur Journalism Collection, 1873-1964, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

One of the first, and the longest surviving company to produce amateur printing presses, started in the 1870s.

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## Scope and Contents

Mail Orders, Press Orders, Stock Orders, Testimonials

All these bundles have a uniform format blue cover sheet, typed information. Penciled dates on some bundles indicate that they were bundled up in this format in 1923. Note that there are no orders from post 1923. Consecutive numbering of the press orders also indicates that pre existing categories were probably bundled up at a later date. The dates on the blue cover sheets are of the date the order was filled, not the date the letter was written. All are filed by date filled.

The "Press Orders Misc." seem to be a group of orders for presses that were not interfiled with the others. While many of these are orders placed by "professionals," i.e., type foundries and the offices of magazines, there is not really anything else to set them apart from the regular run of press orders. Perhaps they were kept separately because of who was ordering them?

#### Press Orders

Are numbered consecutively by hand, and filed by number. Some are out of sequence. Later they are stamped "order filled" and filed by date filled. These are all orders for presses; they include those orders for presses and accessories.

#### Stock orders

These are not numbered. They are orders for accessories only no presses ordered on these orders.

#### Mail Orders

These are primarily orders for blank cards (for use as business or calling cards) and for paper stock. But not always there are some orders for accessories included, on the same order as that for cards.

#### Correspondence

William A. Kelsey to "Frank" 1905 . These are Frank's copies, i.e., they are the originals. Frank was evidently the Office Manager. Kelsey on road quite a bit, mainly based in New York City writes of "will try to get to Meriden" on such and such a day. Also includes 1905 1906 trip to England, France, Italy & Turkey. In Europe again in 1909.

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## Arrangement

Collection divided into seven series.

Series 1: Testimonial Letters

Series 2: Mail Orders

Series 3: Press Orders

Series 4: Stok Orders

Series 5: Ledgers

Series 6: Amateur Journalism/Amatuer Press Journals

Series 7: National Mateur Press Association (NAPA)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Journalism  
Printing -- Newspapers

Types of Materials:

Business records -- 1850-1900  
Business records -- 20th century  
Newspapers  
Publications

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Testimonial Letters, 1873 - 1875

Language: English.

Box 1, Folder 1      Testimonial Letters, 1873

Box 1, Folder 2-3      Testimonial Letters, 1874-1875

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## Series 2: Mail Orders, 1878-1923

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 4-6 | Mail Orders, August-October 1878    |
| Box 2, Folder 1-2 | Mail Orders, November-December 1878 |
| Box 2, Folder 3-4 | Mail Orders, January 1879           |
| Box 2, Folder 5-6 | Mail Orders, December 1881          |
| Box 3, Folder 1-2 | Mail Orders, December 1881          |
| Box 3, Folder 6   | Mail Orders, June 1923              |

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## Series 3: Press Orders, 1873-1923

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Box 4, Folder 1-6  | Press Orders, March-November 1873           |
| Box 5, Folder 1    | Press Orders, December 1873                 |
| Box 5, Folder 2-5  | Press Orders, January-July 1874             |
| Box 6, Folder 1-2  | Press Orders, August-December 1874          |
| Box 6, Folder 3-4  | Press Orders, January-March 1875            |
| Box 7, Folder 1-5  | Press Orders, April-December 1875           |
| Box 8, Folder 1-5  | Press Orders, January-December 1876         |
| Box 9, Folder 1-3  | Press Orders, January-December 1877         |
| Box 9, Folder 4-5  | Press Orders, January-June 1878             |
| Box 9, Folder 6    | Press Orders, July-December 1878            |
| Box 10, Folder 1   | Press Orders, July-December 1878            |
| Box 10, Folder 2-4 | Press Orders, September-December 1881       |
| Box 10, Folder 5-6 | Press Orders, January-March 1882            |
| Box 10, Folder 7   | Press Orders, July-August 1886              |
| Box 11, Folder 1-2 | Press Orders, July-August 1886              |
| Box 11, Folder 3-5 | Press Orders, January-June 1887             |
| Box 12, Folder 1-2 | Press Orders, April-June 1888               |
| Box 12, Folder 3-5 | Press Orders, July-August 1921              |
| Box 13, Folder 1-2 | Press Orders, March 1923                    |
| Box 13, Folder 3-5 | Press Orders Miscellaneous, circa 1875-1888 |

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## Series 4: Stock Orders, 1878-1879

Box 14, Folder 1      Stock Orders, October-December 1878

Box 14, Folder 2-4      Stock Orders, January-September 1879

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## Series 5: Ledgers, 1883-1905 [2 vols.]

### Box 15, Folder 1-2

Box 15, Folder 3      Ledger,, 1909-1914

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Box 16, Folder 1      Daily Press Sales, 1938-1947  
2 Volumes

Box 16, Folder 2      Pattern Book, undated

Box 16, Folder 3      Audits, 1926-1927  
2 Volumes

Box 16, Folder 4      Connecticut Tax Receipts, 1909 and 1922

Box 16, Folder 5      Census of Manufacturers Reports, 1905-1954

Box 16, Folder 6      Foreign Orders, 1885-1889  
2 Volumes

Box 16, Folder 7      Foreign Orders, 1908-1926  
2 Volumes

Box 16, Folder 8      Inventory Record Book, 1894

Box 16, Folder 9      Inventory Record Books, 1905-1923  
2 Volumes

Box 17, Folder 1      Press Orders Record Book, 1903-1910

Box 17, Folder 2      Sales Journal, 1890-1907

Box 18, Folder 1      Correspondence, William A. Kelsey to Frank, 1905

## Series 6: Amateur Journalism/Amateur Press Journals

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Box 19 | Aarrets Gang-Amateur Journalist                            |
| Box 20 | Amateur Journalists-The Aonian                             |
| Box 21 | The Aonian-Bay State Advocate                              |
| Box 22 | Bay State Amateur-Boy's Herald                             |
| Box 23 | Boy's Journal-The Californian                              |
| Box 24 | The Californian-Checkerboard                               |
| Box 25 | The Cheerio-The Cornerstone                                |
| Box 26 | The Cornwall Star-Drippings                                |
| Box 27 | Drukker Brief-Feather Duster                               |
| Box 28 | Feathers in the Wind-Go Ahead                              |
| Box 29 | Gozzisms-The Idler   |
| Box 30 | The Illinoian-Interstate                                   |
| Box 31 | Iowa Bulletin-The Lions Roar                               |
| Box 32 | The Literary Blacksmith-Low Brow                           |
| Box 33 | Lucky Dog-Merry Printer                                    |
| Box 34 | A Messenger-The North Star                                 |
| Box 35 | The Nosyap-Our Working Boys and Girls                      |
| Box 36 | Ours-The Pioneer   |
| Box 37 | The Pirate (Evanston, Illinois)-The Quartette              |
| Box 38 | The Quasi Occasional Kitty Kat Reflections and Refractions |
| Box 39 | The Reflector-The Scorpion                                 |
| Box 40 | The Scotchman-Second Mowing                                |
| Box 41 | Semi Britannic-Kitten The Speck                            |

|        |                                    |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Box 42 | The Spectator-The Stray One        |
| Box 43 | Strictly Duerr-Tim Talks           |
| Box 44 | Tim Talks-The Tryout               |
| Box 45 | The Tryou- Villa de Laura Times    |
| Box 46 | Virginia Gardner-The Young Amateur |
| Box 47 | Young America-Zita's Hobbies       |

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**Series 7: National Amateur Press Association (NAPA), 1878-1963**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Box 48, Folder 1  | Annual and Committee Report, 1901-1961                 |
| Box 48, Folder 2  | Articles re: Amateur Journalism, 1904-1912             |
| Box 48, Folder 3  | Ballots, 1915-1948                                     |
| Box 48, Folder 4  | Constitution and By Laws, 1905-1953                    |
| Box 48, Folder 5  | Convention Materials, 1912-1962                        |
| Box 48, Folder 6  | The Mailer or NAPA Mailer, 1945-1960                   |
| Box 48, Folder 7  | Membership Applications, 1938-1961                     |
| Box 48, Folder 8  | New Member's Handbook, 1945                            |
| Box 48, Folder 9  | Miscellaneous  |
| Box 48, Folder 10 | Official Bulletin, 1910-1940                           |
| Box 48, Folder 11 | Membership Roster, 1956-1959                           |
| Box 48, Folder 12 | Service Bulletin, 1931                                 |
| Box 49            | The National Amateur, 1878-1912                        |
| Box 50            | The National Amateur, 1913-1928                        |
| Box 51            | The National Amateur, 1931-1944                        |
| Box 52            | The National Amateur, 1945-1963                        |
| Box 53            | The Fossil, 1917 -1963                                 |
| Box 54, Folder 1  | Index to The Fossil, 1943-1945                         |
| Box 54, Folder 2  | Membership Lists, 1947-1956                            |
| Box 54, Folder 3  | Annual Reunions and Meetings, 1915-1961                |
| Box 54, Folder 4  | By Laws, 1948  |
| Box 54, Folder 4  | Memos to Board Members, undated                        |
| Box 54, Folder 4  | Amateur Journalists of the Past, by Will G. Snow, 1926 |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 54, Folder 5 | Newsletters, 1946-1957   |
| Box 54, Folder 6 | Information re: the Spencer Collection of Amateur Journalism, circa 1944 |
| Box 54, Folder 7 | Tuesday Night, 1925-1927   |

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