



Cooper Hewitt

Smithsonian Design Museum

George A. Kubler collection, [18--]

2011

Smithsonian Libraries
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Libraries
Title:	George A. Kubler collection
Identifier:	SIL-CH.XXXX-0020
Date:	[18--]
Creator:	Kubler, George A., 1876-1943.
Extent:	66,000 Items (39 vertical file drawers)
Language:	Undetermined .
Summary:	Collection consists of approximately 66,000, high quality engravings collected by Kubler from European and American books and periodicals dating almost exclusively from the 19th century. Portraits and city views document the social history and material culture of the period. Specific topics covered include archery, boxing, funerals, irrigation, milk, peddlers, riots, stenography, volcanos, and wrecks, among others. Among the publications from which illustrations were removed are Harper's weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Puck, Illustrated London News, and King's New York City Views. Dates Kubler noted on the individual items are the dates on which the illustrations appeared in the publication from which they were extracted, not the date of the events or subjects being documented. Each print is mounted on tissue. Folders marked by a red circle indicate extremely rare prints.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated to Cooper-Hewitt, then Cooper Union Museum Library, by Mrs. George A. Kubler in December 1948.

Other Finding Aids

An extensive, 24-drawer card catalog is arranged by subject.

Restrictions

Unrestricted research use onsite by appointment. Permission of staff required to photograph materials.

Biographical Note

Stereographer and collector. George A. Kubler was born in Ohio in 1876. He was the founder and president of the Certified Dry Mat Corporation in New York City. The firm made stereotype matrices and initiated the process of rotary press printing of newspapers. Kubler was particularly interested in illustrations in magazines and newspapers.

This collection is the product of his avid interest in print collecting and cataloging. To create this collection, Kuler gathered European and American books and periodicals dating almost exclusively from the 19th century from which he removed the illustrations, most of which were wood and steel engravings. In addition, Kuler was the author of five books on stereotyping and stereotypes.

Arrangement

File folders are numbered, but not according to chronology. Cross-references between numbers and subjects are available using the card catalog.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Engraving -- Collectors and collecting
- Illustrated books -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
- Illustrated periodicals -- History -- 19th century -- Sources

Types of Materials:

- Steel plate engravings
- Wood engravings

Names:

- Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
- Kubler, George A., 1876-1943.

Occupations:

- Engravings collectors