

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

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Finding aid for the

Henry H. Masten Papers,
including Philip J. Klingman and Grand Rapids Furniture exhibitions.

Collection # 010

October 2007 version

Abstract

The Henry H. Masten Papers is a small collection including correspondence, news clippings, notes and photographs. It details the history of the Grand Rapids Furniture Market Association. Included is biographical data on Philip J. Klingman, one of the foremost wholesale furniture dealers in the City. The papers provide an insight into the history and development of the local furniture markets. Directories for the Exhibition Buildings, 1905-1914, are also included.

Collection #: 010

Accession #: 1984.007, 00.[266].1-4

Donor: Zelda Mary Masten Kimmel

Span dates: 1913-1964

Processor: Original processing, Bruce Lee Siebers, 1986.

Additions & finding aid revisions, R. Mayne, May 1999 to 2002.

Inventory Sept. 1999, Andrea Stadt.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 25, 2000.

Size: 1 in.

Box Summary

Box No. Description of Contents Box Description

NOTE: This collection consists of 6 folders, and is currently boxed in the same box with Collections #009, 011, 012, 013 and 014, in one standard legal box. Additions were made to the collection, increasing its original size, in 1999.

Biography

Henry H. Masten (1882-1977) was a former manager of both the Furniture Exhibition Building and the Waters Building Corp. As such, the Grandville, Michigan native was active in the local furniture wholesale market. A graduate of Grandville High School (1897) and McLachlan's Business College (1898), he was Manager-Treasurer of the Furniture Exhibition Building from 1913 to 1930. He left the Exhibition Building to manage the Waters Building, another furniture wholesale showroom building, until retirement in 1950. During his career he also served as president of the Grand Rapids Furniture Dealers Association and the Grand Rapids Furniture Market Association (for more data on these two organizations see the Furniture Manufacturers' Association Collection #084).

After retiring, he served as president of the Kent County Anti-Tuberculosis Society. He was a member of the Grand River Lodge #34, F & AM, the Elks, the Grand Rapids Rotary Club and the Grand Rapids Breakfast Club. He was an avid gardener, sharing this interest with his wife Zelda. The Mastens had three daughters: June, Pamela and Jacquelyn.

Scope and Content

The papers document the furniture industry's reaction to the death of Philip J. Klingman in 1913 and extensive biographical data on Klingman. Masten's notes detail the various furniture exhibition buildings (wholesale showrooms) in Grand Rapids during the peak of the local home furniture industry production. Also found are photographs of Masten, Klingman and others prominent in the furniture markets. Four directories of the Exhibition Buildings, added to the collection in 1999, provide additional graphic & informational data.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Correspondence, 1913, 1927. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 8, 1913 announcement of the Death of Philip J. Klingman. • Photocopies of Correspondence on the Death of Klington. [Location of the originals unknown] • Dec. 6, 1927 Edward Klingman to Masten.
1	2	Clippings, 1913, 1940. (Mostly photocopies; not only photocopies found 1/19/2005, i.e. some items may now be missing.)
1	3	“Notes on the Grand Rapids Furniture Market”, Nov. 1964. [photocopy only found 1/19/2005]
1	4	Photographs (7 total 9/99) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Philip J. Klingman / by S.L. Stein 2. William Maher [Mahar] / Photo Service Shop, Olin F. Whitter 3. Henry Hastings Masten 4. Gus Sehler 5. Dudley E. Waters 6. Group photo, four men. Two men standing are identified as Gus Scheller and William Maher 7. Group photo, six men standing. Identified L-R as Joe Alwood, William Maher, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Gus Scheller.
1	5	The following added 5/27/1999 00.[226].1-4 Directory, Furniture Exhibition Building and new Furniture Exhibition Building, June/July Exhibit, 1905. [Incl. Ill. Of both buildings] Formerly M749.058 .K687d
1	6	Directory. Klingman Furniture Exhibition Building. Jan. 1909 June-July 1910 Jan. 1914