

# **Finding aid for the Henry Masten papers Collection 010**

**Finding aid prepared by Bruce Lee Siebers**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 08, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
1986  
111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503  
616-988-5400  
[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	6

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	Henry H. Masten papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1913-1964
<b>Extent</b>	0.1 Linear feet Six folders
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Henry H. Masten (1882-1977) was a former manager of both the Furniture Exhibition Building and the Waters Building Corp. The Grandville, Michigan native was active in the local furniture wholesale market. This collection includes correspondence, news clippings, notes and photographs detailing 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.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

---

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 Contents note**

---

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.

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 1986

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

## Controlled Access Headings

---

### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### Personal Name(s)

- Klingman, Philip J
- Masten, Henry H. , 1882-1977

### Subject(s)

- Furniture industry and trade -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

## Photographs

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence 1913, 1927	1	1
Clippings 1913, 1940	1	2
“Notes on the Grand Rapids Furniture Market” Nov. 1964	1	3
Directory, Furniture Exhibition Building and new Furniture Exhibition Building, June/July Exhibit 1905	1	5
Directory. Klingman Furniture Exhibition Building January 1909	1	6
Directory. Klingman Furniture Exhibition Building June-July 1910	1	6
Directory. Klingman Furniture Exhibition Building Jan. 1914	1	6
<b>Photographs</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Philip J. Klingman / by S.L. Stein	1	4
William Maher [Mahar] / Photo Service Shop, Olin F. Whitter	1	4
Henry Hastings Masten	1	4

## Photographs

Gus Sehler	1	4
Dudley E. Waters	1	4
Group photo, four men. Two men standing are identified as Gus Scheller and William Maher	1	4
Group photo, six men standing. Identified L-R as Joe Alwood, William Maher, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Gus Scheller.	1	4