

Frank P. Leslie Collection

M/A 1998.39.01-03

Finding aid prepared by Nick Steffel and Marsha Collins

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

October 25, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

March 2013

300 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis, MN, 55401

612-543-8200

specialcoll@hclib.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biography</u>	4
<u>Description of Collection</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7
<u>Biographical material</u>	7
<u>Scrapbooks</u>	8
<u>Photographs</u>	9
<u>Correspondence</u>	11
<u>Creative Works</u>	16
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	18

Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Leslie, Frank P., 1892-1972
Creator	Leslie, Ruth Hill, 1892-1969
Title	Frank P. and Ruth Hill Leslie Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1960-1979
Date [inclusive]	1910-1989
Extent	1.67 Linear feet
Language	English

Biography

This collection covers both Frank P. Leslie and Ruth Hill Leslie.

Frank P. Leslie was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on December 9, 1892. His parents were John and Bessie McAfee Leslie; his father was the owner of the John Leslie Paper Company located in Minneapolis.

Leslie attended Minneapolis schools, graduating from West High School in 1912 and later went on to attend the University of Minnesota (though he would graduate from Princeton University in 1915). On June 24, 1916 Leslie married Ruth Hill, with whom he would go on to have five children (Frank, Jr., Mary, Ruth, Anne, and James). After college Leslie began working for his father's company and would go on to become the firm's president.

Leslie was active in politics and civic and community causes throughout his life. He served in World War I, stationed first in Kansas, and then Washington DC. He served as a member of the first Hoover Commission with his Princeton classmate and future Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. He was an active force in the Republican Party in Minnesota for most of his adult life. He would also act as a director of the Northwestern National Bank, as a trustee for the Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank, chairman of the board for the Title Insurance Company of Minneapolis, and as a trustee of his church in Minneapolis the Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church. Leslie was also interested in the history of printing and had a personal collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Leslie also had a longstanding friendship with J. Paul Getty. Getty, who was born in Minneapolis but later moved elsewhere, had attended Emerson School with Leslie's wife Ruth. Much of the collection concerns correspondence between Leslie and Getty, articles written by Leslie concerning Getty's homes, photographs and slides of a trip Leslie and his wife took to Getty's Sutton Place estate in the 1960s and an exhibition of Getty's art collection held at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in 1972.

Frank P. Leslie died May 1, 1972 in Minneapolis and is buried at Fort Snelling Cemetery.

Ruth Hill Leslie was born July 24, 1892. Ruth's father, Horace Hill, worked his way up from an errand boy to Vice President of Minneapolis hardware store, Janney, Semple Hill and Co. He was a longstanding supporter of the arts, and gave money to the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. Ruth's family spent the summers on Lake Minnetonka, in homes in Cottagewood, Maplewoods, and Deephaven, respectively, where the Hills joined a tight-knit group of Minneapolis businessmen's families.

Ruth siblings included three brothers, Allen and Henry and Horace. Family life was important, and the Hills were "strictly religious" attending Westminster church. She attended Emerson School and was a classmate of J. Paul Getty.

At Central High School, Ruth went through sorority rush and joined Zeta Beta Psi. An active member, with her mother she hosted social events for the sorority at her house, and attended dances hosted by other sororities and fraternities. She studied piano with Mrs. Annette B. Muckey and performed in several recitals, including one duet with her teacher. With her family and friends, she attended numerous musical performances and plays. Horace Hill was adamant that Ruth not go to college.

At age 24, she married Frank Leslie at her parents' home. Busy with five children, Ruth was also active at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist church, and served on the Junior Board of Northwestern Hospital. Always fond of travel, she visited numerous countries with Frank. In 1957, Ruth wrote to J. Paul Getty, renewing their childhood friendship. The result was that Frank and Ruth were instrumental in convincing Getty to loan two paintings in 1967, and a selection of art from Getty's Malibu estate in 1971.

Ruth Hill Leslie died 3 December, 1969

Description of Collection

The collection consists of three boxes containing various clippings, programs, magazines and newsletters concerning both Frank Leslie as well as his longstanding friendship with J. Paul Getty.

The first box consists of several photographs of Leslie from his time at West High School as well as a yearbook and scrapbook from that same era. It also includes a photo album from a trip Frank and Ruth Leslie took to visit Getty in England and Italy (c. 1960s). The second box contains various files of correspondence and clippings related to Leslie and J. Paul Getty as well as several magazines, newsletters and printed programs related to or discussing Getty. The third box contains roughly 125 color slides (many duplicates) of J. Paul Getty's Sutton Place estate, at least some of which appear to overlap with the photo album from Box 1.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library March 2013

Revision Description

Ruth Hill Leslie material added. Finding aid revised by Marsha Collins. November 2014

Related Materials

Related Materials

Special Collections has a copy of Frank P. Leslie's memoirs (F614.M553L47 1971). Two other books of Leslie's — "The Resurrection of the Republican Party in Minnesota, 1932-1950" and "The 46th Gutenberg" — are available in the circulating collection. Several books about J. Paul Getty are also available in the circulating collection including his autobiography.

Several photographs of the John Leslie Paper Company building are available in the Minneapolis Photo Collection.

The Minnesota Historical Society also has a manuscript archive collection regarding Frank P. Leslie somewhat more focused on his work and life versus his relationship with Getty.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Getty, J. Paul , 1892-1976, (Jean Paul)

Subject(s)

- Businessmen -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

Biographical material

Collection Inventory

Biographical material

Clippings

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	2	1
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	1

Scope and Contents note

A dozen clippings, detailing Frank Leslie's political, civic, art, and high school activities. Includes Ruth's obituary from Minneapolis Tribune and Minneapolis Star.

Box

Memoirs of Frank P. Leslie

1

Scope and Contents note

Published in 1971, 63 pages in length. History of the Leslie family, starting in Ireland; includes brief profiles of his three brothers: Arnett W. Leslie (career culminated in President and Chairman of the Board of John Leslie Paper Co.); Donald S. Leslie (career at Hammermill Paper Co., culminating in President, and then Chairman and CEO); and John C. Leslie, whose lifelong career in aviation included more than four decades at Pan American World Airways.

Controlled Access Headings

Scrapbooks

Personal Name(s)

- Leslie, Arnett W.
- Leslie, Donald S.
- Leslie, John C.

Memoirs of Ruth Hill Leslie

Scope and Contents note

Ruth's family history, including her father, a co-founder of Janney, Semple, Hill & Co. a Minneapolis hardware store. Topics include growing up on Oak Grove Street, summers on Lake Minnetonka, her high school sorority activities, traveling abroad, and her marriage with Frank. Note: on Nov. 3, 2014, put into the queue by Ted H. for cataloging.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Hill, Horace M., 1861-1948

	Box	Folder
Ruth's schooling	3	1

Scope and Contents note

Ruth's report cards, penmanship practice and numerous versions of a graduation speech for Emerson School class of 1906 (typed, handwritten)

Scrapbooks

Photographs

Box

1

Frank Leslie's high school scrapbook

Scope and Contents note

79 pages; materials affixed only on odd numbered pages. Includes correspondence from friends who were away at school, and from Ruth Hill during her European trip. Also incorporates programs from theatre and musical events. A track runner, Frank enjoyed supporting his high school's sports teams. Correspondence details Frank's significant involvement in growing Phi Gamma, the fraternity for high school students.

Box**Volume**

4

Ruth Hill Leslie's high school scrapbook

Scope and Contents note

Ruth details her busy calendar which included music lessons, performance and concert going, Zeta Beta Psi sorority involvement, dances hosted by friends, and her summers spent on Lake Minnetonka. Horace Hill was a Subscriber to the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, donating at least \$30,000 per year in 1908.

Photographs**Box****Folder**

1

2

High school photographs

Scope and Contents note

Photographs

1) 1912 school photograph 2) undated school photograph 3) 1911 West High Championship Track Team 4) December 18, 1937 photograph of the 1910 West High School football team.

Controlled Access Headings**Corporate Name(s)**

- West High School. (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Box

1

Photo album Photoalbum contains reprints from stereo slides; quality of the color has deteriorated in the photoalbum reprints.

Scope and Contents note

Blue cover, spiral bound, 24cm x 29.5 cm, 20 pages; photographs affixed to pages with plastic cover overlaid. Includes pictures of Sutton Place (J. Paul Getty's home in England), Ruth Hill Leslie with Getty, the gardens and interior of the home; Palo, Getty's home in Italy, the home's interior—including Getty's collection of furniture and paintings (including unframed *The Holy Family*, by Raphael), and views of the Tyrrhenian sea. Sizes range from 9 x 9.5 cm to 12.5 x 12.5 cm. Four duplicate photographs are in a pocket inside the back cover.

Stereo slides

5

Scope and Contents note

Metal slide tray, containing stereo slides and slides. Some have descriptions written on the slide frames. Note inside from Frank to Minneapolis Institute of Arts, dated 3/27/1968. Business card under slides: Harry Verran's business card, with a handwritten note to Herb ____, "Please call me to acknowledge receipt of these slides." Harry was an

Correspondence

Advertising Manager at Leslie Paper. Row 1: 25 stereo slides Images include: Sutton Place; Ruth Hill Leslie and J. Paul Getty; art collection held by Getty in Sutton Place; interior, exterior and gardens of Sutton Place. Paintings include Paolo Veronese's Portrait of a Man (per Getty Museum) and Rubens' Diana and Her Nymphs on the Hunt. Row 2: 47 stereo slides and 3 color slides. Images include: Getty's Palo, Italy home interior and exterior; Sutton Place interior and exterior; and Leslie Griswold at Palo. 3 color sides: Sutton Place exterior. Row 3: 50 stereo slides, two missing left half of image. Images include: interior of Getty's Palo, Italy home interior; Sutton Place interior, exterior and swimming pool; Ruth and Paul in 1964 at Sutton Place; furniture and antiques; Ruth, Paul and Dorothy at the swimming pool; Mary Dessier at Sutton Place; and One plastic-envelope 35mm slide color negative.

Correspondence

	Box	Folder
Ruth's -- with J. Paul Getty, others	3	2
Frank's -- not J. Paul Getty 1954 to 1966	2	2

Scope and Contents note

Included are: Ruth's first letter to J. Paul Getty, 11/14/1957, which effectively renewed her childhood acquaintance with Getty; Ruth's letters to her daughter Anne, and her husband, Don (1964 Florida visit); a newspaper article copied by Ruth about Getty's home in Palo, Italy and an accompanying postcard; and a draft of a letter to Getty, in which she says she hopes to see his new museum in Los Angeles on their way to a winter holiday in Hawaii.

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence

Letters from Frank to The Honorable Harold E. Stassen regarding post-World War II rebuilding; to "all" about Frank and Ruth's trip to Europe; correspondence to physical therapist Tom Smith; letters to family addressing his visits to Florida; letter to family regarding Frank and Ruth's visit with J. Paul Getty at Sutton Place and the first discussion mentioning the suggestion that Getty loan the Raphael and Veronese paintings to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Letter to family re: visit to Italy; letter to Macalester College referencing a gift in support of Professor Anthony Caponi's work. Letter from DeForest Spencer to Frank Leslie regarding Frank's scheduled 1967 lecture before the English Speaking Union of the United States--Minnesota Branch. Addendum: includes photograph of Tom Smith (physical therapist recommended by J. Paul Getty) with Frank and Ruth at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

Controlled Access Headings**Personal Name(s)**

- Stassen, Harold Edward, 1907-2001

Christmas cards

2

7

Scope and Contents note

Christmas cards from J. Paul Getty and the Leslies. All undated

Controlled Access Headings**Subject(s)**

- Greeting cards.

Correspondence

Frank -- 1967 Minneapolis Star articles on Getty's homes

2

3

Scope and Contents note

Frank's correspondence to and from Villa Favorita's (Lugano, Switzerland) curator, seeking permission to print photographs of the Thyssen Collection; letter to Park-Bernet Galleries requesting details of Getty's 1966 purchases from the Mellon Scaife collection to build out his collection at the Palo, Italy residence.

Draft manuscripts of four articles Frank Leslie wrote for the Minneapolis Star. Addendum: includes an unidentified black and white image of an elaborately carved wood chest.

Frank's -- to/from J. Paul Getty and his staff 1961-1970

2

4

Scope and Contents note

Letter from J. Paul Getty's assistant to Frank Leslie providing Getty's travel schedule and private line; cable from Getty to the Leslies inviting them to stay in with him at Sutton Place, his home in England; Letter from Getty to John Pillsbury, Jr. about an article Pillsbury sent re: Getty's father; letter from Getty to Frank and vice versa re: the Leslies' health; from Getty to the Leslies inviting them to visit; letter from Getty to Frank, inviting the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts tour to visit Sutton Place in 1969; letter from Getty to the Leslies, encouraging them to visit and recommending Ruth to walk three or four miles to increase her energy; letter from Getty to the Leslies, approving use of photograph of Getty's Raphael painting and Frank's manuscript; Getty's letter, acknowledging that he does not travel by air; Getty's letter to Frank, and vice versa, regarding Tom Smith, physical therapist; letter from Frank to Getty, asking permission to share Frank's photos with the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch for an upcoming profile on Getty; multiple letters inviting Getty to visit the Leslies in Minneapolis; several letters to Getty from Frank

Minneapolis Institute of Arts exhibits

re: health matters and their exceptional friendship with Getty; letter from Frank to Getty asking about the renovations to Palo, Italy residence; letter from Frank to Getty thanking him for the Lardonchet Catalog (Frank was a rare book collector); letter from Frank to Getty, five months after Ruth died, relaying news of his double hip replacement at the Mayo Clinic; Frank's letter to Paul, confirming he will telephone Getty on his birthday on December 15. Addendum: includes a color photograph 9 x 9 cm of Emerson School, dated March 1967.

Minneapolis Institute of Arts exhibits**Box****Folder**

2

5

Scope and Contents note

Letters from Frank Leslie, Minneapolis Mayor Naftalin, and leaders of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, requesting either the loan of two paintings (Raphael and Veronese) in 1967, and/or a larger loan in 1971, comprised of paintings, furniture, rugs, tapestries, and antiquities from Getty's Malibu, California estate. Includes negotiation of dates of the 1971 exhibit. Also includes draft remarks from Frank in connection with the exhibit of the Raphael and Veronese paintings, and letters of gratitude from Frank and Anthony M. Clark to Getty and his team in California and England. Addendum: includes booklet of January 1967 calendar from MIA, newspaper clipping from Minneapolis Tribune re: authentication of Raphael's Madonna di Loreto painting, Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church service leaflet, and transparency of Minneapolis Institute of Arts gallery with Raphael and Veronese paintings and a black and white print of the transparency.

Controlled Access Headings**Corporate Name(s)**

Minneapolis Institute of Arts exhibits

Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

McCarthy, Anne Leslie Anne Leslie McCarthy

2

6

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence between Robert Carney and Anne Leslie McCarthy regarding Carney's plan to build a memorial to the Getty family at the western edge of Loring Park, and The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California regarding Anne's planned visit to the Museum in 1982. It is unclear whether the memorial was built.

Carney, Robert Getty, Gordon Gordon Getty and Robert Carney re:
proposed memorial

2

9

Scope and Contents note

Letters exchanged between Robert Carney and Gordon P. Getty, a son of J. Paul Getty, proposing the construction of a memorial or mall to J. Paul Getty and his father, George Getty, in Minneapolis, along the western edge of Loring Park. June 14, 1983 letter to Gordon Getty includes a black and white photograph 12.5 x 17.5 cm of Emerson School class, including Ruth Hill (Frank's wife) and J. Paul Getty. Carney, a retired attorney, attended Emerson School, graduating in 1922, and wrote a profile of the Getty family in 1983 for Hennepin History magazine. Letters are extensively document with exhibits. Carney endeavored, since 1976, to propose a memorial to the Getty family in Minneapolis. The file includes copies of letters to Anne Leslie McCarthy from Robert Carney. Gordon Getty gave \$5,000 to the Walker Sculpture Garden; it does not appear that Carney ever asked Gordon Getty to contribute to the memorial in financial terms—only to approve of the creation of the memorial. Includes correspondence between Carney and Anne Leslie McCarthy regarding the Robert Lenzner book on J. Paul Getty. Lenzner and Carney exchanged letters in 1983 as Lenzner was preparing to write his book on Getty.

Creative Works

Addendum: includes Barbara Flanagan article (undated) re: Carney's suggestion for a Getty memorial; the November 1983 Getty Museum Calendar which indicates Kenneth Dayton was a member of the committee chosen to select the winning design of the new Getty Museum, to be located north of Sunset Boulevard West of the San Diego Freeway; and an article "How Texaco Outfoxed Gordon Getty" by Peter Nulty, Fortune magazine, February 6, 1984.

Controlled Access Headings**Subject(s)**

- Memorials

Creative Works**Box****Folder**

2

8

Scope and Contents note

Frank's interest in graphic arts included purchasing rare books. At least some of the rare books were subsequently given to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Before that gift, the books were exhibited at Minneapolis Public Library, per included newspaper clipping. Included are several printed pamphlets about his rare book collection, reminiscences for a Princeton class reunion, and his service to and support of the North East Neighborhood House. An athlete in high school, Frank's football team was featured in a 1937 Minneapolis Star article and photograph. Friends with James Forestal (first Secretary of Defense) since their days at Princeton, Frank's essay on the man and their friendship is included.

Rare book collection

Scope and Contents note

Creative Works

Brochure from exhibit of Frank's collection of rare books show by the Minneapolis Public Library in April 1961.

Princeton reminiscences

Scope and Contents note

Frank's published remarks given at the June 1970 Princeton reunion.

Essay on James Forrestal

Scope and Contents note

James Forrestal was a classmate of Frank's at Princeton, and went on to become the first Secretary of Defense. Upon his death, Frank wrote an essay summarizing their friendship and the man himself. Note: The essay is also included in its published form, released in four parts, during 1951 and 1952, and is attached to backing boards.

Rare books gifted to University of Minnesota

Scope and Contents note

In 1951, Frank gave the University of Minnesota a gift of several rare books from his collection.

Photography exhibit

Scope and Contents note

Frank's long interest in photography resulted in an exhibit in 1965 at the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis of his Illuminated Color Transparencies, entitled "Art Treasures of the Ages." The exhibit was part of a gift to Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous**Box**

High School Yearbook

1

Scope and Contents note

1911 West High School High School Yearbook. Leslie, who graduated in 1911, is photographed on pages 35, 43, 69 and 78.

Travel diaries kept by Ruth

3

Scope and Contents note

Ruth's travel diaries include 1961, 1964 and 1966 trips to Europe.

Trips to Europe 1961**Box****Folder**

3

3

Scope and Contents note

Travel itineraries for Ruth and Frank's 1961 trip to Europe.

Box

Catalog: Getty exhibit at Minneapolis Institute of Arts

2

Scope and Contents note

Exhibit catalog for 1972 exhibition of art loaned from J. Paul Getty's Malibu collection. Frank Leslie and his son-in-law, Atherton Bean, are mentioned on page two of the preface. Frank was instrumental in convincing Getty to loan two paintings in 1967, which resulted in the dialog that brought the 1972 exhibit to fruition.

Trips to Europe

Hennepin County History -- Getty profile

2

Scope and Contents note

Minneapolis attorney Robert S. Carney, a classmate of J. Paul Getty, completed this profile which was begun by Bernerd C. Benson, upon Benson's death.

Oversize

Frank Leslie High School Diploma 1911

1