

William A. French and Company Collection

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	William A. French & Co.
Title	William A. French and Company Collection
Date	1928-1941
Extent	6.0 boxes
Language	English

Biography

William A. French (also known as Bill French, W.A. French, William Albert French) was born on April 2, 1863 in Plainfield, N.J and died on February 2, 1942. After moving to Minnesota in the 1880's, French became a nationally recognized furniture maker and interior decorator known for his hand-made furniture. He was a founder and director of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Interior Decorators and owner of William A. French & Co., and then of William A. French Studios Inc. on Park and Nicollet Avenues. While French started his company in St. Paul and then moved to Minneapolis, his businesses operated out of factories and storefronts as far away as Winnipeg and New York. He had a summer home on the St. Croix River where he stayed with his wife, Fannie K. French, and daughter, Sally Hunt Tearse (also known as Sally Hunt). After his death, the main office of the William A. French Co. was moved to Duluth, MN.

Description of the Collection

This collection contains newspaper articles related to William A. French, his designs, and businesses. One folder contains articles written about his residence in *American Home* magazine. There are photographs of the designer, his work, residences, business locations, and advertisements.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- William A. French Studios Inc.

Personal Name(s)

- French, William A., 1863-1942
- Hibbard, Charles J., 1855-1924

Subject(s)

- Furniture design.
- Furniture making.
- Interior decoration.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Newspaper clippings, articles, biographical, photographs in three folders. First folder: Biographical; Second folder: Business; Third Folder: Home life.	1
	Box-folder
Scrapbook of newspaper advertisements. Each clipping is accompanied by its publication date and source, and some also have sale and attendance information. 1928-1929	2
Scrapbook of newspaper advertisements. Each clipping is accompanied by its publication date and source, and some also have sale and attendance information. 1930-1931	3
Scrapbook of advertisements and publicity. Some clippings have source, date, and descriptive information. 1932-1941	4
Scrapbook of magazine advertisements and publicity. Most clippings have the date and source written in the margins of the scrapbook. 1931-1939	5
Scrapbook of workshop photographs, advertisements, and correspondence with national papers and magazines from the 1920s. The scrapbook also includes marketing and advertising information for the magazines, including <i>House Beautiful</i> , <i>Country Life</i> , <i>Town and Country</i> and <i>House and Garden</i> . Photographer for first few photographs: C.J. Hibbard.	6