

Summary Information:

Collection Title: United Printers and Publishers Collection

Collection Number: MSS.30

Date Range: 1907-1920, 1941-1967, 1980-1985

Size: 5.5 Linear Feet

Location: RR.06.01, CO.OS.14

Creator: Gerlach-Barklow Co., P.F. Volland Co., Rust Craft Greetings Inc., United Printers and Publishers

Abstract: The United Printers and Publishers Collection contains publications and greeting card samples from P.F. Volland, organizational publications, calendar prints and calendars from Gerlach-Barklow, and employee photographs.

Acquisition Information: This collection has been composed of various accessions relating to the history of United Printers and Publishers. There was no reasonable original order for these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.30 United Printers and Publishers Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History: Theodore R. Gerlach, K.H. Gerlach, and Edward J. Barklow, former calendar salesmen, formed the Gerlach Barklow Company with financial backing from Col. John Lambert and Dr. J.C. Flowers. The company was incorporated in June of 1907, and the factory located at Washington and Richards St. in Joliet was constructed that same year. Lambert was named the first president of the company and remained in that position until 1919 when Theodore R. Gerlach became president. Flowers was named the treasurer of the company and remained in that role until the 1930s. The company operated as an art calendar factory, selling calendars to businesses to distribute as gifts for customers. At its peak the company employed over 1,500 people in the 1950s.

In 1924, the P.F. Volland Company, a Chicago publisher founded by Paul Frederick Volland, merged with the Gerlach Barklow Co. and began printing books and greeting cards in Joliet. The P.F. Volland Company was best known for its children's books, most notably the Raggedy Ann series.

At one point, four different companies operated out of the factory at Washington and Richards St., under the umbrella United Printers and Publishers Inc. The companies under the umbrella included

Gerlach Barklow, P.F. Volland, Artographic, and Rust Craft, a greeting card company founded in 1906 by Fred Winslow Rust.

Scope and Content Arrangement:

The United Printers and Publishers Collection contains publications and greeting card samples from P.F. Volland, organizational publications, calendar prints and calendars from Gerlach-Barklow, and employee photographs. The collection has been arranged into 5 series by document type. There are several oversized materials in the collection. They have been listed in Series 5 of the collection and are listed in the finding aid with their original series number as well. All oversized materials are housed in oversized storage drawer 14 located in the Curator's Office.

Series 1: Organizational Records, 1926-1967, 1984-1985

Series 2: Gerlach-Barklow Calendars, Prints, and Samples, 1907-1920, 1943-1959

Series 3: P.F. Volland Publications and Greeting Cards, 1918-1920, 1941-1945

Series 4: Photographs, C. 1930s, 1950s, 1965-1980

Series 5: Oversized Materials

Related Materials:

Archival Collections:

MSS.14 Joliet Postcard Collection

MSS.25 Joliet Businesses Collection

Library Holdings:

"The Review," Gerlach-Barklow Weekly Publication, 1909.

"The Review," Gerlach-Barklow Weekly Publication, 1941.

Smith, Tim and Michelle. Images of America: Joliet's Gerlach Barklow Calendar Company. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009

Content Listing:

Series 1: Organizational Records, 1926-1967, 1984-1985

Location: RR.06.01

Scope: The materials contained in this series include loose issues of "The Review," a weekly publication from Gerlach-Barklow for employees, an annual report from United Printers and Publishers, additional publications, stock certificates, and organizational materials. Of note are a Gerlach-Barklow Company financial ledger index and loose records. These items were found in a 1922 financial ledger from the

company, and were separated from the ledger for preservation purposes. The ledger is available for research with this collection. The items in this series have been arranged chronologically.

Additional bound issues of "The Review" are stored in our Library Holdings and can be viewed upon request.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Gerlach-Barklow Company Financial Ledger Index, 1922	1	1
Gerlach-Barklow Company Financial Ledger Loose Records, 1922-1923	2	1
"The Review: Special Convention Number," Gerlach-Barklow Weekly Publication, 1926	3	1
"The Log of the Beloved Adventures: Letters of E.J. Barklow," 1928	4	1
Gerlach-Barklow Company Stock Certificate, 1929	5	1
Gerlach-Barklow Company Certificate of Incorporation, 1929	6	1
Gerlach-Barklow National Air Mail Week Specialized Envelopes, 1938	7	1
The Gerlach-Barklow Yearbook, 1939	8	1
"The Review," Gerlach-Barklow Weekly Publication, 1948	9	1
United Printers and Publishers Annual Report, 1955	10	1
Gerlach-Barklow Advertising Fans Booklet, 1959	11	1
Rust Craft Plant Employee Mailing List, 1967	12	1
Rust Craft Employee Obituaries, 1984-1985	13	1
"No. 990 The Estimator," Published by the Gerlach-Barklow Company	14	1
P.F. Volland Company Shipping Labels	15	1
"Selling Sentiment: The Friendliest Business," United Printers and Publishers Publication	16	1
Greetings Inc. Blank Checks	17	1
"The Place of the Greeting Card in our National Life from the Psychological, Social and Economic Viewpoints"	18	1

Series 2: Gerlach-Barklow Calendars, Prints, and Samples, 1907-1920, 1943-1959

Location: RR.06.01

Scope: The materials contained in this series include calendars and calendar samples, prints used by Gerlach-Barklow for their calendars, and additional samples. Prints include work from artists Adelaide Hiebel, Fletcher Ransom, and Pearl Frush. Materials in this series have been arranged alphabetically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Bridge Score Cards	19	1
Business Advertisements	20	1
Calendars, 1920, 1954-1955, 1959	21	1
Calendars, World War II, 1943-1944	22	1
Calendar Samples, 1953	23	1

Calendar Samples, 1955	24	1
Calendar Samples, 1956	1	2
Calendar Samples, 1957	2	2
Desk Blotter, "Famous Poems," Series, 1918	3	2
Desk Blotter, "Girls You Will Want to Know" Series, 1913	4	2
Desk Blotter, Historic Buildings Series, 1913	5	2
Desk Blotter Samples	6	2
Prints by Adelaide Hiebel	7	2
Prints by Alfred James Dewey, 1909	8	2
Prints by B. Pothast	9	2
Prints by Bradshaw Crandell	10	2
Prints by Emmett Watson	11	2
Prints by Fletcher Ransom	12	2
Prints by H. Hadland	13	2
Prints by Hy. Hintermeister	14	2
Prints by James Tyler, 1907	15	2
Prints by Louise Rumely	16	2
Prints by Paul Martin	17	2
Prints by Pearl Frush	18	2
Prints by Unknown Artists	19	2
Sample Appointment Books, 1954	20	2
Sample Appointment Books, 1959	21	2

Series 3: P.F. Volland Publications and Greeting Cards, 1918-1920, 1941-1945

Location: RR.06.01

Scope: The materials contained in this series include greeting card samples from P.F. Volland, as well as books published by P.F. Volland. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Anniversary Greeting Cards	1	3
Baby Shower Greeting Cards	2	3
Birthday Greeting Cards	3	3
Children's Birthday Greeting Cards	4	3
Christening Greeting Cards	5	3
Christmas Greeting Cards	6	3
Easter Greeting Cards	7	3
Engagement Greeting Cards	8	3
Misc. Greeting Cards	9	3
Mother's Day Greeting Cards	10	3
Valentine's Day Greeting Cards	11	3
Wedding Greeting Cards	12	3

Anniversary Greeting Card Samples	13	3
Birthday Greeting Card Samples	14	3
Christmas Greeting Card Samples	1	4
Easter Greeting Card Samples (Folder 1 of 3)	2	4
Easter Greeting Card Samples (Folder 2 of 3)	3	4
Easter Greeting Card Samples (Folder 3 of 3)	4	4
First Communion and Confirmation Greeting Card Samples	5	4
"Get Well Soon" Greeting Card Samples	6	4
Christmas Greeting Card Box Assortment Samples, 1942	1	5
"Famous Masterpieces," Christmas Greeting Card Box Assortment Samples, 1942	2	5
"The Gingham Box," 16 Christmas Greeting Card Samples, 1941	3	5
"Jumbo," Christmas Greeting Card Box Assortment Samples, 1948	4	5
"Religious," Christmas Greeting Card Box Assortment Samples, 1945	5	5
"Woodgrain," Christmas Greeting Card Box Assortment Samples, 1940	6	5
Artwork from Books Published by P.F. Volland Co., 1918-1920	7	5
"The Adventures of Nip and Tuck," Published by P.F. Volland	8	5
"Flower Children: The Little Cousins of the Field and Garden," Published by P.F. Volland	9	5
"The White Plume of Navarre," Published by P.F. Volland	10	5

Series 4: Photographs, C. 1930s, 1950s, 1965-1980

Location: RR.06.01

Scope: The materials contained in this series include photographs of employees, and the Gerlach-Barklow warehouse. All materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Gerlach-Barklow Employee Photographs, C. 1930s, 1950s and 1970s	1	6
Rust Craft Employee Photo Album, C. 1965-1980	2	6
Rust Craft Employee Photographs, C. 1970s	3	6
Rust Craft Fire (Negatives), 1992	4	6
Gerlach-Barklow and P.F. Volland Exterior Photographs	5	6
Gerlach-Barklow, Employee Baseball Team Photographs	6	6

Series 5: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.14

Folder Title:	Series #:
Gerlach-Barklow Company Expense Sheets, 1944-1945	Series 1

Prints by Adelaide Hiebel, C. 1910-1930	Series 2
Prints by Alexander Pope, 1911	Series 2
Prints by Bradshaw Crandell	Series 2
Prints by C.P. Appel	Series 2
Prints by Cm. Coolidge, 1912	Series 2
Prints by Edmund Ward	Series 2
Prints by Fletcher Ransom	Series 2
Prints by Francis Dixon	Series 2
Prints by Frank Stick, 1914	Series 2
Prints by H. Hewlett	Series 2
Prints by Han Keelan	Series 2
Prints by Henry Mosler	Series 2
Prints by Hy. Hintermeister	Series 2
Prints by L. Huntley	Series 2
Prints by Lockhart	Series 2
Prints by Paul Stayer	Series 2
Prints by Phillip R. Goodwin, 1913	Series 2
Prints by Ralph Coleman	Series 2
Prints by Wm. Barr	Series 2
Prints by Zula Kenyon	Series 2
Prints by Unknown Artists	Series 2
Gratitude Building Calendar Series Samples, 1952-1955	Series 2
Art Calendars De Luxe Series Samples, 1955-1957	Series 2
Calendars, 1920-1921, 1928	Series 2
Calendars, 1941-1942	Series 2
Calendars, 1950-1957	Series 2
Calendars, 1960	Series 2
Business Advertisement Fans	Series 2
Greeting Card Sales Record and Information Cards, 1953-1954, 1956-1958	Series 3
Unfolded Greeting Card Prints	Series 3
"Famous Masterpieces: 12 Christmas Greetings," Sample Book Cover, 1941	Series 3
Employee Photograph, May 1927	Series 4