Yale University Library
Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections

Guide to the William R. A. Hays Correspondence with Frederick Charles Blank Regarding Bookplates

BKP 140

Adrienne Pruitt

November 2026

Arts Library Special Collections
180 York Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-432-1712
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https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 3
Requesting Instructions 3
Administrative Information 3
  Immediate Source of Acquisition 3
  Preferred Citation 3
Biographical / Historical 4
Scope and Contents 4
Arrangement 4
Collection Contents 5
Selected Search Terms 6

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections
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180 York Street
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haasalsc@yale.edu
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CALL NUMBER: BKP 140

CREATOR: Hays, William R. A. , correspondent

TITLE: William R. A. Hays correspondence with Frederick Charles Blank regarding bookplates

DATES: 1931–1933

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: The collection contains typewritten and handwritten letters by bookplate collector William R. A. Hays to bookplate artist Frederick C. Blank. Correspondence relates to all aspects of bookplate collecting and mentions many prominent designers and engravers of bookplates

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/bkp170

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/bkp170.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired by purchase, 2014.

Preferred Citation

William R. A. Hays correspondence with Frederick Charles Blank regarding bookplates, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

William R. A. Hays was a broker, lawyer, and noted bookplate collector from Cleveland, Ohio. Frederck Charles Blank (1866-1942) was born in Rockville, Connecticut, and studied engraving under Frederick Leigh in Hartford Connecticut. He worked as an engraver for the Brooklyn Watch Case Company, the John Robbins Manufacturing Company, and the Gillette Safety Razor Company. He also designed bookplates beginning in 1917, and won international awards from the Bookplate Association in 1929 and 1932.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains typewritten and handwritten letters by bookplate collector William R. A. Hays to bookplate artist Frederick C. Blank. Correspondence relates to all aspects of bookplate collecting and mentions many prominent designers and engravers of bookplates.

Arrangement

Organized chronologically.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	1931	1931
b. 1, f. 2	1932	1932
b. 1, f. 3	1933	1933

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Bookplates

Genres / Formats

Correspondence