

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 71 M 1; 80 M 14

Location 3-i-5 (L)
folder in oversize

Title HERING, OSWALD C. PAPERS

Approximate inclusive dates 1885-1944

Date of receipt January 6, 1971;
June 29, 1979

Received from Mrs. Oswald C. Hering
Mrs. Jane C. Burke

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 6½ AB, 1 FB (3 l.f.)

Condition Fair

Restrictions None

Description

See attached sheets

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached sheet

Accessioned by CF

Date November 3, 1988

Biographical Note

Oswald Constantin Hering, architect and author, was born in Philadelphia, January 12, 1874. He was the son of Rudolph Hering, a civil engineer, and Fanny Field Hering, a librarian and teacher who authored a book on the French artist Jean Léon Gérôme. Oswald Hering attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1893-1897) and studied art and architecture further at the Atelier Ginain and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris (1897-1899). In 1901, he opened his own architectural practice in New York City, which he ran, for a period, in partnership with Douglass Fitch.

Hering specialized in country and suburban homes and pioneered the residential use of reinforced concrete. He designed a number of residences for both Garden City and Jamaica Estates, Long Island, New York, as well as "Trailsend," the home of James M. Cox, the 1920 Democratic presidential nominee. His nonresidential projects included the old Brentano's bookstore in New York City and the Lakewood Theater, Skowhegan, Maine.

Hering was the author of numerous articles and books on architecture. The latter are: Concrete and Stucco Houses (1912); Economy in Home Building (1924); and Designing and Building the Chapter House (1931), the result of the Interfraternity Conference's 1931 committee on architecture, which he chaired. Hering also wrote a book about his world tour of 1927, Down the World (1932).

Hering joined the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity while a student at MIT and was active in fraternity matters throughout his life. In 1919, he became editorial assistant and, in 1925, editor of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Quarterly. Work for the DKE Fraternity became Hering's chief activity during the Depression, when the building industry fell off.

Hering was a member of many other social and professional organizations, including the American Institute of Architects, the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, the Technology Club, the Amateur Comedy, Dutch Treat, and Players clubs, and the Sons of the Revolution, whose quarterly he edited.

Hering was married three times. His third marriage in 1933 was to Adelaide Heriot Arms, proprietress of the Sleepy Hollow Bookshop on Irving Place in New York City. Hering helped manage this business until its sale in 1937, when he and his wife left the city for Falls Village, Connecticut, where he died March 6, 1941.

Description

The Oswald C. Hering Papers span the years 1885 to 1944 and include the papers of Adelaide Arms Hering and Fanny Field Hering, as well as Oswald Hering. They consist of handwritten and typewritten correspondence, photographs, photostats, architectural drawings, clippings, printed ephemera, and books. The papers are organized into eleven series. Except for Oswald's professional correspondence and Fanny's letters received, the papers were in a state of extreme disorder prior to accessioning. Consequently, the arrangement here does not reflect an original order. Pencil and ink annotations on documents are mostly the work of Adelaide Arms Hering.

- I) Oswald C. Hering - Personal Correspondence, 1888-1929, n.d. is his correspondence with family and friends, arranged by year. The bulk is letters from Oswald to his mother and to his father, written while at MIT and in Paris. There is a noticeable dearth of letters from the 1920s.
- II) Oswald C. Hering - Professional Correspondence, 1899-1937, his correspondence with architectural clients, is largely arranged by an alphabetical scheme imposed in a previous partial processing. Some correspondence with firms is filed under the names of the firms, other correspondence with the same firms is filed under the names of the officers of the firms. Prominent correspondents include O. D. Gray, Walter Hering, Gage Tarbell, and the management of Garden City-Jamaica Estates. See the container list for a complete list of correspondents. Separate files not part of the alphabetical scheme are Partnership with Douglass Fitch, N.Y.C. Block Reclamation Project, Re Magazine Articles, and Assorted Correspondence.
- III) Oswald C. Hering - 1930s Correspondence, 1930-1941 is correspondence not integrated into the professional alphabetical series. It is a mixture of letters concerning professional, social, and personal matters and gives evidence of the hard times Oswald's practice faced during the Depression. It is arranged mainly by year. Special files concern Oliver Herford and wife, literary correspondence and writings, and the Welfare Island Grand Jury, which Oswald served as foreman.
- IV) Oswald C. Hering - DKE Correspondence & Writings, 1929-1944 relates to Hering's activity as editor of the DKE Quarterly. It consists of typewritten letters and articles, as well as pages torn from quarterly issues. Most of the material is unsorted and dates from the 1930s. There are special files of correspondence on DKEs in Who's Who, on the Jubilee issue of the quarterly, with secretary Marian Westervelt, and regarding Oswald's design for a chapter house, which was allegedly stolen by an architect for a fraternity house at the University of Idaho. There are also copies of the quarterly's DKE 90th anniversary issue and its memorial issue dedicated to Oswald.
- V) Oswald C. Hering - Club Correspondence, 1893-1941 contains correspondence and printed matter pertaining to the various social and professional clubs of which he was a member. It is arranged alphabetically by the name of club. See the container list for the names. The largest club subseries are the Players Club and the Sons of the Revolution, the latter consisting of correspondence between Oswald and president John Vernou Bouvier.

Description (cont'd)

VI) Oswald C. Hering - Clippings & Genealogical Material, ca. 1896-1941 is a folder of clippings regarding Oswald's architectural and authorial careers, family obituaries, and genealogical charts and correspondence.

VII) Oswald C. Hering - Books, 1896-1929 includes Oswald's MIT Class Book, his Paris account book, the 1921 DKE Havana Convention book, an annotated copy of Economy in Home Building, and an incomplete folded-and-gathered copy of the 1929 edition of Building Concrete & Stucco Houses.

VIII) Adelaide Arms Hering - Correspondence, 1897-1909, 1941-1942 consists of letters received from her father, Winthrop Arms, and correspondence following Oswald's death. It includes a copy of Oswald's will.

IX) Fanny Field Hering - Letters Received, 1885-1898, n.d. is divided into professional and personal papers. Professional letters received include 65 holograph letters from the French artist Jean Léon Gérôme and 11 holograph letters from the American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The letters from Gérôme were used by Fanny to write her book Gérôme. Saint-Gaudens's letters detail arrangements for his preface to that book. Other professional papers are letters from Cassell, publisher of the book, and letters and clippings about the book. Personal letters received are arranged by year and are mostly from Fanny's mother, Emily Mary Dunbar Gregory. Other correspondents are New Hampshire Senator Bainbridge Wadleigh and Fanny's second husband, E. W. Perry. There is a special file of letters from John Lilliehook, a Swedish military officer who befriended Fanny. Letters from Oswald are filed in his personal correspondence series. Letters from Gérôme, Lilliehook, and a few other correspondents are in French.

X) Architectural Photographs & Visual Material, ca. 1899-1937 comprises photostats, photographs, and halftone reproductions torn from magazines and books of buildings Oswald designed. Most of his projects are represented. There is only one original drawing, for renovations at the Sleep Hollow Bookshop.

XI) Family Photographs, ca. 1880-1941 consists of cabinet cards, snapshots, and negatives of Oswald, Fanny, Adelaide, relatives, and friends. A number of cabinet cards are of MIT student theatricals with Oswald in female costume.

HERING PAPERS

4

Container List

Box

- 1 I) Oswald C. Hering - Personal Correspondence, 1888-1929, n.d. (with gaps)
 Letters, 1888-1899, n.d.
 Letters Received, 1891-1929, n.d.
- 2 II) Oswald C. Hering - Professional Correspondence, 1899-1937
 Clients, A-Z
 ALLIED REAL ESTATE INTERESTS (1) 1908
 BACON, Daniel (2) 1909, 1923
 " " from O. C. Hering (1) 1908
 BARNHURST, Harry (2) 1909
 BEHRENS, H. F., Jr. (1) 1910
 " " " " from O. C. Hering (1) 1910
 BLOCK PROJECT with AMATEUR COMEDY CLUB (11) 1919-1927
 BOLLING, Sanford C. (1) 1909
 BOLSER, Helen L. (1) 1909
 BROOKS, Henry M., Residence (from O. C. Hering) (1) 1934
 CALLAHAN, J. W. (3) 1910
 " " " from O. C. Hering (3) 1910
 CARTER Residence (1) 1910
 CONTRACTORS (3) 1909-1910
 DAVIS, Daniel A. (4) 1909-1910
 " " " from O. C. Hering (8) 1910
 DIXON House (1) 1909
 ESTES, W. C. (from O. C. Hering) (1) 1910
 FAIRCHILD, George W. (7) 1909
 " " " (about) (9) 1909
 " " " from O. C. Hering (1) 1910
 FAY, H. F. (3) 1909, 1912
 " " " from O. C. Hering (2) 1910
 FRANCIS, L. W. (1) 1909
 GILLINGHAM, Thomas B. (from O. C. Hering) (1) 1937
 GLENN, J. W., Residence (2) 1910
 GRAY, O. D. (by and about) (14) 1909-1910
 " " " from O. C. Hering (4) 1910
 HERING, O. C., Residence in Pelham, N.Y. (1) 1909
 HERING, Walter E. (16) 1906-1910
 " " " (about) (5) 1906-1910
 HOLLAND, N. C. (1) 1909
 JAMAICA ESTATES (4) 1910
 LAKEWOOD Theater (7) 1930-1932
 " " from O. C. Hering (2) 1931-1932
 LUCE Residence (3) 1909
 MANAGEMENT, Garden City & Jamaica Estates 1 folder 1909-1910
 METCALF, E. D. (by and about) (3) 1909-1910

Container ListBox

- 2 II) Oswald C. Hering - Professional Correspondence, 1899-1937 (cont'd)
- Clients, A-Z
- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| OELSNER, Rudolph | (1) 1910 |
| " " from O. C. Hering | (6) 1910 |
| OLIVER, J. S. | (1) 1934 |
| PATRICK, F. A. | (4) 1908-1909 |
| " " " from O. C. Hering | (1) 1910 |
| PELHAM, N.Y., Board of Education | (1) 1909 |
| PHILLIPS, Frederick | (1) 1908 |
| PLEUHNER, Walter K. | (1) 1910 |
| POTTER, C. A. (about) | (2) 1910 |
| PRENTICE, E. Parmalee | (1) 1910 |
| SADLER, Helen B. | (2) 1909 |
| SHAFFER, N. Melman (from O. C. Hering) | (1) 1910 |
| SLEEPY HOLLOW BOOKSHOP | (10+) 1934-1937 |
| TARBELL, Gage E. | (10) 1909 |
| TECHNOLOGY CLUB HOUSE | (1) 1930 |
| WOODRUFF, Timothy L. (by and about) | (9) 1909-1910 |
| " " " from O. C. Hering | (9) 1909-1910 |
- Partnership with Douglass Fitch, 1910-1933
- N.Y.C. Block Reclamation Project, 1921-1922
- Re Magazine Articles, 1908-1933
- Assorted Correspondence, 1899-1910
- III) Oswald C. Hering - 1930s Correspondence, 1930-1941
- Chronological, 1930-1941
- Re Oliver Herford & Wife, 1935-1937
- Assorted Cards & Ephemera, mostly n.d.
- Literary Correspondence & Writings, 1932
- Welfare Island Grand Jury, 1934
- 4 IV) Oswald C. Hering - DKE Correspondence & Writings, 1929-1944
- Unsorted, 1930s
- Re DKEs in Who's Who, 1931-1932
- Re Jubilee Issue of Quarterly, 1933

2 & oversized
folder

Container ListBox

- 4 IV) Oswald C. Hering - DKE Correspondence & Writing, 1929-1944 (cont'd)
 With Secretary Marin Westervelt, 1930-1940
 Re Chapter House Design, 1929-1944
 DKE Quarterly Issues, 1934, 1941
- 5 V) Oswald C. Hering - Club Correspondence, Professional & Social, 1893-1941
 Clubs, A-Z
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| AMATEUR COMEDY CLUB | 1 folder | 1910-1941 |
| AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS | " " | 1930-1937 |
| AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE | " " | 1910 |
| ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF N.Y. | " " | 1909-1936 |
| BEAUX-ARTS INSTITUTE OF DESIGN | " " | 1910-1951 |
| BUCCANEERS CLUB | " " | 1926-1932 |
| DUTCH TREAT CLUB | " " | 1921-1942 |
| MIT (School and Technology Club) | " " | 1893-1933 |
| Miscellaneous Clubs | " " | 1914-1937 |
| THE PLAYERS CLUB | 3 folders | ca. 1923-1941 |
| SONS OF THE REVOLUTION | 2 folders | 1930-1936 |
- 13 VI) Oswald C. Hering - Clippings & Genealogical Material, ca. 1896-1941
- 6 VII) Oswald C. Hering - Books, 1896-1929
- 3 VIII) Adelaide Arms Hering - Correspondence, 1897-1909, 1941-1942
 Letters Received, 1897-1909
 Re Oswald's Death, 1941-1942
- 7 IX) Fanny Field Hering - Letters Received, 1885-1898, n.d.
 a) Professional
 From Jean Léon Gérôme, 1887-1897, n.d.
 From Augustus Saint-Gaudens, 1890-1896
 From Cassell Publishing, 1888-1892
 Re Gérôme Book, ca. 1889-1892 (including clippings)
- b) Personal
 1885-1898, n.d.
 From John Lilliehook, 1888-1897 (with gaps)

Container List

Box

- 8 & oversize
folder X) Architectural Photographs & Visual Material, ca. 1899-1937
8 XI) Family Photographs, ca. 1880-1941

Related Collections

Avery Library, Columbia University

Oswald C. Hering - Drawings

Library, Department of Architecture, MIT

Oswald C. Hering - Drawings, models