



Collection 3085

**Lantern and Lens Gild of Women Photographers
Records**

1904-2004

15 boxes, 15 vols., 9 lin. feet

Contact: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 732-6200 FAX: (215) 732-2680
<http://www.hsp.org>

Processed by: Joanne Danifo

Processing Completed: January 2007

Sponsor: Howard Lewis and Sheila Bodine

Restrictions: None.

Related Collections at None.

HSP:

**Lantern and Lens Guild of Women
Photographers
Records, 1904-2004
15 boxes, 15 vols., 9 lin. feet**

Collection 3085

Abstract

The Lantern and Lens Guild was established as the Drexel Camera Club in 1905 during Mathilde Weil's photography class at the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry (now Drexel University). Led by Margaret Bodine, the ladies met on a weekly basis at 24 South 17th Street and later 24 South 18th Street for lectures, classes, and exhibitions. They changed their name to The Photographers for a year before officially naming the group the Lantern and Lens Guild of Women Photographers in 1912. The women traveled throughout the city and surrounding area to photograph people, animals, landscapes, buildings and many other subjects. They hosted many visiting artists and subscribed to the leading photography publications of the time. The Bryn Mawr Art Center and the Franklin Institute represent just two of the many places that exhibited their photographs. The women also held photography competitions within the Guild and awarded four cups each year to honor the artistry of members. The Lantern and Lens Guild moved into the New Century Guild Building at 1307 Locust Street in 1946 in order to expand their facilities. They would remain here for almost twenty years, before discontinuing activities and club elections in 1965.

The Lantern and Lens Guild of Women Photographers Records span from 1904 to 2004. This small collection is rich in images of the group's outings; their works; meeting minutes; and twentieth century photography magazines. The materials have been divided into three series – *Gild papers*, *Printed materials and ephemera*, and *Images and artifacts*. The majority of the collection is photography publications and images with a lesser portion devoted to manuscript material.

Background note

In 1905, Margaret Bodine and her classmates in Mathilde Weil's photography class at the Drexel Institute, recognizing their shared interest in the art of photography, decided to form a club. Throughout the history of the Lantern and Lens Guild, the club would count many upper-class Philadelphia women as its members including Louisa Rau, wife of Philadelphia photographer William H. Rau. The club would undergo several name changes and moves in the next ten years. The Drexel Camera Club gathered at 24 South 17th Street until 1911, when they moved to 24 South 18th Street and changed their name

to The Photographers. This name lasted about a year with the women finally settling on the Lantern and Lens Guild of Women Photographers. However, they continued to move the operations of the club around the city – to 1606 Locust Street (c. 1919), 1203 St. James Street (1920), and 1713 Chancellor Street (1921). During this time membership increased from 18 to almost 60 women, so the Guild relocated to 302 Fuller Building at 10 South 18th Street in 1936.

According to its constitution, the purpose of the club was to “promote the art of photography among its members by means of criticisms, lectures, exhibitions, etc.” and membership fees were \$1 per month. There were leadership positions within the club, consisting of the Dean of the Guild; the Dean; Clerk of Records; Clerk of Letters; and the Steward (later Bursar). The club hosted lectures given by visiting artists; offered classes; participated in exhibitions within the club, at galleries, and other institutions like the John Wanamaker building; and went on pilgrimages. Elias Goldensky, Yarnall Abbott, Richard Dooner, Herbert Pullinger, and Savero Antonelli were some of the artists that they hosted at meetings and events. The members would take pilgrimages to various locations usually around Philadelphia with their cameras and many photographs document these events. The women usually celebrated these outings and their Christmas parties by penning songs and poems.

The members’ works were recognized in two different ways within the club. First, photographs were chosen on a monthly basis for exhibition in the Guild house. Then several were awarded the four cups at the Annual Exhibition. The cups (e.g., Fowler Cup and Reeves Cup) honored one portrait of an individual, one portrait of a group, one color slide, and one photograph depicting an outdoor scene respectively.

In order to expand their facilities, the Guild moved into the New Century Building at 1307 Locust Street in 1946. This building housed the New Century Guild, which was established in 1882 by Eliza Sproat Turner to support women entering the workforce. Its services included classes, lectures, hot lunches served in a dining room for workingwomen, temporary lodging, and emergency financial support. The Guild also began to participate in activities with other camera clubs across the nation. The meeting minutes by the 1960s show that the Lantern and Lens Guild sent delegates to outside meetings, such as the Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs. However, this decade also saw a drop in attendance with many of the members growing older and passing away. In May 1965, the ladies decided to discontinue payment of dues, elections of officers, and their regular schedule of activities. Instead, they intended to meet occasionally at the homes of members. Laura Beale wrote to Margaret Smith, president of the New Century Guild, on September 13, 1965 to inform her that the club was discontinuing its almost weekly meetings at 1307 Locust Street.

The following is an informal list of the past officers of the Lantern and Lens Guild. There was no official length of time for the terms; a member could serve as an officer for an unlimited period.

1936	Evelyn Swain (Dean of the Guild) Elizabeth Fisher (Dean)
------	---

	Marian Little (Steward) P.H. Schedin (Clerk of Records) Amy Zulich (Clerk of Letters)
1945	Evelyn Swain (Dean of Gild) Mary Allis (Dean) Marian Little (Bursar) Mrs. Charles Acker (Clerk of Records) Hazel Jane Wiegner (Clerks of Letters)
1955	Hazel Jane Wiegner (Dean of Gild) Mary Allis (Dean) Amy Zulich (Bursar) Laura Beale (Clerk of Letters) Margaret Bullitt (Clerk of Records)
1965	Margaret Bullitt (Dean) Amy Zulich (Bursar) Laura Beale (Clerk of Letters) Rebecca Haines (Clerk of Records)

Scope & content

The materials of the Lantern and Lens Gild of Women Photographers span a century from 1904 to 2004 and consist of the members' papers, photographic works, and numerous photography publications. The collection has been divided into three series – *Gild papers*, *Printed materials and ephemera*, and *Images and artifacts*.

The majority of the records cover the period between 1930 to 1960 with several gaps after this period. The meeting minutes and the correspondence contain the most information concerning the operations of the club while lacking information about the personal lives of the members. Mentions of illnesses and deaths in the minutes are the only glimpses into their lives. The records, especially the *Printed materials and ephemera*, are rich in information about prominent photographers from the first half of the twentieth century as well as photography processes. The work of the Gild members is strongly represented in the last series, *Images and artifacts*. There are large prints (probably used for exhibitions) and smaller photographs housed in two albums.

Gild papers (1906-1965) are comprised of the meeting minutes, correspondence, poems, and club history. They include the details of the weekly meetings the women held, cost of dues, and the activities that they planned and in which they participated. *Printed materials and ephemera* (1904-2004) consists mainly of photography publications that were sent to the Gild and also mailings about photography products and processes. Photographs, slides, a door knocker, contact frame, and other miscellaneous items have been placed in the last series, *Images and artifacts* (1914-1953). The photographs are a mix of the ladies' works and pictures documenting the activities of the pilgrimages and meetings. There are 2 compact discs (one master, one use copy) that contain selected slides from the collection.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Gild papers, 1906-1965, n.d.	3 boxes, 6 volumes
Series II	Printed materials and ephemera, 1904-2004, n.d.	2 boxes, 7 volumes
Series III	Images and artifacts, 1914-1953, n.d.	2 boxes, 2 volumes

Series description

Series 1. Gild papers, 1906-1965, n.d. (Boxes 1-2, 4, Volumes 1-6)

The papers produced by and relating to the members of Lantern and Lens Guild include meeting minutes, correspondence, photography awards, and poems commemorating different events. The meeting minutes (several folders and three volumes) document the activities of the Guild from its earliest days in 1906 to 1961. At the meetings, which appear to have been held monthly, the members discussed new member nominations; future pilgrimages; planning of exhibitions; the promotion of members' exhibits; and demonstrations and lectures conducted by visiting photographers. An important event in the club was documented in the minutes from January 9, 1912. "A motion carried that the lease shall be signed for that time...A motion carried that the name Lantern and Lens be adopted." The original name of the club according to the minutes was "The Photographers." This entry also reveals that several members had left the club due to "lack of facilities" at their old location, 24 South 17th Street, and now that the club had relocated to 10 South 18th Street, they wished to return. This same volume also contains annual financial reports that recorded the expenses and deposits of the club (volume 1).

The correspondence of the members does not represent a significant part of this series. Esther Heacock, Amy Zulich, Marian Little, Mrs. Walter Murphy and Laura Beale are well represented in the correspondence. Of note is a letter from John Wanamaker dated March 28, 1912. Wanamaker sent a check for ten dollars to Eugenia Hornor for placing fifth in the "7th Annual Photo Exhibition," which saw 2000 entrants. There is also a letter to Esther Heacock from Owen Roberts, a prominent judge, asking the ladies to support the United Nations Emergency Food Fund in 1946. Heacock wrote several letters to Rebecca Haines of the Provident Trust Company concerning the club's relocation in 1946. Heacock wrote to Haines on September 27th that the members of the club unanimously decided to affiliate the Lantern and Lens Guild with the New Century Guild.

The ladies of the Guild wrote many poems and songs commemorating their parties and pilgrimages. Their structure is similar to the Jabberwocky poem in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*; the writers used phrases like "Callooh! Callay!" and "one two, one two," much like Carroll. The Christmas hymns and carol books were grouped together to celebrate what the ladies called Christmas "mummery."

Postcards listing the schedule of meetings for the month and also the pilgrimages appear in this series. Some of the postcards, which span from 1927 to 1963, were sent to club members and have postage stamps. Related to these postcards are miniature pamphlets titled "Interesting News," which included suggested activities for the club members, a list of the monthly wall-hangings, and "cup contest" winners. There are also three editions of the Guild's constitution and by-laws – 1915, 1938, and one undated.

The other items that have been placed in this series are the following: papers relating to the history of the Guild; small award badges honoring the photography of some members; financial papers pertaining to dues and expenses; and a program from a luncheon commemorating the club's 50th anniversary. Members compiled poems, songs, pictures, event calendars, the club's constitution and by-laws and other miscellaneous items pertaining to the history of the club into two scrapbooks (vols. 4 and 5).

Series 2. Printed materials and ephemera, 1904-2004, n.d. (Boxes 2-3)

The materials in this series consist mainly of the magazines and publications that belonged to the members of the Lantern and Lens Guild. These photography magazines contain both reproductions of photography prints and also information about techniques. The following are some of the publications that appear in this series: *The Camera*; *Camera Work*; *Photo-Magazin* (German); *Photographie* (French); *Photo-Era*; and the *Journal of the Photographic Society of America*. *Photo-Era* is the most represented publication in the collection with thirteen issues, twelve of which cover an entire year (1904). The April 1920 issue of *The Camera*, which was published by Alfred Stieglitz in New York, contained an article profiling an exhibit of Guild members' artwork at the Wanamaker store in Philadelphia. In November 1931, wood-engraver Timothy Cole had an exhibition at the Print Club of Philadelphia and this series has two copies of the catalogue from the event.

There are also a few folders that contain trade cards, catalogs, and miscellaneous mailings that the Lantern and Lens Guild received from companies promoting photo developing processes and equipment. DuPont, GE, and Mallinckrodt are three companies represented in the mailings, which often included prices with the product lists.

Series 3. Images and artifacts, 1914-1953, n.d (Boxes 3, 5)

There are two types of photographs in this collection – ones that depict the activities of the Guild members and ones that represent their artistic work. There are two photo albums in this series, one compiled by the club members and another that houses the loose photographs in the collection. The former has pictures of a pilgrimage, while the latter contains photographs of both outings and of artistic subjects (e.g., portraits, still-lives). Pigeon Run Farm (aka Bodine Farm), Haverford, Buck Hill Falls, Washington's Crossing, Pleasant Run Farm, and a few homes of members (Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Hallowell, and Mrs. Lens) are all depicted in the

pilgrimage photographs. Only a few of these include identifications. The Buck Hill Falls photograph identifies Miss Leavis, Mary Allis, Evelyn Swain, Ellen Fowler, Ethel and Sara Marshall, and Alice Leaming. The other half of the album is mainly the work of the women. They photographed many street scenes in Philadelphia, including the centennial celebration of Clinton Street. Most of the pictures in this volume lack dates. The negatives of many of the aforementioned pictures have been placed in the album. Their original envelopes have been placed in box 3 folder 27.

The 127 lantern slides in this collection date approximately from 1928 to 1953, with the majority of the slides lacking dates. They depict the meetings and pilgrimages of the members of the Lantern and Lens Guild, who appear often among the slides. Eugenia Hornor, Marian Little, Mrs. Fisher, Ellen Fowler, Margaret Bodine, Amy Zulich, Mrs. Crisheim and Mrs. William H. Rau are a few of the members who are depicted in the slides and whose works are also included. For example, there is a series of slides depicting various flowers photographed by Mrs. Bodine. Some of the locales pictured in the slides are as follows: Chestnut Hill; Keene Valley, New York in 1931; Ogunquit, Maine in 1930-31; New Hope Canal in 1928; Birmingham in 1928; Florida in 1931; and the garden of Mrs. Charles Biddle. Of note are the slides that depict the interior and exterior of the Guild House at 1203 St. James Street in Philadelphia. A few slides (e.g., the flowers) are in color. The slides were originally in four separate boxes and this has been noted in their new boxes; the first box is represented in slides 1-42; the second in slides 43-91; the third in slides 92-100 (the original box was labeled "E L Ler"); and the last in slides 101-127.

The club members often showcased their artwork at different exhibitions and at the club. This series has about 35 larger prints (most in mats) of several members' works and some of them have awards or exhibition cards on the back of the mats. The members whose works are represented in this group are the following: Katherine Hodge; Eugenia Hornor; Evelyn Swain; C. Acker; Mary E. Allis; Anna Snow; Margaret Bullitt; Hazel Jane Wiegner; and Ellen Steel Rumpf. Hazel Jane Wiegner, who has several pieces in this series, won the blue ribbon at the Guild's annual exhibition in 1944. They exhibited their works between 1939 and 1944 at the Lantern and Lens Guild; All Philadelphia Photographic Exhibition; the Bryn Mawr Art Center; the Women's University Club; and the Franklin Institute. The majority of the prints note the title and artist, but many lack dates. The subjects of the photographs are mostly places and landscapes, but there are several depicting people; Margaret Bullitt photographed a young girl for her work titled "Peggy." Of note is a work by Evelyn Swain, which includes a card with photography specifications – type of film and camera used, and the exposure. Among these larger prints is a large placard that lists the "Annual Wall Exhibits" for the Lantern and Lens Guild from 1939 to 1946.

Miscellaneous photography items have been placed in box 3 folder 27. They include a blank slide and a negative booklet. The negatives have been removed from the booklet and placed in a negative sleeve.

Related materials

At other institutions:

Heacock Family Papers, 1773-1928. Swarthmore College.

Subjects

Art and photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Black-and-white photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Indoor photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Nature photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Outdoor photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Philadelphia (Pa.) – Social life and customs – 20th century
Photography exhibitions – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Photography – Periodicals – 20th century
Portrait photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Wildlife photography – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century
Women – Societies and clubs – 20th century
Women photographers – Social life and customs – 20th century
Women photographers – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia – 20th century

Rau, William Herman, 1855-1920

Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946

Weil, Mathilde, 1872-1943?

Bryn Mawr College

Drexel Institute of Art, Science, and Industry

Drexel Institute of Technology

Drexel University

Franklin Institute (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Lantern and Lens Guild of Women Photographers

New Century Guild

New Century Trust

Administrative Information

Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of the New Century Trust, 2005, 2006.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Lantern and Lens Guild of Women Photographers Records (Collection 3085), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Processing made possible by gifts from Howard Lewis and Sheila Bodine.

Several slides have been placed on a CD, of which there are two copies (a master and a use copy).

Box and folder listing

Series 1. Gild Papers

Folder title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Minutes	November 28, 1906-December 11, 1907	1	1
Minutes	March 1909-November 1913, October 1927-May 1929	Vol. 1	
Items removed from volume 1	1909-1929	1	2
Minutes	1914	1	3
Minutes	1914-1927	Vol. 2	
Minutes	October 1, 1929-January 2, 1935	Vol. 3	
Minutes	1937-1939	1	4
Minutes	January 1940-March 1945	1	5-6
Minutes	January 1945-January 1948	1	7-8
Minutes	1948-1950	1	9
Minutes	1951-1952	1	10
Minutes	1953-1954	1	11
Minutes	1955-1956	1	12
Minutes with financials	1957-1958	1	13
Minutes	January 1959-February 1960	1	14
Minutes	March 1960-December 1961	1	15
Minutes	1961-1963	1	16
Minutes	1964-1965	1	17
Correspondence: Mrs. Walter Murphy	1913	1	18
Correspondence: Mrs. Steltz	1948-1955	1	19
Correspondence: Laura Beale	1951-1963	1	20
Correspondence: Amy Zulich	1965	2	1
Correspondence: Rebecca Haines	1946	2	2
Correspondence: miscellaneous camera clubs	1963, n.d.	2	3
Miscellaneous correspondence	1912-1956	2	4
Dues and membership lists	1940-1956	2	5
Financial papers	1938-1944	2	6

Certificates of recognition from Photographic Society of America	1957, 1959	2	7
Photography awards	1922-1940	2	8
Papers concerning the founding of the Lantern and Lens Guild	c. 1936-1946	2	9
50 th Anniversary Luncheon Program	December 21, 1955	2	10
Program papers	1971-1975	2	11
Gild Poem	n.d.	2	12
Hymns	c. 1912-1946	2	13-14
Christmas mummery	1922-1945, n.d.	2	15
Christmas carol booklets	1932-, n.d.	2	16
Event ephemera and invitations	1944, 1954-1963, n.d.	2	17
“Record of the Photograph and other Doings of the Lantern and Lens Club”	1911-1915	Vol. 4	
Scrapbook	1906-1930	Vol. 5	
Scrapbook	1931-1955	Vol. 6	
Miscellaneous	1920-1941	2	18
Membership notebook	1947, 1949, 1953	4	
Membership booklet	1948	4	
Membership booklet	n.d.	4	
Meeting postcards	1927-May 1964	4	
“Interesting News”	1937-1963	4	
Constitution and by-laws (2 copies)	1915	4	
Constitution and by-laws (2 copies)	1938	4	
Constitution and by-laws	n.d.	4	

Series 2. Printed materials and ephemera

Folder title	Date	Box/Vol	Folder
Camera Club bulletins	January 1954-January 1957	2	19
Camera Club bulletins	November 1958-March 1960	2	20
Camera Club bulletins	March 1960-February 1963	2	21
Photographic Society of America bulletins	1954-1960	2	22

Photographic Society of America bulletins	1961-1963	2	23
Photographic Society of America programs	1961, n.d.	2	24
Photographic Society of America ephemera	1955-1961, n.d.	2	25
Photographic Society of America ephemera	n.d.	2	26
Special Report from the Western German Photographic Industry	c. 1958	3	1
<i>American Photography</i>	January 1919	3	2
<i>Bolex Reporter</i>	Summer 1952	3	3
<i>Current Photography</i>	November-December 1941	3	4
<i>Exakta</i>	1951, 1952	3	5
<i>Infinity</i>	May 1962	3	6
<i>March of Time</i> (Forum Films)	n.d.	3	7
<i>The Micaclarion</i>	1991, 1996-1999, 2001-2004	3	8
<i>Modern Photography</i>	September 1949	3	9
<i>The Journal of the Photographic Society of America</i> , vol 7 #9	November-December 1942	3	10
<i>The Journal of the Photographic Society of America</i>	1949	3	11
<i>Photo-Magazin</i> (German)	March 1953	3	12
<i>Photo-Technik und-Wirtschaft</i> (English)	1958	3	13
<i>Profitable Hobbies</i>	November 1948	3	14
<i>The Shutterbug</i>	October 1959, March 1960	3	15
<i>How To Make Good Pictures</i>	n.d.	3	16
<i>Taking Pictures at Night</i> by Robert W. Brown	1941	Vol. 7	
<i>The Camera</i> (2 copies)	May 1913	5	
<i>The Camera</i> (2 copies)	April 1920	5	
<i>The Camera</i>	May 1922	5	
<i>Camera Work</i> issue #21	January 1908	6	
<i>Camera Work</i> issue #23	July 1908	6	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	January 1904	7	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	February 1904	7	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	March 1904	7	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	April 1904	8	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	May 1904	8	

<i>Photo-Era</i>	June 1904	8	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	July 1904	9	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	August 1904	9	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	September 1904	9	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	October 1904	10	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	November 1904	10	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	December 1904	10	
<i>Photo-Era</i>	August 1911	Vol. 8	
<i>Photographie</i>	1932	Vol. 9	
<i>Pictorial Photography in America</i> , vol. 4	1926	Vol. 10	
<i>Pictorial Photography in America</i> , vol. 5	1929	Vol. 11	
Item removed from vol. 11	May 4, 1930	13	1
<i>American Pictorial Photography</i> series 1	n.d.	Vol. 12	
<i>American Pictorial Photography</i> series 2	n.d.	Vol. 13	
Timothy Cole, Wood Engraver, Memorial Exhibition (2 copies)	1931	5	
Miscellaneous publications	November 1950-December 1954	3	17
Workshop courses announcements	1957-1963	3	18
Processing ephemera and manuals	c. 1963, n.d.	3	19
Photographic books listing	April 1955	3	20
Photography sales ephemera	1962, n.d.	3	21
Price lists and catalogs	1964	3	22
GE & Mallinckrodt mailings	1952-1957, n.d.	3	23
Exhibition seals, etc.	1934-1943, n.d.	3	24
Newspaper clippings	1913-1937, n.d.	3	25
General ephemera	1962, n.d.	3	26

Series 3. Images and artifacts

Folder title	Date	Box/Vol.	Folder
Photo album	n.d.	Vol. 14	
Photos	n.d.	Vol. 15	

Slides (fragile: contains glass)	1928-1953, n.d.	11-12	127 slides
Prints	1938-1946, n.d.	13	
Miscellaneous photography items (fragile: contains glass)	n.d.	3	27
Miscellaneous	1914, n.d.	3	28
Door knocker	n.d.	14	
Index tabs	n.d.	12	
Contact frame	n.d.	15	