

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG4033.AM: Lincoln Art Glass Works (Lincoln, Neb.)

Records: c. 1902-1958

Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska: Manufacturer of stained and leaded glass windows

Size: 4.0 cu.ft. + oversize

BACKGROUND NOTE

John E. Teysman resided in Lincoln, Nebraska beginning in 1915. Trained in working with "art glass" (a term embracing the design and craft of stained and leaded glass windows), he became a superintendent for Western Glass and Paint Company's art glass operation. In 1919, he branched out on his own, opening the Lincoln Glass Works at 2028 O Street. In those early years he took on a partner, Bruno Schellenberg, another former employee of Western Glass and Paint Company. In 1922, the partnership split, and Schellenberg continued with what was called the Lincoln Glass Works, while Teysman opened the Lincoln Art Glass Works at 1953 O Street. Schellenberg's company was a general glass and building supply firm (called Lincoln Glass and Paint beginning in 1929), while Teysman's firm worked strictly with the art glass trade. In the mid-1920s, the Lincoln Art Glass works moved to a building behind the residence of Teysman and his wife, Barbara, at 2129 K Street.

For decades, the Lincoln Art Glass Works was the only art glass firm in Lincoln, having bought out Western's operation in the 1920s. It was also one of the only such firms in Nebraska. It enjoyed a varied clientele, repairing and making windows for churches, residences, and commercial and public buildings. Its work was used in buildings in several midwestern states, including Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota, and Indiana. Much of its work, especially church windows in Nebraska, came through word of mouth, but Lincoln Art Glass Works also did subcontract work for larger window companies, builders and architects, mostly from Nebraska and Iowa. This contract clientele included local firms such as Curtis, Towle and Paine Company and Nebraska Lumber and Millwork Company, and such architectural firms as Davis and Wilson, and Miller and Craig. Some of its local work included the Stuart Theater Building, the Bethany Christian Church, and the Lincoln City Building.

LAGW designed many of its own windows, and also purchased designs from other art glass artists (notably, Henry Knudsen of Indianapolis, Indiana). These designs, sketched impressively in ink and watercolors, made up the firm's portfolio, or catalog; a prospective customer could pick from this variety of stock designs. Many of these designs were numbered for easy reference.

In 1940, John Teysman died at the age of 57, leaving one son, Wilbur, and his wife, Barbara. Barbara continued to oversee the Lincoln Art Glass Works until the early 1950s, when the business closed. The last entry in the firm's journal is for 1958, but from 1951 on it took on only small and occasional orders from established customers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection of the records of the Lincoln Art Glass Works is divided into six series:

- Series 1 - Journals, 1919-1921, 1923-1958
- Series 2 - Miscellaneous Business Records, 1923-1952, n.d.
- Series 3 - Industry Publications, c.1902-1940
- Series 4 - Published Designs and Motifs
- Series 5 - Original Designs and Patterns
- Series 6 - Architectural Plans

The materials in this collection relate to the operation and work of the Lincoln Art Glass Works, the art glass craft in the Midwest, architectural design, and to a lesser extent to the lives of John and Barbara Teysman.

Journal entries of **Series 1** list clients, charges, and orders. Orders placed by large contractors may give no indication of where the finished product was used. **Series 2** includes business correspondence, which is mostly incoming and relates to various jobs and supply orders. The correspondence gives a good view of clients, uses for Lincoln Art Glass Works work, reputation, and geographical scope, and includes some designs, patterns and plans. Also in Series 2 is two years' compilation of receipts, invoices, purchase and work orders, from 1926 and 1940. These years' records were kept as a representation of general financial dealings with clients and suppliers; the other years' records of this sort were discarded. Series 2 also includes other business records, such as a building permit, tax records, lists of potential church clients, instructions for art glass processes, and various forms of stationery and advertising.

Series 3 includes publications (mostly catalogs) of companies from whom Lincoln Art Glass Works bought supplies, or for whom Lincoln Art Glass Works did contract work. Included are price lists, catalogs, directories, supplier lists, business cards, advertisements, instructions, and histories. Represented are some companies with Nebraska outlets, like Adams and Kelly Company, Burgess-Granden Company, Nebraska Lumber and Millwork Company, M. A. Disbrow and Company, Curtis, Towle and Paine Company, and McLaughlin Brothers. **Series 4** contains publications which include lettering styles, religious pictures, and window designs from which Lincoln Art Glass Works artists derived inspiration.

The original designs of **Series 5** make up the bulk of the collection. Each is an ink-and-watercolor original work. Lincoln Art Glass Works numbered many of the designs for the reference of potential clients; they are stored in this collection by number and size. Some designs include identification of buildings in which they were used. Series 5 also contains window patterns used by Lincoln Art Glass Works craftsmen. **Series 6** contains architectural plans (some details; some full plans) of various buildings for which Lincoln Art Glass Works at least bid to do art glass work.

See also Photograph Department for photos and Museum Collections for related artifacts.

DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Journals, 1919-1921, 1923-1958

Box 1	F1	Journal, 1919-1920
	F2	Journals, 1920-1921, 1921
	F3	Journals, 1923
	F4	Journals, 1924
	F5	Journals, 1925
	F6	Journal, 1926
	F7	Journal, 1927
	F8	Journal, 1928
	F9	Journal, 1929
	F10	Journal, 1929, 1943-1958, 1936-1942 (combined)
	F11	Journal, 1930-1932
	F12	Journal, 1933-1936

Series 2 - Miscellaneous Business Records, 1923-1952, n.d.

Box 1	F1	Correspondence, 1923-1925
	F2	Correspondence, 1926-1927
	F3	Correspondence, 1928-1929
Box 2	F4	Correspondence, 1931-1933, 1938-1939
	F5	Correspondence, 1940-1945, 1948, 1951-1952, n.d.
	F6-7	Receipts, invoices, purchase and work orders, 1926
	F8-9	Receipts, invoices, purchase and work orders, 1940
	F10	Building permit (2129 K Street, Lincoln, NE), 1924
OB21	F11	Individual income tax returns, 1924, 1926-1928
Box 2	F12	Information on churches, c. 1930s
	F13	Instructions for art glass processes, n.d.
	F14	Stationery, business cards, blotters, forms, calendars

Series 3 - Industry Publications, c. 1902-1940

Box 2	F1-9	Price lists, catalogs, directories, supplier lists, histories, etc.
Box 3	F10-17	Price lists, catalogs, directories, supplier lists, histories, etc.

Series 4 - Published Designs and Motifs

Box 3	F1-2	Lettering books
	F3	New Testament (in German)
	F4	Book: Bible Pictures and What They Teach Us
	F5	Illustrated Sunday School publications (mostly from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri)
	F6	Illustrations of biblical scenes
Box 4	F7	Catalogs of window designs

Series 5 - Original Designs and Patterns

Box 4	F1	Nos. A-1 through A-12
	F2	Nos. 20, 39, 49, 55, 63, 77, 80, 84, 87
OB021	F3-4	Nos. 2, 18, 34, 38, 48, 53, 56, 59, 61, 68, 71, 72, 74, 81, 83, 85, 86, 98
Box 4	F5-6	Nos. 105, 108, 112, 113, 116, 118, 122, 124, 137, 139, 160, 162, 177
OB022	F7-8	Nos. 106, 107, 108, 114, 116, 120, 123, 125, 140, 143, 150, 156, 158, 159, 163, 166, 171, 172, 182
Box 4	F9	Nos. 209, 216, 221, 222, 233, 246, 258, 259, 259A, 261, 263, 285
OB022	F10	Nos. 201, 203, 209, 217, 218, 220, 230, 231
OB023	F11	Nos. 236, 240, 242, 244, 245, 247, 262, 268, 280, 283, 289, 293, 297
Box 4	F12	Nos. 356, 379, 383, 384
OB023	F13-14	Nos. 305, 309, 315, 317, 318, 326, 329, 339A, 355, 360, 362, 364, 365, 366, 370, 371, 391, 397, 398
Box 4	F15	Nos. 401, 402, 426, 429, A-464
OB024	F16-17	Nos. 400, 405A, 406, 407, 408, 414, 415, 420, 422, 423, 424, 425 (2), 428, 434, 466
Box 4	F18-19	Nos. 589K, 877, 879, 1171, 1356, 1391, 1534, 2002, 2003, 2005 (2), 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
OB024	F20-21	Nos. 595A, 699, 844, 984, 1169, 1170, 1256, 1312, 2954, 4254, 5000, 5809, 5814, 6053, 6103, 6105
Box 4	F22-25	Designs, no numbers
OB025	F26	Designs, no numbers
OB026	F27	Designs, no numbers
OD016	F28	Designs, no numbers
OD017	F29	Patterns

Series 6 - Architectural Plans

OB027	F1	Sign details, Stuart Building (Lincoln, NE)
	F2	Mirror detail, Seacrest residence Sidelight detail, Roberts residence Window details, First Christian Church (Ashland, NE) Elevation, apartment building for Harvey Rathbone Plans, Chapel for Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Coryell (Brock, NE)
	F3	Plans, W. S. Cochrane residence Plans, Methodist Church (Ainsworth, NE)
	F4	Plans, Methodist Church (Martel, NE) Plans, Bethany Christian Church (Lincoln, NE)
OD016	F5	Elevation, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Plans, Methodist Episcopal Church (Stratton, NE) Plans, United Brethren Church (York, NE)
	F6	Plans, R. D. Woodruff residence (Lincoln, NE) Window detail, Maher residence
OD017	F7	Window details, Lincoln City Building (Lincoln, NE)

Subject headings:

Adams and Kelly Company (Omaha, Neb.)
Architecture -- Design and plans
Architecture -- Nebraska
Art
Art glass
Burgess-Granden Company (Omaha, Neb.)
Churches
Curtis, Towle and Paine Company (Lincoln, Neb.)
Davis and Wilson, Architects (Lincoln, Neb.)
Knudsen, Henry
Lincoln (Neb.) -- Businesses
M. A. Disbrow and Company (Omaha, Neb.)
McLaughlin Brothers (Columbus, Ohio)
Miller and Craig, Architects (Lincoln, Neb.)
Nebraska Lumber and Millwork Company (Lincoln, Neb.)
Stained glass design
Teysman, John E., 1882-1940
Teysman, Barbara (Andrewjeski), 1890-1980

PJE/ksa 01-1990
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