

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

Accession # *89M12

Location 2-j-3

Title Falk, Benjamin J., 1853-1925. Record Books and Autograph Album.

Approximate inclusive dates 1881-1917

Date of receipt

Received from

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 4 boxes.

Condition Good. Volumes should be handled carefully since they are large and heavy and the bindings are fragile.

Restrictions

Description

Benjamin J. Falk, photographer, was active in New York City during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His portrait studio was at Twenty-third Street and Broadway, on the site where the Flatiron Building stands today. After he left Twenty-third Street (probably around 1902, when the Flatiron Building was completed) Falk had an establishment at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Falk was born in 1853, and graduated City College of the City University of New York in 1872. He was described at his death in 1925 as "one of the leading New York photographers" (obituary, New York Times, March 21, 1925, p. 13).

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

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached.

Accessioned by J. Miller

Date January 27, 1989

DESCRIPTION

Six record books, 1881-1917, contain the names, addresses, orders, amounts charged (accounts were apparently kept in separate accounts ledgers, not included in this collection), and negative and duplicate numbers of Falk's portrait studio clients. Many of these clients were wealthy and prominent New Yorkers. The theatrical profession, and New York's German-Jewish community are heavily represented. Members of the Guggenheim, Lewisohn, Straus, and Sulzberger families; actors Aubrey and Dion Boucicault, Lillie Langtry, Richard Mansfield, Julia Marlowe, Alla Nazimova, and Lillian Russell; and such disparate celebrities as Thomas Edison (who was a frequent sitter from the 1880s to the 1910s), Henry Ford, Jay Gould, and Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan are among those whose names appear.

Falk's autograph album contains inscriptions dating from 1895-1897 and 1914-1915. Names of some of the signers also appear in the record books.

Note: The NYPL's Division of Art, Prints, and Photographs holds an album (in two volumes) of Falk's photographs of New York City and vicinity, ca. 1870s-1880s.

Falk - Container list

Box

Volumes

1

August 30 1881 - April 23 1886

2

April 23 1886 - November 15 1890
November 15 1890 - December 31 1896

3

January 2 1897 - July 30 1902
August 1, 1902 (and retroactive from May 10) -
December 30 1912

4

January 2 1913 - February 26 1917
Autograph album, 1895-1915

Falk - Added entries

Photographers-New York (N.Y.)

Photography-Portraits

Actors-Portraits

Actresses-Portraits

Jews, German-New York (N.Y.)

Jews-New York (N.Y.)

Guggenheim family

Lewisohn family

Straus family

Sulzberger family

Boucicault, Dion, 1820-1890

Boucicault, Aubrey *

Langtry, Lillie, 1853-1929

Mansfield, Richard, 1857-1907

Marlowe, Julia, 1865-1950

Nazimova, 1879-1949

Russell, Lillian, 1861-1922

Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

Gould, Jay *

Keller, Helen, 1880-1968

Sullivan, Annie, 1866-1936