

# Ward Hunt Collection

Ward Hunt was a professional photographer working for the *Kansas City Star* for many years. This collection contains some of the photographs he took as well as family photographs.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Ward Hunt  
**Title:** Ward Hunt collection  
**Dates:** circa 1900-1964  
**Size:** 1 box, 18 folders, 118 photographs  
**Location:** P33

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Additional physical form available:** 48 photographs have been digitized.

**Acquisition information:** Gift, 2003, Della Mae Jacobs, Accession #2003-22.

**Citation note:** Ward Hunt collection (P33), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Biographical/Historical note**

After joining its staff in January, 1940, Ward Hunt was a photographer for the *Kansas City Star* for 24 years. Prior to his work at the *Star*, he worked as an Associated Press photographer, as well as a motion picture cameraman and projectionist. His movie work included creating films of Asia and Europe with evangelist Carl Walker, and shooting news subjects. He also worked as a free-lance photographer and wire photo operator. Hunt retired from the *Star* in April, 1964. He died at the age of 63 that year.

### **Scope and content note**

The photographs in the Ward Hunt Collection contain a number of images of famous personalities, both local and national. Photographs of stars such as Sophie Tucker, Hedy Lamarr, and Jimmy Stewart are included in the collection, as well as local celebrities such as broadcaster Randall Jessee and University of Missouri football coach Don Faurot. Additionally, the collection contains correspondence and material documenting the career of a professional photographer in the 1940's and 1950's. Items of genealogical interest to the descendants of Ward Hunt, such as family photographs and birth/death records, are also preserved in the collection.

The collection contains photographs of three types: Those shot in the course of Ward Hunt's career as a professional photographer, those related to the history of his family, and personal photographs found in a scrapbook. The professional photographs consist of 53, 8" x 10" black and white prints, most capturing celebrities of national and local interest, presumably shot by Hunt. There are 11 black and white, family/personal photographs of various sizes in the collection, many produced by professional studios. Several of the individuals in these photographs are identified as family members, and among them is a photograph

of Ward Hunt's father. Among these 11 photographs are four of Ward Hunt himself. Black and white images of various sizes found pasted in a scrapbook, most smaller than 4" x 5", comprise the third type of photograph in the collection. The individuals in these photographs are not identified.

The photographs in the collection were placed in an acid free environment and occupy 14 folders. The pages of the scrapbook (5.5" x 7") were separated from their binding, placed in folders, and numbered 1-23. Each page contains photographs on both sides, and each side of the page is numbered.

The collection also contains 4 folders of non-photographic, printed material. This material consists of genealogical information pertaining to Ward Hunt's family, correspondence, photography and career-related material, and several letters related to the collection itself.

At the time of its receipt, the photographs were in fair condition; some of the photographs had been stored in plastic sleeves, and others had been pasted into two scrapbooks. The photographs in the larger of the two scrapbooks were removed during the processing of the collection and placed in an acid free environment along with those removed from the plastic sleeves. The photographs in the smaller of the two scrapbooks had been pasted to such an extent that they were not removable. The pages of the scrapbook were separated, numbered, and placed in folders. Much of the printed material in the collection was removed from plastic sleeves, as well, and similarly placed in folders.

Of the photographs, 48 were scanned as JPEG files in November of 2003 at a resolution of 72 and 600 dpi. Each photo was assigned an 8 digit number, which serves also as the filename of its corresponding scanned image. The files were saved on CD-ROM as well as uploaded onto the Special Collections Local History web site.

### **Collection Inventory**

#### **Box 1**

- **Folder 1** - Collection barcode numbers.
- **Folder 2** - Documentation of additional Ward Hunt related donations to the Kansas City Museum.
- **Folder 3** - Photographs - 5 b & w - Ward Hunt family related.
- **Folder 4** - Miscellaneous family related items including the newspaper obituary for Ward Hunt; family birth, marriage, and death records, etc.
- **Folder 5** - Correspondence, 1923 and undated.
- **Folder 6** - Miscellaneous items including a list of members of the Camera Club and Moving Picture Unit, 1925; Hunt's *Kansas City Star* photographer ID, cartoon featuring Hunt, etc.
- **Folder 7** - Photographs, #1-5 - Includes Bob Burns, Dan Faurot, and Dorothy Thompson and KU co-eds.

- **Folder 8** - Photographs, #6-10 - Includes Glenn Darwin, Donald Novis and O.C. Cash, Logan Clendening, Bill Gaxton and Victor Moore, etc.
- **Folder 9** - Photographs, #11-15 - Includes H.R. Knickerbacker and Alexander Woolcott, Sophie Tucker, Hedy Lamarr and the Zannucks, etc.
- **Folder 10** - Photographs, #16-20 - Includes Joseph Hoffman, Olivia DeHavilland, Jimmy Stewart, Oscar Welles, and Maurice Tillet.
- **Folder 11** - Photographs, #21-25 - Includes Enzo Penza, Harry Truman, Arthur Treacher, and unidentified home.
- **Folder 12** - Photographs, #26-30 - Includes Jimmy Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, unidentified pin-up girl, cat, etc.
- **Folder 13** - Photographs, #31-35 - Includes various unidentified people.
- **Folder 14** - Photographs, #36-40 - Includes Rudy Vallee, Mary Pickford, and other unidentified people.
- **Folder 15** - Photographs, #41-45 - Includes Randall Jessee, William Kemp, and other unidentified people.
- **Folder 16** - Photographs, #46-50 - Includes scenes of a family meal, stockyard, Thomas Hart Benton and two of his paintings, "The Rape of Persephone" and "Susanna and the Elders."
- **Folder 17** - Photographs, #51-55 - Includes miscellaneous scenes.
- **Folder 18** - Photograph scrapbook album pages - 58 photos

**Processed by** Special Collections Librarian Dan Coleman, 2003.