



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0048

Karl Hickman Klein (1913- 2000) Collection

1901-1990

1 cubic feet

*The collection contains copies of Letters, news clippings and other items relating to the life and death of noted artist and caricaturist Ralph Barton, Karl Klein's uncle.*

### BIOGRAPHY:

Karl Hickman Klein was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 22, 1913. Klein was educated in Kansas City and then attended New York University. At age 24, he moved to New York City and obtained a position with E.R. Squibb and Sons, later becoming a department head of the subsidiary firm, Lentheric, Inc. In January 1942, Klein enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve, first serving in Argentina, then Newfoundland. After V-E Day, he was assigned to special duty in the Judge Advocate General's Office in Washington, D.C. In 1945, after completing his naval duty, Klein joined the Weatherproof Products, Corporation and remained with the company until 1967 when he joined Padgett Instrument Co. as manager. Klein retired in February 1976. He died December 9, 2000.

On May 1, 1943, Klein married Maybelle Hettinger (1907-2000) of Kansas City, Missouri. On May 22, 1946, they became the parents of Karla Christy Klein, later Albertson.

Karl Hickman Klein is the grandson of Catherine Josephine and Abraham Pool Barton. Catherine Josephine Barton was an artist and writer in Kansas City. Her son, Ralph Barton (1891-1931), worked on the *Kansas City Star* before leaving Kansas City to study art in Paris. Barton became a prominent caricaturist during the 1920's. He was listed as an Advisory Editor in the first issues of *The New Yorker* magazine and contributed to *Puck*, *Life*, *Judge*, *Collier's*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Liberty* magazines. In addition, Barton illustrated the books *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* by Anita Loos and *Droll*

*Stories* by Balzac, among others. Barton carried on lengthy correspondence with Willard H. Wright, who wrote under the name S.S. Van Dine. In 1931, Ralph Barton committed suicide in his New York City apartment.

PROVENANCE:

This collection consists of photocopies of materials belonging to Karl Hickman Klein. They were received as accession KA0074 on March 19, 1981; KA0119 on November 11, 1981; KA0201 on March 11, 1983; KA0457 on April 4, 1988; KA0480 on July 29, 1988; KA0484 on August 11, 1988; KA0502 on January 25, 1989; KA0516 on May 15, 1989; KA0565 on April 18, 1990; and KA0746 on March 30, 1993.

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS:

The donor, Karl Klein, has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Karl Hickman Klein (1913- 2000) Collection* (K0048); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection contains photocopies of materials relating to the life and death of Ralph Barton, Karl Klein's uncle. These materials were retained by Klein's mother, Vivien Ethel (Barton) Klein and were returned to Karl Klein after being copied. The materials include correspondence with Willard H. Wright (S.S. Van Dine), Alfred Knopf and others; biographical material on Barton; newspaper clippings and magazine articles; letters of condolence; photocopies of photographs and artwork; and a home movie made by Barton of *Camille*, starring many of his illustrious friends, such as Anita Loos, Paul Robeson, Charlie Chaplin and others.

The addition KA0516 (folder 38) consists of photocopies of correspondence between Mr. and Mrs. Klein and John Updike, American author, regarding Updike's biographical essay on Ralph Barton for a book on art and for an article in *The New Yorker* magazine. Enclosures include a rough draft of Updike's manuscript, a photocopy of *The New Yorker* article and copies of letter Ralph Barton wrote to the actor, Roland Young.

## INVENTORY:

### **BOX 001**

- Folder 1. Personal, biographical information on Ralph Barton
- Folder 2. Correspondence - Willard H. Wright to Barton
- Folder 3. Correspondence - Wright (Van Dine), edited and transcribed by Vivien (Barton) Klein.
- Folder 4. General correspondence
- Folder 5. Obituary, clippings, letters of condolence - Barton suicide
- Folder 6. Caricatures, tear sheets - *New York Life* magazine, 1929-1930.
- Folder 7. Correspondence - Alfred A. Knopf and Barton, 1928-1929.

### *ART WORK*

- Folder 8. Illustrations - newspaper feature heads and other early work (*Kansas City Times*?)
- Folder 9. Illustrations, caricatures, articles
- Folder 10. Caricatures of well known people

### *CLIPPINGS AND ARTICLES*

- Folder 11. Clippings, 1919-1932
- Folder 12. Magazine article - "Chez Monsieur Ralph Barton," by Florabel Madagascar

### *CORRESPONDENCE*

- Folder 13. Personal correspondence - Carl Van Vechten, O.O. McIntre, 1925-1934
- Folder 14. Personal correspondence - Mrs. (C.J.) Barton, Ethel, Bee, 1912-1931
- Folder 15. Personal correspondence - Louis Bromfield, 1925-1927
- Folder 16. Personal correspondence - French comedian named "SEM", 1926-1930

- Folder 17. Personal correspondence - H.L. Mencken, 1926-1928
- Folder 18. Personal correspondence - including Charlie Chaplin, Theodore Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Marc Connelly, Robert Sherwood, 1924-1930
- Folder 19. Personal correspondence - Germaine Tailleferre, 1926-1931
- Folder 20. Personal correspondence - Anita Loos, ca. 1926
- Folder 21. Personal correspondence - Carlotta Monterey 1923-1926, including a marriage certificate, March 17, 1925
- Folder 22. Personal correspondence - letter to "Pete" (unidentified), 1908
- Folder 23. Correspondence - publishers, 1924-1930
- Folder 24. Photographs - Ralph Barton's house and studio in Paris. Barton designed this house about 1930 during his marriage to his last wife, Germaine Tailleferre.
- Folder 25. Description of CAMILLE, a film by Ralph Barton - 1926-1927, and a corresponding list of actors who are in the film. Includes photographs and short biographical sketches.
- Maybelle Klein said that it is believed that the chateau pictured in the last part of Ralph Barton's film is the Chateau des Maintenon, belonging to le Duc d'Ayen. She obtained the information from Germaine who is working on a biography of Barton.
- Folder 26. Business correspondence - letter to the Times Editor, 1924; Marketing counselor, 1930; American Eagle Aircraft Corp.
- Folder 27. Correspondence - Vanity Fair, 1925; Harper's Bazaar, International Magazine Co., 1924; New Yorker, ca. 1930
- Folder 28. Correspondence - Board of Education regarding Barton's daughter, 1919
- Folder 29. Personal correspondence - Ralph Barton, 1901-1931
- Folder 30. Correspondence - Catherine J. Barton (Ralph Barton's mother). Mostly letters of sympathy regarding Ralph Barton's death, 1931-1934
- Folder 31. Correspondence - Mrs. William McPherrin and Willis Birchman regarding Ralph Barton's personal papers, ca. 1938. Birchman wanted this material for a biography of contemporary artists, "Faces & Facts", that he was writing.
- Folder 32. The Player's Club membership announcement, 1920
- Folder 33. Clippings - Ralph Barton, 1929, 1935, 1968

- Folder 34. Clippings - mentioning the Barton family and regarding Kansas City history, 1913-1939
- Folder 35. Clippings - regarding Eugene O'Neill. O'Neill married Barton's third wife, Carlotta Monterey, 1935-1938
- Folder 36. Ralph Barton artwork, undated
- Folder 37. Illustration of a \$5 bill by Maxfield Parrish
- Folder 38. Correspondence - John Updike and Karl Klein, 7 August 1988-10 April 1989. Includes some correspondence by Ralph Barton to Roland Young
- Folder 39. Articles about Charlie Chaplin
- Folder 40. Correspondence - Klein and Bruce Kellner about a book on Barton, 1986-1990
- Folder 41. Correspondence - Kevin Brownlow, 1981-1988
- Folder 42. Title pages, book jackets (photocopies) - illustrated by or containing information about Barton, ca. 1922-1988
- Video VHS video of Barton films. The original film were donated to the American Film Institute, Library of Congress.

**Oversize:**

- x1. "Map of Paris" ("My Trip Abroad") See American Prints advertisement in Folder 9.