

**CLARENCE JOHN LAUGHLIN SCRAPBOOKS**

Mss. 5010

Inventory

Compiled by  
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	2.5 linear feet, 3 volumes
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	United States, France
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	circa 1870-1925, undated
<b>Languages</b>	English, French, some German
<b>Summary</b>	Clarence John Laughlin (1905-1985) is widely credited as the first surrealist photographer in the United States. He is best known for his images of the American South and the publication <i>Ghosts Along the Mississippi</i> . This collection includes scrapbooks collected by Laughlin featuring holiday greeting cards, advertising cards, travel cards, French printed labels, magazine clippings, and Victorian die cuts.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	None
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	Clarence John Laughlin Papers, Mss. 4538, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Citation</b>	Clarence John Laughlin Scrapbooks, Mss. 5010, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Locations</b>	M:27-28

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Clarence John Laughlin was born in 1905 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Widely credited as the first surrealist photographer in the United States, Laughlin is best known for his images of the American South and the publication *Ghosts Along the Mississippi*. Laughlin was a prolific New Orleans artist, writer, photographer, and book collector. He amassed an eclectic library of over 33,000 books intended to inform and enhance the creation of art. LSU acquired the Clarence John Laughlin Book Collection in 1985, with support from the Friends of the LSU Libraries. Laughlin died in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 2, 1985, and is buried in the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, France.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Clarence John Laughlin scrapbooks comprise scrapbooks collected by Laughlin. Items in this collection are not scrapbooks created by Clarence John Laughlin. The scrapbooks were once part of the Laughlin Book Collection. Unpublished scrapbooks are manuscripts, cataloged and processed separate from published books. Most of the scrapbooks are American with collage images and ephemera dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Scrapbooks feature visual materials. This includes fine examples of American and French printing and chromolithography. Materials feature a wide variety of printed Victorian die cuts. Items include examples of embossed paper, lace-paper design, and movable book elements.

Materials include two boxes of loose items and pages from several scrapbooks. The eighteen bound scrapbooks contain various printed materials arranged in unique collages. Materials include ephemera, holiday and greeting cards, travel cards and postcards, advertising cards, printed luxury labels, magazine clippings, fashion illustrations, and printed die cuts. Scrapbooks 7 and 17 feature French printing.

See the Container List for additional descriptions.

**[Content Warning: Advertisements and ephemera include imagery depicting racial stereotypes.]**

**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.**

Advertising cards.

Christmas cards.

Chromolithography.

Collages (visual works)

Fashion illustrations (layout features)

Magazine clippings.

New Year cards.

Printed ephemera.

Scrapbooks.

Valentines.

Commercial art--France.

Commercial art--United States.

Labels--France.

Prints, Victorian.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description of contents (with dates)</u>
M:27	1	--	This box contains loose items from several scrapbooks. Materials include images clipped from advertisements and greeting cards, Victorian die cuts. Items of interest include perforated paper embroidery samplers, and a 1894 photograph from Niagara Falls. Pages inscribed "Sadie Holbrook, from loving Aunt Sara, Christmas, 1881," include Christmas and New Year cards, advertising cards, and figurative die cuts. Materials include several sets of theme-based images. One set features color illustrations of the Seven Wonders of the World. (circa 1880-1900)
	2	--	This box contains loose items from several scrapbooks. Materials include advertising cards and greeting cards, Victorian die cuts, and clippings. Imagery of women, children, animals, flowers, and landscapes. Advertisements feature Clark's and J&P Coates threads, Ayer's sarsaparilla and hair vigor, Chocolat Poulain, and Soapine. Ephemera covers Christmas, New Year's, and Easter. (circa 1880-1920)
	3	--	<u>Scrapbook 1</u> : The cover is brown cloth with a border of roses and three small clippings of girls. The scrapbook has cloth pages with paper clippings featuring women, children, and animals. Items include children's nursery rhymes, poems, and stories clipped from magazines. Advertisements feature Cream of Wheat, Uneeda Biscuit, and Buster Brown. (circa 1900-1910)
		--	<u>Scrapbook 2</u> : The illustrated cover has a portrait of a blond girl surrounded by a gold embossed border. Contents include clippings, holiday cards, calling cards, and Victorian die cuts. Imagery features musical instruments, Punch and Judy, and Valentines. Die cuts also feature animals, women, children, and flowers. Advertising cards promote Hoyt's German Cologne, Ayer's sarsaparilla, and Soapine. Several advertisements feature companies selling pianos and sewing machines. (circa 1883-1900)
		--	<u>Scrapbook 3</u> : The cover is red with the word "Scraps" printed in black with "1873" written in pen. The scrapbook contains embossed Victorian die cuts arranged in unique compositions. Handmade movable book elements include a rotating volvelle in the front cover with scenes from Robinson Crusoe. Collage imagery includes cherubs, children, animals, flowers, and butterflies. Holiday themes include valentines, Christmas, and New Year's. (circa 1872-1874)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description of contents (with dates)</u>
M:27	4	--	<u>Scrapbook 4</u> : The cover is red with gold and black printed designs and two illustrations of children. The scrapbook contains collages of image clippings, advertising cards, and die cuts. Printed imagery includes flowers, animals, women, children, and landscapes. Advertising cards feature McLaughlin's XXX Coffee, Gail Borden Eagle Brand condensed milk, Clark's thread, and Carnrick's Soluble food. (circa 1880-1900)
		--	<u>Scrapbook 5</u> : The cover is black with the words "Scrap Book" printed in gold. It contains collages of die cuts, holiday cards and image clippings. Die-cut imagery includes flowers, animals, children, cherubs, and landscapes. This includes an illustration of George Washington. There are several valentines, including two 3-dimensional pop-up cards. Advertising cards feature Wheatlet breakfast food, Washburn's Gold Medal flour, Jell-O, Cream of Wheat, and a Heinz Sweet Pickles bookmark. (circa 1890-1925)
		--	<u>Scrapbook 6</u> : The cover is tan, and the album is spiral bound. The scrapbook contains fashion illustrations printed in the USA. Illustrations include fashions circa 1900s-1920s and Marie Antoinette-inspired costumes. (undated)
	5	--	<u>Scrapbook 7</u> : The cover is red with designs and "Album de Collections" printed in gold and black. The scrapbook includes examples of early 20 <sup>th</sup> century French commercial printing and chromolithography. There are several sets of theme-based advertising cards. Companies represented include chocolatiers Guérin-Boutron, Saintoin, Félix Potin, Cacao Van Houten, d'Aiguebelle, du Planteur, and Lombart-Maison Fondée. Advertising cards feature Liebig brand soups. Travel items cover the Exposition Universelle de Bruxelles in 1897, and postcards featuring Paris maps. Ephemera includes Victorian die cuts, image clippings, and a set of cards featuring Joan of Arc. Printers represented include Au Bon Marché and J. Minot. French is the primary language. (circa 1880-1910)
	6	--	<u>Scrapbook 8</u> : The cover is dark brown with embossed gold leaf designs featuring images of two children. The scrapbook contains collages of printed advertising cards, die cuts, and clippings. Most imagery is figurative, with examples of flora and fauna. Holiday cards include Christmas and New Year's. Trade cards promote businesses across Boston. This includes grocers, insurance, watchmakers, and dining room establishments. Advertising cards feature Mellin's food, Dr. Thomas' electric oil, and several Clark's thread ads featuring Jumbo the elephant. (circa 1880-1890)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description of contents (with dates)</u>
M:27	6	--	<u>Scrapbook 9</u> : The cover is black leather cover with a red spine. The scrapbook contains illustrated advertising cards, local trade cards, and image clippings. Sets of advertising cards promote several soap companies, including Jas. S. Kirk Soap Co. and Soapine. Food products featured include Vegetine, Niagra corn starch, and Wilson Packing Co. corned beef. Imagery features figurative portraits, domestic life, nature scenes, agriculture, animals and plant life. Holiday cards include Christmas, New Year's, and Easter. (circa 1870-1900)
M:28	7	--	<u>Scrapbook 11</u> : The cover is green with a floral border and "Scrap Book" printed in black and gold. The scrapbook contains collages incorporating holiday greeting cards, fashion illustrations, and Victorian die cuts. Imagery includes flowers, plants, people, birds, cats, dogs, elephants, and horses. Collage compositions are imaginative and well crafted. (circa 1880)
	8	--	<u>Scrapbook 10</u> : The cover is maroon with black and blue designs and "Cards" debossed in fanciful type. An inscription on the inside front cover reads: "Herbert W. Nelson, from Kate, Christmas 1881." The scrapbook contains printed birthday and holiday cards for Christmas, New Year's and Easter. Serial card sets include herb illustrations, and "Calendar of Seasons" printed by Marcus Ward Co. Advertisements include local business trade cards and illustration from Málaga, Spain. Random die cuts feature cats, dogs and birds. Imagery features children and nature scenes. (circa 1880-1881)
		--	<u>Scrapbook 12</u> : The cover is red, featuring an image of a mother and child answering a telephone with "Album" printed in gold and black. The scrapbook contains a variety of embossed die cuts of various sizes. Oversize die cuts include Valentines printed by International Art Publishing Co., and Christmas die cuts of Santa. Imagery features animals, flowers, plant life, butterflies, and a multitude of angles. Illustrated sets of interest feature country cottages and various ship types. (circa 1880-1905)
	9	--	<u>Scrapbook 13</u> : The cover is maroon with embossed gold illustrations of plants and birds and "Album" printed in blue. The scrapbook contains printed Victorian die cuts featuring flowers, angles, people and animals. Collaged items include Valentines, Christmas cards and religious imagery. (circa 1876-1900)



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M:28	9	--	<u>Scrapbook 14</u> : The cover is brown with an illustrated portrait of a woman. The scrapbook contains advertising cards for various businesses from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Illustrated cards promote services in New York, Providence, and Chicago. Businesses featured include millineries, jewelers, glassware, and the Household Sewing Machine Co. Advertising cards feature King's Flour, Jell-O, and Horlick's Malted Milk. Materials include fashion illustrations, and Victorian die cuts. Color lithographs feature women, children, animals, flowers, and landscapes. Holiday items include Christmas cards and valentines. (circa 1880-1905)
		-- v. 15	<u>Scrapbook 15</u> : The cover is green with floral designs with "Album" printed in gold and black. The scrapbook contains holiday cards featuring Christmas, New Year's and Easter greetings. Materials include Christian based cards with religious texts. Printers represented include Marcus Ward & Co., Campbell & Tudhope (Glasgow), and L. Prang & Co. (Boston). (circa 1880-1890)
		-- v. 16	<u>Scrapbook 16</u> : The cover is orange with "Scraps" printed in gold. The scrapbook contains die cuts and Christmas and New Year's greeting cards. Imagery features angles, children, animals, flowers. Die cuts of interest include a horse-drawn firetruck and streetcar. Unusual items feature Nicholas Nickleby's children, and a set of Salvation Army figures. Printers represented include Ernest Nister (London), Birn Brothers (London), and L. Prang (Boston). (circa 1880-1900)
		-- v. 17	<u>Scrapbook 17</u> : The cover is black with "Étiquettes de luxe - Pichot - 54 Rue de Clichy 54 - Paris - Collection déposée" printed in gold foil. This translates to luxury labels - Pichot - 54 Rue de Clichy 54 - Paris - Registered collection. Pichot was one of the most important Parisian printing works for labels and advertising. This is an official collection of Pichot labels compiled by Pichot printing works. The scrapbook dates from circa 1911-1919 and contains various liquor and food labels. Individual labels are die cut, chromolithographs printed circa 1875-1919. Alcohol labels include eau de vie, Armagnac, cognac, absinthe, rum, anisette, kirsch, kummel, vermouth, grenadine, Curaçoa, eau de noix, Goudron, and others. French is the primary language. (circa 1911-1919)
	9	--	<u>Scrapbook 18</u> : The cover is brown with "Jugend Album" written in black. Materials include clippings from the German arts magazine <i>Jugend</i> . The scrapbook contains reproductions of figurative

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<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Description of contents (with dates)</u></b>
			paintings. Artists represented include Paul Rieth (1871-1925), Ferdinand Staeger (1880-1976), and Rudolf Nissl (1870-1955). Limited captions are in German. (circa 1910-1913)