

Collection #  
P 0228

## HERMAN A. SCHERRER COLLECTION, 1931–1939, N.D.

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5 August 1991

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27 May 2008

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[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF	1 OVA box of photographs
COLLECTION:	1 OVC box of photographs
COLLECTION	1931–1939, n.d.
DATES:	
PROVENANCE:	Lucretia Ann Saunders, Indianapolis, Indiana
RESTRICTIONS:	Absolutely no photocopying of the photographs is permitted.
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
RIGHTS:	must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

## ALTERNATE

### FORMATS:

### RELATED

Adolph Scherrer (M 0245, BV 1722-3)

### HOLDINGS:

Anton Scherrer Papers (M 0346, BV 2371, BV 2372)

### ACCESSION

1981.0307

### NUMBER:

### NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Herman A. Scherrer, a lifetime resident of Indianapolis, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Scherrer on 24 May 1880. His father was the founder of the firm, Adolph Scherrer and Sons, Architects. His brother, Anton Scherrer was also an architect, and from 1936–40 the writer of The Indianapolis Times column, "Our Town," about the people and history of Indianapolis.

Herman A. Scherrer attended Manual Training High School, and graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After college he became a member of his father's firm, where he was closely associated with the building interests of the city. Notably, H. A. Scherrer was the architect of Cathedral High School, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and the Elks Lodge.

Following his retirement in 1929, H. A. Scherrer dedicated himself to the study and perfection of the bromoil transfer, a non-silver photographic process. He travelled and studied abroad in that interest, and became one of the world's leading bromoil artists, in demand as an exhibitor and judge in salons throughout the United States. He held medals and awards from salons in Japan, China, England, France, Madrid, Antwerp, Budapest, and Barcelona, as well as in the U.S. In 1935 he received the gold medal for his salon prints in the Johannesburg exhibition in South Africa. Scherrer also wrote articles for various photography magazines and periodicals.

H. A. Scherrer was a member of the Indianapolis Camera Club, the Athenaeum, the National Photographic Society of America, and the Elks Club. H. A. Scherrer was the second husband to Bess Buchanan Scherrer, the daughter of Joseph W. Buchanan, who for 50 years manufactured wagons and carriages in Indianapolis. Mrs. Scherrer was also the second cousin of Paul Buchanan, the former president of Flanner and Buchanan Mortuaries. Mr. and Mrs. Scherrer were married from 1937 until his death on 15 February 1941 in their home at the Marott Hotel, following one year of illness.

Additional Institutions with H.A. Scherrer Photographs:

Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, Illinois)

Ella Sharp Museum (Jackson, Michigan)

The Art Museum, Princeton University (Princeton, New Jersey)

Sources:

*The Indianapolis News*: 17 February 1941 (pt.1 p.5 c.4); 6 February 1963 (p.12 c.1)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists primarily of photographs made by Herman A. Scherrer from about 1931 to 1939. The images are largely scenes of European cities and some portraits. Most of the photographs were exhibited in competitions in the United States, Europe, and Canada.

The items were originally stored in a folio marked "Bess Scherrer," and were in a random order, with no noticeable divisions. The processors have arranged the materials into four series by material type and subject. Series 1: Various Photographs and Certificate contains most notably a formal portrait of Scherrer by Hillary G. Bailey, Scherrer conferring with other photographers, a cyanotype photograph, and a certificate; Series 2: Relief Line Block Portraits; Series 3: Bromoil Portraits; Series 4: Bromoil Photographs of Europe, Views, and Still Life.

Each photograph in the collection is listed with a title or description, and the size. The titles supplied by Scherrer are in italics, other photographs were found without titles and these are described with titles supplied by the processors in square brackets. Although all of the prints are in good condition, they are matted with acidic paper.

Several geographic locations are represented in the collection; Ascona, Brione, Hamburg, Heidelberg, and Meersburg.

Some of Scherrer's photographs retain exhibit labels from Cripplegate, Indianapolis, Leicester, London, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Poitiers, Portland, and Toronto.

Among the processes represented in the collection is the CYANOTYPE, which is a non-silver photographic process using blue dye and light-sensitive iron compound, and the RELIEF LINE BLOCK, which is either electrotyped or etched with photography as the method of creating the image. The most significant method used by Scherrer was the BROMOIL, which is a modification of the oil process invented in 1907 that relies on the principle that insoluble gelatin does not swell in water, and retains a greasy ink, while soluble gelatin swells in water, and repels the ink. BROMOIL became much more popular than oil, and the process was for a long time the favorite of many pictorialists. Its extreme flexibility made it one of the most popular CONTROL PROCESSES in photographic salons from 1907 to the 1950s. (See *Encyclopedia of Printing, Photographic, and Photomechanical Processes*, Volume 2, by Luis Nadeau.) The Anton Scherrer Papers (M346), acquired at the same time from the same source as the Scherrer photographs, have no relevance to these photographic materials other than the fact that Anton and Herman A. Scherrer were brothers.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Various photographs and certificate 1936, n.d.

#### CONTENTS

Portrait of Herman A. Scherrer  
Photographer: Hillary G. Bailey  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Certificate  
Subject: Certificate awarded to Hermann A. Scherrer at a photographic show in Frankfurt, Germany, 1936  
Size: 6 ½ x 10 inches  
Photographic Print  
Description: [Photography jury, Scherrer is seated at left]  
Size: 5 x 7 inches  
Photographic Postcard  
Description: [Photography jury looking at photographs for an exhibit, Scherrer is in group]  
Size: 3 ½ x 5 ½ inches  
Cyanotype photograph  
Description: [Entrance to a building]  
Size: 16 x 20 inches

#### CONTAINER

OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1  
  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1  
  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2  
  
OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

### Series 2: Relief Line Block Portraits, n.d.

#### CONTENTS

Title: [Man with pipe in chair]  
Title: [Man with pipe from side]  
Title: [Man with pipe from side]  
Sizes: 10 x 12 inches

#### CONTAINER

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

### Series 3: Bromoil Portraits, n.d.

#### CONTENTS

Title: [Smiling man]

#### CONTAINER

OVA Photographs:



Size: 10 x 12 inches  
Title: [Barn]  
Size: 14 x 17 inches  
Title: *The Elbe at Hamburg*  
Size: 14 x 17  
Title: *A Cluster of Stacks* [two copies]  
Size: 14 x 17 inches  
Title: *The Cement Mill*  
Size: 14 x 17 inches  
Title: *Mill Stacks*  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Title: *El Capitain*  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Title: [Ocean Shore]  
Size: 19 x 15 inches  
Title: [Piling and Line]  
Size: 19 x 15 inches  
Title: *San Luis Rey*  
Size: 12 ½ x 17 inches  
Title: *Sunset*  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Exhibit: 4<sup>th</sup> San Antonio Salon  
Title: *Arcade, Ascona* [2 copies]  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Exhibitions: Leicester and Leicestershire, 1932;  
Philadelphia International Salon, 1932  
Title: *At Noon Time*  
Size: 14 x 17 inches  
Title: *The Belfry*  
Size: 18 x 14 inches  
Exhibition: Pittsburgh Salon, 1933  
Title: [Boathouse]  
Size: 14 x 17 inches  
Title: *Dusk*  
Size: 20 x 16 inches  
Exhibition: New York Salon, 1939  
Title: *Elbe at Hamburg*  
Size: 14 x 17 inches  
Exhibition: Preston Scientific Society, 1936  
Title: *Evening on Lago Maggiore*  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Exhibitions: Poitiers 1931; Toronto 1932; Leicester  
and Leicestershire 1933  
Title: [Fishermen]  
Size: 14 x 18 inches  
Title: *From Market*  
Size: 20 x 16 inches  
Title: *In the Alps*  
Size: 18 x 14 inches  
Exhibition: Portland Society of Art, 1933  
Title: *Plönlein*  
Size: 16 x 20 inches  
Exhibition: Photographic Society of Philadelphia,

Box 1, Folder 14  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 5  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 8  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 6  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 7  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 8  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 9  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 10  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 11  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 12  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 13  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 14  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 15  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 16  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 17  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 18  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 19  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 20  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 21  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 22  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 23  
  
OVC Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 24

1934	
Title: <i>The Prison of Chillion</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 20 x 16 inches	Box 1, Folder 25
Title: <i>St. George Fountain, Rothenburg</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 14 x 9 inches	Box 1, Folder 26
Title: [Storefront]	OVC Photographs:
Size: 17 x 14 inches	Box 1, Folder 27
Title: <i>Street Intersection</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 14 x 17 inches	Box 1, Folder 28
Title: <i>Spirit of 1932</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 20 x 16 inches	Box 1, Folder 29
Title: <i>Washday</i>	OVA Photographs:
Size: 11 x 14 inches	Box 1, Folder 15
Title: <i>Washday</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 14 x 17 inches	Box 1, Folder 30
Title: <i>Carboy</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 16 x 20 inches	Box 1, Folder 31
Exhibition: North American, 1934	
Title: <i>Gear Transmission</i>	OVC Photographs:
Size: 16 x 20 inches	Box 1, Folder 32

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0228).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.