Richard E Lang oral history interview, 1981

Overview of the Collection

- **Creator**: Lang, Richard E., 1906-1982
- **Title**: Richard E Lang oral history interview
- **Dates**: 1981 (inclusive)
- **Quantity**: 4 sound cassettes (ca. 3.5 hours); transcript: 70 pages
- **Collection Number**: 3214 (Accession No. 3214-001)
- **Summary**: Tape-recorded interviews from 1981 with Richard E. Lang, a Jewish community member in Seattle.
- **Repository**: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections
  Special Collections
  University of Washington Libraries
  Box 352900
  Seattle, WA
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  Telephone: 206-543-1929
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- **Access Restrictions**: Open to all users.
- **Languages**: English

Content Description


Mr. Lang tells of the beginnings of the family business in Weaverville, CA, in 1852 by his grandfather Max Lang, an immigrant from southwestern Germany. His father, Julius, came to Seattle during the Alaska-Yukon gold rush years and settled permanently in 1902 as president of the National Grocery Company, a wholesale distribution firm serving Alaska and Washington states.

Mr. Lang talks about the social life of the German-Jewish families of Seattle. He discusses his own Jewish education at Temple De Hirsch, his friendship and differences with Rabbi Samuel Koch, and his friendship with Rabbi Jonah Wise. Mr. Lang goes into little detail on his decision to resign from Temple De Hirsch in 1944 and his break with the Jewish community, only hinting at his reasons.

Finally, Mr. Lang briefly outlines his business career and his activities in art collecting.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Listen to the audio recording and view the transcript of this interview on the Libraries Digital Collections site.

Restrictions on Use
Informant's/creator's rights dedicated to the public. May be used for research, instruction, publication or similar purposes.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Donated by Richard E. Lang, 11/20/1981.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Art--Collectors and collecting--Washington (State)--Seattle
Businessmen--Washington (State)--Seattle--Interviews
German American families--Washington (State)--Seattle
Immigrants--Washington (State)--Seattle
Jewish families--Washington (State)--Seattle
Jews--Washington (State)--Seattle--Interviews

Personal Names:
Eckstein, Nathan, 1873-1945
Koch, Samuel, 1874-1944
Lang, Grace Elsinger
Lang, Julius C., b. 1872
Lang, Max
Lang, Richard, 1906-1982--Archives
Shemanski, Alfred, 1874 or 5-1966
Wise, Jonah Bondi, 1881-1959

Corporate Names:
National Grocery Company (Seattle, Wash.)
Schwabacher Bros. & Company (Seattle, Wash.)
Seattle Fur Exchange
Temple de Hirsch (Seattle, Wash.)

Other Creators:
Personal Names:
Droker, Howard
(creator)

Corporate Names:
Washington State Jewish Archives (University of Washington)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Richard E Lang oral history interview, 1981
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv03906