

Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA



Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA Department of Special Collections (established 1946)

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		Decorative book cover from the Exhibit Collection of Near Eastern Manuscripts.		Woolf, Virginia. <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> with author's annotations.					
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The next slide represents the integration of our special collections libraries, University Archives, and Center for Oral History Research, currently under way. Thinking about MPLP becomes important as we begin to plan for centralized processing.

UCLA Library Special Collections
Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA

(an integrated special collections, archives and oral history program beginning in 2010)

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		<i>Aristotle's Master-Piece; or, The Secrets of Generation Displayed In All the Parts Thereof, 1695, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library</i>	<i>Euclid, Elements of Geometrie, 1570, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library</i>		

Brandon Barton, processing and describing Union Oil Company Records
CLIR Mellon Hidden Collections initiative, 2010



Over the past several years, the archival community has experienced a changed landscape of processing assumptions marked by two important events:

(2003) ARL Conference on Hidden Collections, Library of Congress.

Inspired UCLA Library Special Collection's Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT)

(2005) Greene, Mark A.; Dennis Meissner "More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing." *American Archivist* 68: 208–263.

By encouraging the use of MPLP, this CLIR initiative is allowing us to

Break the mould; consider quicker, more efficient ways of getting more material processed and accessible.

Test our assumption that the benefits of making primary source collections available for research will outweigh what we have seen in the past as the “cost” of providing less detailed description, and even less physical organization, than had been our usual standard.

By encouraging the use of MPLP, this CLIR initiative is allowing us to

Envision new ways of providing access to these and other related resources—digital content, oral histories, for instance—in a way that is useful and readily accessible to scholars and educators.

By encouraging the use of MPLP, this CLIR initiative is allowing us to

CLIR is encouraging us further, through its scholarly engagement initiative, to work with our constituents to find useful ways of delivering our resources and to engage students and scholars with our collections utilizing outreach and access tools that we already have at hand, or that we might readily produce.

Synthesis of MPLP observations through CLIR grant opportunities

- MPLP break-out session at the CLIR symposium in the Spring – Cheryl Oestreicher, Auburn Avenue Library, Atlanta.
- MPLP workshop at UCLA – Jennifer Meehan, Yale.
- Brandon Barton, UCLA Library SC - processing Unocal, Pinal Dome, Richard Lillard papers.

Be as simple as possible when organizing.

Keep processing as simple as possible, but provide good access points for people to find material.

“I’m a researcher too, so I try to approach it as if I were researching this collection, what kind of description would be helpful to me.”

~ Cheryl Oestreicher, Auburn Avenue Library, Atlanta.

Providing more detailed series and subseries descriptions is an effective way to compensate for less detailed folder-level description.

Photographs are different, more challenging.

(though “thinking MPLP” opens possibilities, such as providing access to groups of photographs described at the series, subseries, or folder level.)

Keep in mind processing can be an iterative procedure (if needed, one can go back and describe or process all or parts of a collection at a more granular level to facilitate more effective discovery and use.)

What needs to be monitored as we implement MPLP

Impact on public services (reading room use and duplication requests), especially with physically dispersed materials and materials in cartons.

Control of legal, privacy and rights issues.

Researchers' ability to work with less granular description.

*Formerly “hidden” collections now open for research
at the UCLA Library Special Collections with support
of the Council on Library and Information Resources
(CLIR) and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation:*

*Union Oil Company of California (Unocal) records,
1884-2005*

Pinal Dome Oil Company records, 1893-1926

Richard G. Lillard papers, 1940-1988 (in process)

*Primary source material **formats** and potential research areas identified in Union Oil Company (Unocal) of California and Pinal Dome Oil Company records:*

- Photos, negatives, glass negatives
- Employee publications and house organs from the late 1800s to late 1990s
- Field and gauge reports
- Financial ledgers
- Correspondence and speeches by founders and CEO's
- Stock certificates
- Annual reports
- Memorabilia

*Primary source material formats and **potential research areas** identified in Union Oil Company (Unocal) of California and Pinal Dome Oil Company records:*

- Petrochemical engineering
- Environmental law (transcripts of law suits on the Santa Barbara oil spill)
- Southern California history: shaping of the physical, cultural and economic landscape
 - Oil drills, tankers, corporate buildings, gas stations
 - Popular culture (*see Santa Monica pier slides*)
 - Business culture

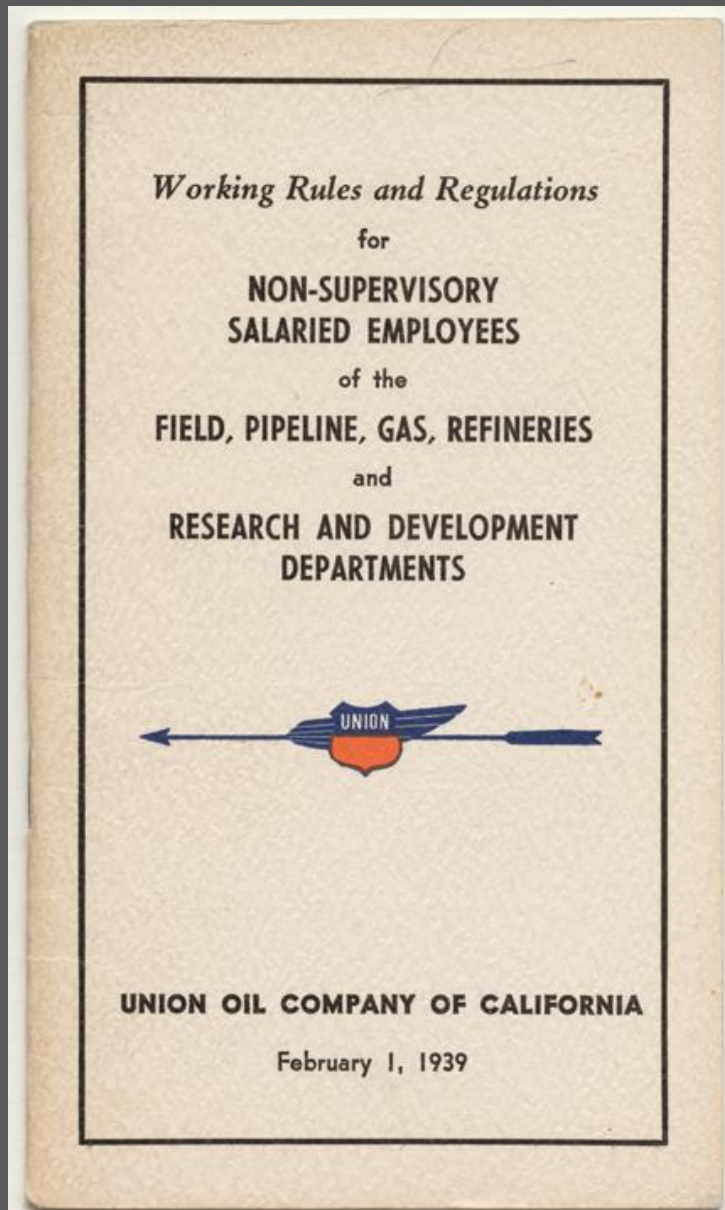
*Primary source material **formats** and **potential research areas** identified in Union Oil Company (Unocal) of California and Pinal Dome Oil Company records:*

Some examples of these materials follow...

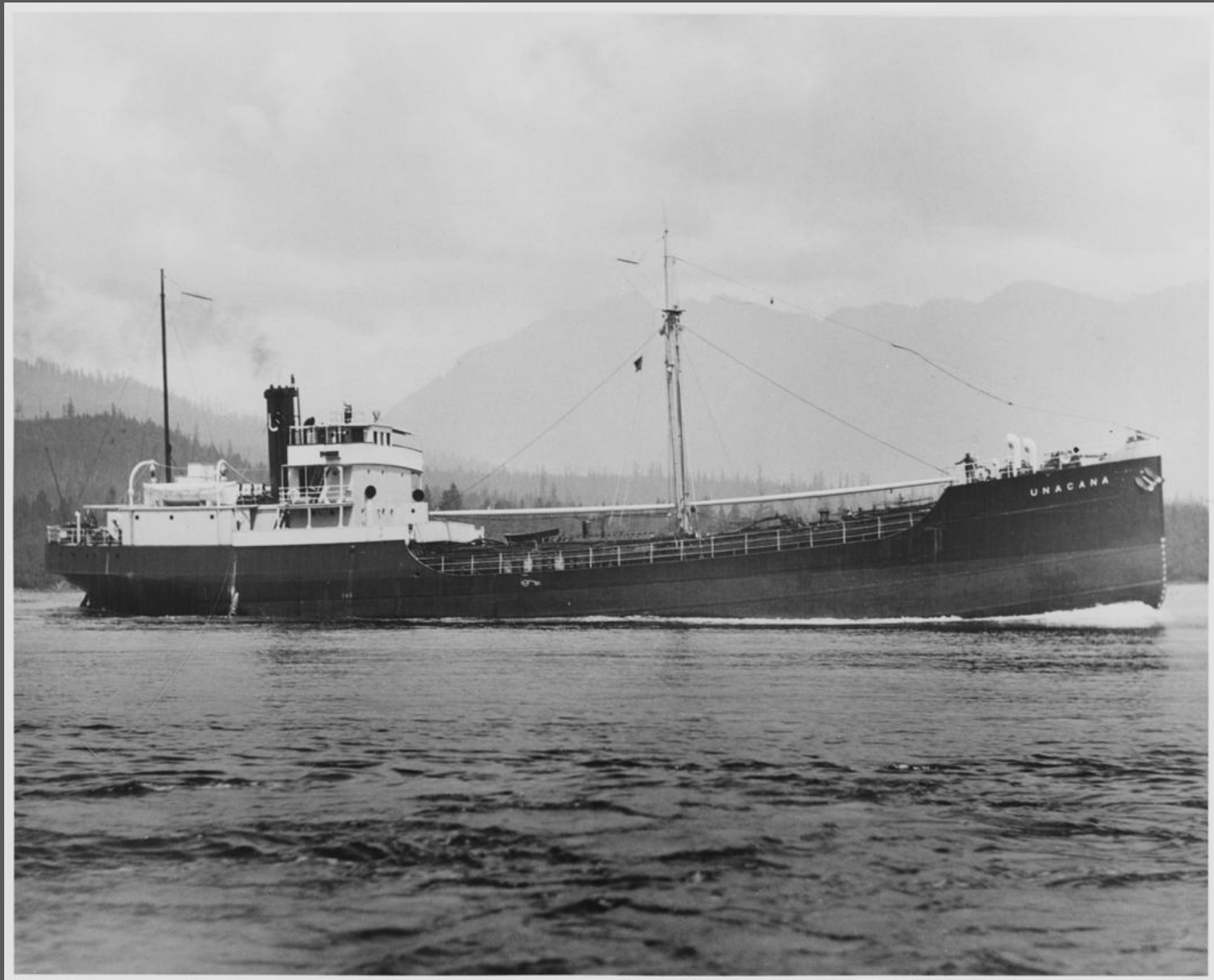
Stock certificate of Vesper Mining Co. signed by one of the original directors of Pinal Oil, James F. Goodwin. 1910.



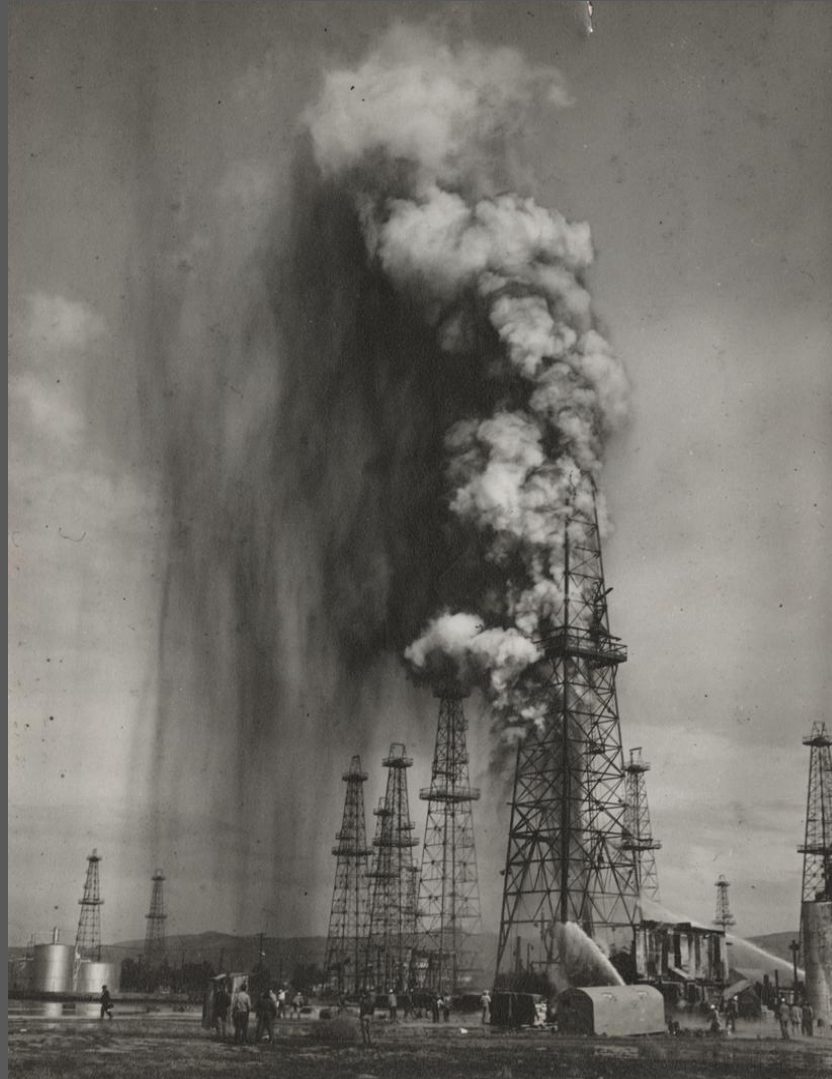
Working rules and regulations for Union Oil Co. 1939.



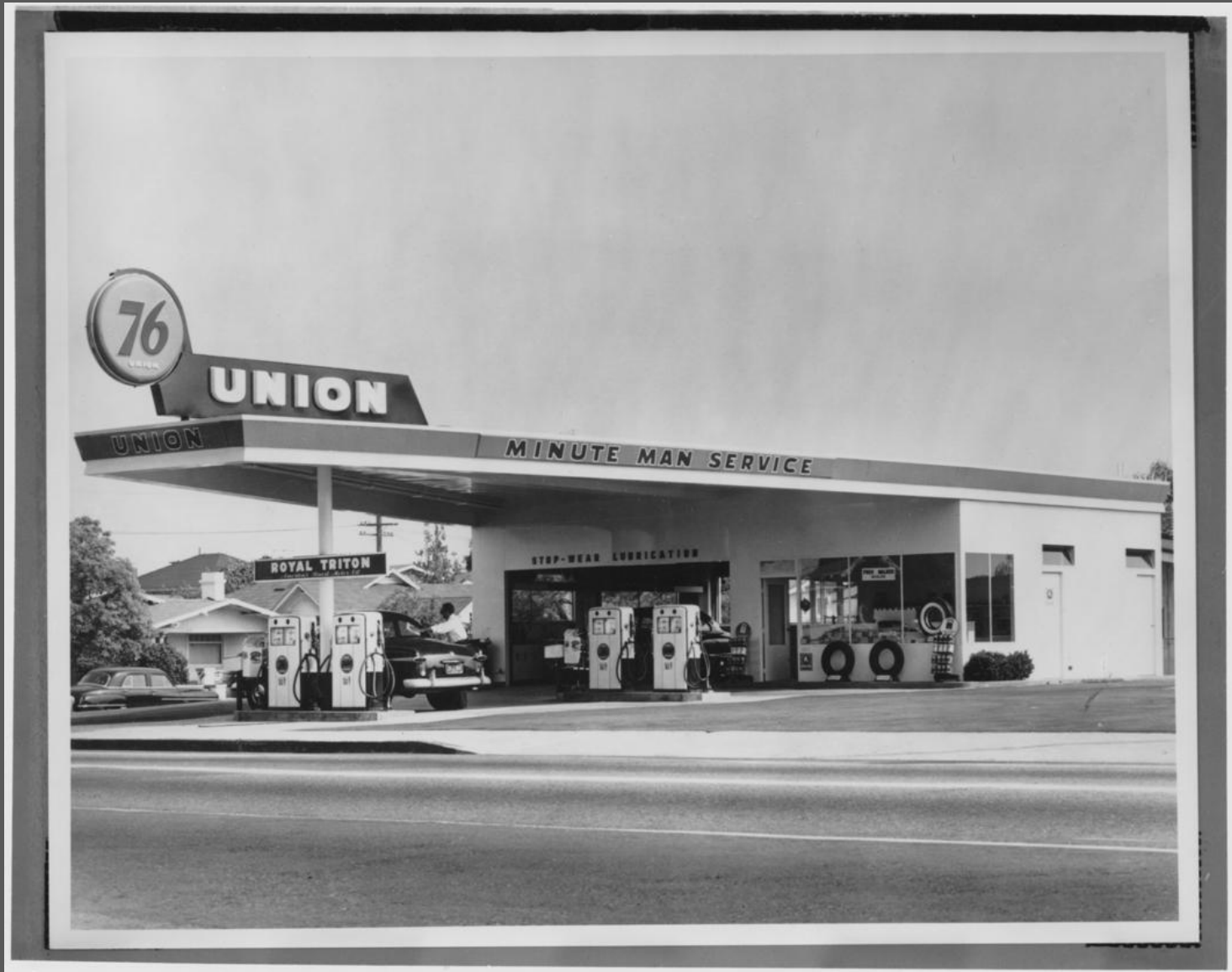
Union Oil tanker *Unacana*. Location unknown, ca. 1929.



Blowout of a gasser, billows of gas, sand , and oil - Alexander Bell No. 2 in the Santa Fe Springs field - resulted in little actual loss. Two minutes after the picture was taken, flames broke out at the bottom of the derrick and spread upward. 1949.



Union 76 service station. Undated.



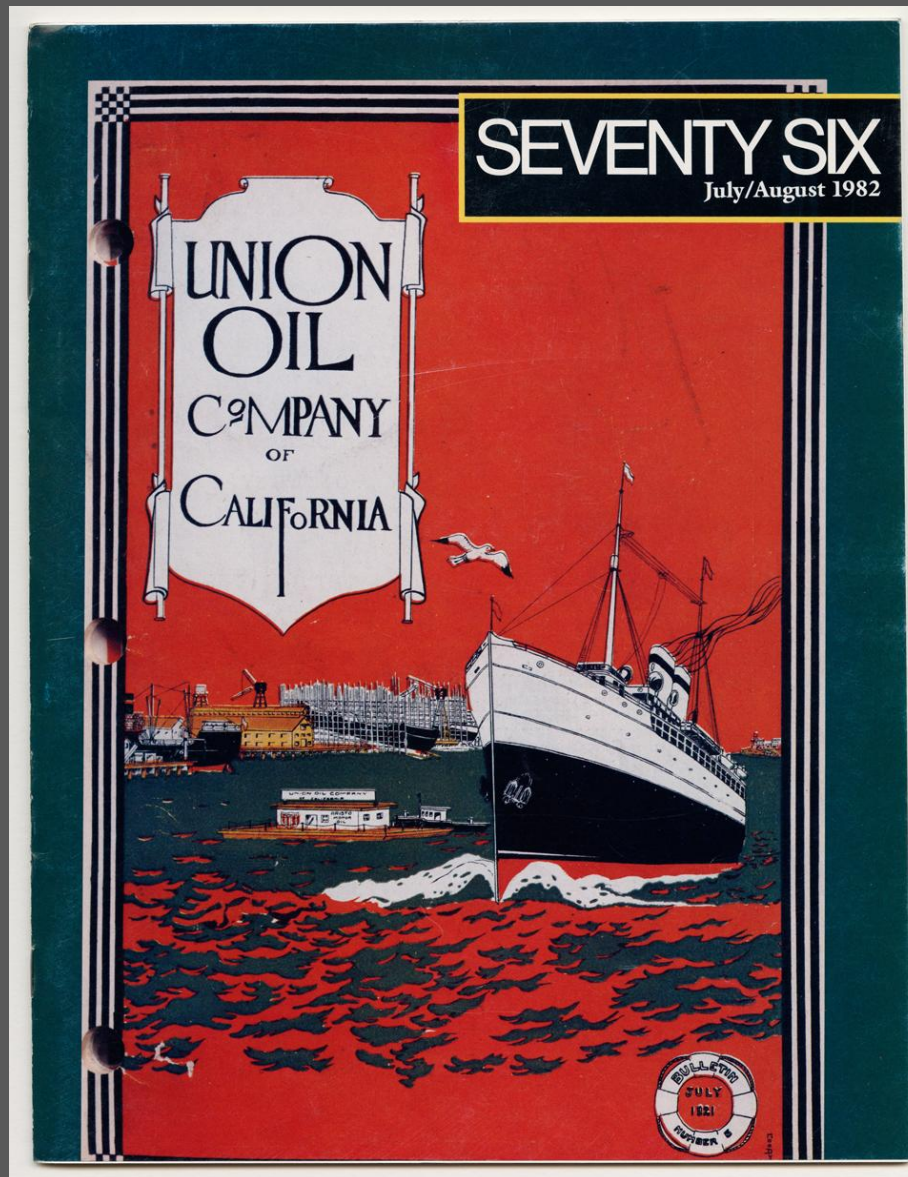
Clean up efforts after storm and oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, including sea sweep and care of affected marine life. 1969.



Union Oil Barge refueling U.S.S. Saratoga in Los Angeles Harbor. Undated.



A 1982 copy of Union Oil's employee publication, Seventy Six.



Union Oil Company's "76 Ocean Highway" ride at Pacific Ocean Park, Santa Monica, California. 1958.



"Turnstiles at the toll-road entrance are flanked by Union Oil gasoline pumps and a Company canopy. Attendants are decked out in Minute Man uniforms. '76' Sports Club books are handed out to the youngsters as souvenirs. Cars bearing the '76' numeral undoubtedly respond to the urgings of a million drivers via *The Finest* gasoline."
"Seventy Six" v.2:no.9 (1958).



The divided 76 Ocean Highway accommodates two lanes of real gasoline-powered sportscars for kids young and old.
"Seventy Six" v.2:no.9 (1958).



Richard G. Lillard papers, 1940-1988

Because we took an MPLP approach in processing Unocal and Pinal Dome records, we are *ahead of our processing schedule*, and will process a third collection within the CLIR Hidden Collections initiative timeframe: the papers of Richard Lillard, environmental activist in the Los Angeles region.

*Processing challenges associated with the Lillard papers--
121 boxes (60.5 linear ft.) 5 oversize boxes*

To be resolved applying lessons learned / MPLP approach

- *The collection is intellectually organized, but the materials within the series' are physically dispersed*

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- *Inadequate, non-standard finding aid descriptions (mostly "brief listing", not DACS compliant)*

Boxes 1-9	<i>Eden in jeopardy.</i> Note First draft[?] in Box 9.
Boxes 9 (cont'd)-12	<i>My urban wilderness.</i>
Boxes 13-15	Subject files.
Boxes 16-18	Talks, articles.
Boxes 19-20	Censorship. Scope and Content Note Journals, books published in wrappers.
Boxes 21-36	<i>Water in California and the west.</i>
Boxes 37-39	Water board.
Boxes 40-41	Subject files.
Boxes 42-43	Los Angeles history, Pan Pacific, Los Angeles as international city, Olympics.
Box 44	About nature (Hawaii). Scope and Content Note "For several years RGL wrote a column 'About nature' for <i>Westways</i> . This box contains some of his notes, ... including ... foreign travels."
Boxes 45-48	"About nature."
Boxes 49-51	Talks.
Boxes 52-56	Coan and Lillard, <i>America in fiction</i>. 6th edition.
Boxes 57-62	[Miscellaneous]. Scope and Content Note The great southwest, Hank and horace, photos, notes, articles, correspondence.
Boxes 63-68	<i>American life in autobiography.</i>

- *The collection is intellectually organized, but the materials within the series' are physically dispersed*
- *Inadequate, non-standard finding aid descriptions (mostly "brief listing", not DACS compliant)*
- *Range of physical condition and preservation rehousing*

Richard Lillard papers – sample, unprocessed, re-boxed, brief-listed



Richard Lillard papers – sample, unprocessed, re-boxed, brief-listed



Richard Lillard papers – sample, unprocessed, re-boxed, brief-listed



Concluding thoughts

MPLP is an intellectual framework and a set of choices, not a set of instructions.

Making thoughtful choices:

- cost-benefit analyses regarding levels of description and preservation re-housing,
- value in providing some useful vs. no or limited access
- ability to reduce processing backlog.

Each processing experience informs the next. We're learning as we go, and revisiting standards for rehousing and description, to take into account a balanced approach to archival preservation, description and access.

Thank you!

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