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Descriptive Summary

Identifier    ICU.SPCL.SAWYLER
Title          Wyler, Silvain and Arma. Collection
Date           1901-1989
Size           2.25 linear feet (2 boxes)
Repository     Special Collections Research Center
                University of Chicago Library
                1100 East 57th Street
                Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract       Silvain and Arma Wyler founded the Wyler Company in Chicago in
                1931, first importing bouillon cubes from Europe, then pioneering the
development of dehydrated food products. Among their major philanthropic
achievements was the Silvain and Arma Wyler Children’s Hospital, dedicated
at University of Chicago in 1966. This collection contains many photographs
of the Wylers, as well as smaller amounts of material documenting their
personal interests, social activities and philanthropic work.

Information on Use

Access
Open for research.
No restrictions.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Wyler, Silvain and Arma.
Collection [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Born in Switzerland in 1894, Silvain Wyler was educated in business administration and began
his career in textile manufacturing. Through family connections, he met Arma during her visit
from Chicago to Zurich. The two returned to Chicago and were married at the Drake Hotel.

Encouraged by Arma Wyler’s parents, the couple sought entrepreneurial opportunities in the
food processing industry. Silvain and Arma Wyler founded the Wyler Company in 1931,
beginning by importing bouillon products from Europe. By the 1940s, the company had begun
manufacturing its own products, and soon diversified into other areas of dehydrated food
processing. The company merged with Borden in 1961, though the Wylers continued to be involved with the company.

The Wylers were active philanthropists, and among their major projects was the Silvain and Arma Wyler Children's Hospital at University of Chicago. After Silvain Wyler died suddenly in 1963, Arma Wyler carried on with planning for the hospital, which was dedicated in 1966.

**Scope Note**
This collection documents some of the personal interests, social activities, and philanthropic work of Silvain and Arma Wyler. It includes dozens of photographs of the Wylers, including formal portraits, travel photographs taken aboard cruise ships, and informal snapshots. There are also many unidentified photographs, likely of friends and family members. The Wylers philanthropic support of the Wyler Children’s Hospital is represented in news clippings, press releases and ephemera; correspondence documenting the couple’s longtime support of the Art Institute of Chicago is also included. A variety of personal material, including two pieces of writing by Arma Wyler and items from Silvain Wyler’s memorial service, are also found.

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

University of Chicago. Seventy-Fifth Anniversary. Records

**Subject Headings**
- Wyler, Arma
- Wyler, Silvain
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Silvain and Arma Wyler Children’s Hospital
- Food industry and trade
- Philanthropists - United States

**INVENTORY**

Box 1
Folder 1
  Arma Wyler, family biographical writing, n.d.

Box 1
Folder 2
  Arma Wyler, "Love Comes to an Actress," carbon of typescript, n.d.

Box 1
Folder 3
  Arma Wyler, correspondence, 1944-1963
Folder 4
  Art Institute of Chicago, correspondence, 1953-1989
Box 1
Folder 5
  Dedication of Wyler Children’s Hospital, press releases and program, 1966
Box 1
Folder 6
  Silvain and Arma Wyler, photographs, ca. 1930s-1960s
Box 1
Folder 7
  R.M.S. Queen Mary, R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, S.S. America, photographs, 1949-ca. 1950s
Box 1
Folder 8
  Unidentified photographs, 1901-ca. 1960s
Box 1
Folder 9
  Life insurance certificate, brochure and memorial card, 1960s
Box 2
Folder 1
  Silvain Wyler, memorial service guest book and photographs of monument, 1963
Box 2
Folder 2
  Hilde and Walter, wedding album, 1947
Box 2
Folder 3
  Scrapbook fragments and newspapers, 1966-1975