

# Hans Unger, graphic designer and mosaic artist: papers, 1939 - 1977

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## Introduction and summary description

**Creator:** Unger, Hans  
**Reference:** AAD/1978/1 : AAD/2007/12  
**Extent:** 85 files

## Context

Hans Unger (1915 - 1975) was born in Prenzlau, Germany. He went to school in Berlin until 1933. In the mid-1930s he studied graphic art with the poster designer Jupp Wiertz in Berlin. In 1936 he emigrated to South Africa. When the Second World War broke out he enlisted in the South African army. He was captured in North Africa by the Italian army but managed to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp when Italy's war effort collapsed. He moved to London in 1948, working as a poster designer and graphic artist for a number of companies and organisations including London Transport and the Post Office. The Unger Mosaic Workshop was set up by Hans Unger with Eberhard Schulze ca. 1958 to design and produce mosaics and stained glass windows. His major works included the design of stained glass windows for St Columba's Church in Chester, Astley Church in Manchester and the Pallottine Convent Chapel in Rochdale. He designed mural mosaics for Lewisham Town Hall, London; the Royal Free Hospital, London; Brasenose College, Oxford; and St Jude's Church, Wigan.

## Scope and content

Posters (ca. 1953 - 1977); glass negatives and photographs of graphic designs, mosaics and stained glass (1953 - 1977); graphic designs (1953 - 1977); press cuttings and articles concerning Hans Unger's work (1953 - 1977); publicity material (1960 - 1977); paintings (1939 - ca. 1961); scrapbook (1965 - 1970); correspondence and publicity material for the Hans Unger Commemorative Exhibition, Reed House, Piccadilly, London, May 1977 (1975 - 1977); cards and packaging designs (undated); dust jackets (undated); prints (ca. 1960s); personal belongings (1955).

## Provenance

Given by Peter Comberti, Trustees of the Hans Unger archive, 1979, AAD/1978/1.

Given by Sebastian Comberti, 2007, AAD/2007/12.

## Access

This archive is available for consultation in the V&A Archive and Library Study Room, which is located at Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, Olympia, London, W14 0QX. The Study Room is open Tuesday to Friday between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm, by appointment only. To request an appointment please email [archive@vam.ac.uk](mailto:archive@vam.ac.uk) or telephone 020 7603 7493. Access to some files may be restricted; these are identified individually within the catalogue.

## Related Material

### Archive and manuscript sources

AAD/1994/4 - Council for the Care of Churches, Church of England General Synod advisory body: records, 1915 - 1972.

The Council for the Care of Churches acquired trade literature from associations, companies and individuals who provided products and services to churches.

The V&A Prints, Drawings and Paintings department hold several of Hans Unger's posters covering the period ca. 1952 - 1975.

The V&A National Art Library hold an information file on Hans Unger.

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## Detailed catalogue

### Scrapbook, cuttings, extracts, book jackets, and magazine covers, 1953 - 1977

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/1 to 6

**Extent:** 6 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1978/1/1	Scrapbook 1 volume Contains press cuttings, printed photographs and printed mosaics of Unger and his assistant Eberhard Schulze.	1965 - 1970
AAD/1978/1/2	Periodicals and paper cuttings 2 folders Contains examples of Unger's graphic work. Includes the following publications: Design, Which and Studio.	1953 - 1977
AAD/1978/1/3	Paper cuttings 1 folder	1956 - 1977
AAD/1978/1/4	Extracts from <i>Uganda; some impressions of a recent trip</i> , by Hans Unger 1 folder Includes photographs and artwork, 11 pp.	1961
AAD/1978/1/5	Book jackets designed by Hans Unger for Penguin Books, Collins Harvill and Studio Magazine 9 items	ca. 1940s - ca. 1950s

AAD/1978/1/6      *Star Paper*      1965  
2 items  
Publication's book jacket was designed by Unger and contains  
article on Unger's Mosaics on page 4.

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## **Papers concerning the commemorative Hans Unger exhibition held at Reed House, Piccadilly, 4 May - 26 May 1977, 1975 - 1977**

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/7 to 12 : AAD/2007/12/1 to 2

**Extent:** 8 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/7	Correspondence, preliminary notes and printed material 2 folders	1975 - 1977
AAD/1978/1/8	Poster for the exhibition 1 item	ca. 1977
AAD/1978/1/9	Catalogue for the exhibition 3 items	ca. 1977
AAD/2007/12/1	Catalogue for the exhibition 1 item  Different images are used in this catalogue from those in AAD/1978/1/9.	1977
AAD/1978/1/10	Plan of the exhibition layout 1 item	ca. 1977
AAD/1978/1/11	Papers relating to the exhibition 6 items  Contains private view card, press review, staff memo and draft introduction for the catalogue.	1977
AAD/1978/1/12	Exhibition visitors book 1 volume, 158 pp.	1977
AAD/2007/12/2	Photographs of the exhibition 1 album	1977

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## **Hans Unger's graphic design, ca. 1956 - ca. 1970**

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/13 to 14

**Extent:** 2 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/13	Examples of graphic work 33 items  Contains: press cuttings, prints, leaflets, brochures and posters.	ca. 1956 - ca. 1970
AAD/1978/1/14	Designs for London Transport 5 items	1956 - 1958

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## Posters, ca. 1950s - 1977

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/15 to 80

**Extent:** 80 items

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/15	Poster, designed for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government 1 item Part of the Keep Britain Tidy series.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/16 to 39	Posters produced for the General Post Office 24 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

### Contains the following documents:

Post early  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/16  
Poster advertising Christmas postage dates and prices. 1952

See the 'Speed your Mail' exhibition  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/17 ca. 1959

Post Early  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/18  
Poster advertising Christmas postage and delivery dates. 1964

Pack your parcel carefully  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/19  
Poster advising how to correctly pack parcels. 1950

Post early  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/20  
Poster advertising Christmas postage dates. 1958

Post early  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/21  
Poster advertising Christmas postage dates. 1959

Post early  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/22  
Poster advertising Christmas postage dates. 1967

Post office guide to all charges and services  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/23 July 1957

Post early  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/24  
Poster advertising Christmas postage dates. 1962

Stamp books 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/25 Poster advising to buy stamps in bulk to save time.	1962
Post Christmas cards by 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/26 Poster advertising Christmas postage dates.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
Stamp books 2 items, ref: AAD/1978/1/27 Posters advising to buy stamps in bulk to save time. Same posters but in a larger size as AAD/1978/1/25.	1962
Post Early 3 items, ref: AAD/1978/1/28 Contains two post early poster advertising Christmas postage dates and one travel shop post early posters. Same poster design as AAD/1978/1/24.	1962
Post early 3 items, ref: AAD/1978/1/29 Contains one post early poster advertising Christmas postage dates and two travel shop post early posters.	1959
Travel shop post early 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/30	1958
Pack your parcels carefully 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/31 Poster advising how to correctly pack parcels.	1960
Post by 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/32 Poster advertising Christmas postage and delivery dates. Same poster but in a larger size (landscape) as AAD/1978/1/22.	1967
Pack your parcels carefully 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/33	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
Post Early 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/34 Poster advertising Christmas postage and delivery dates. Same poster but in a larger size (landscape) as AAD/1978/1/18.	1964
Don't annoy your friends abroad by under stamping - 4d minimum foreign letter postage 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/35	1954

	<b>Post by</b> 2 items, ref: AAD/1978/1/36 Poster advertising Christmas postage and delivery dates. Contains 2 posters which have the same content but are different sizes.	ca. 1966
	<b>Pack your parcels carefully</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/37 Poster advising how to correctly pack parcels.	1961
	<b>Post Early</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/38 Poster advertising Christmas postage and delivery dates. Same poster but in a larger size (portrait) as AAD/1978/1/18.	1964
	<b>Pack your parcels carefully</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/39 Poster advising how to correctly pack parcels.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/40	Poster for British Petroleum 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/41	Poster for Sasol 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/42 to 45	Posters for British Rail 4 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

**Contains the following documents:**

	<b>Starlight special</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/42 Poster advertising 85/- return including reserved seats from Glasgow/Edinburgh to London.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	<b>The Continent via Harwich</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/43 Poster advertising day and night services.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	<b>Travel in rail comfort</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/44 Poster advertising the benefits of rail travel.	ca. 1950s
	<b>Go mid week by train</b> 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/45 Poster advertising cheaper fares available mid week.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

AAD/1978/1/46 to 47 Posters for the East Midlands Gas 2 items ca. 1950s

**Contains the following documents:**

Hot water by Gas, at a farthing a gallon - it's child's play!  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/46  
Poster advertising the East Midlands Gas Board. ca. 1950s

Light your fire with a gas poker and take it easy!  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/47  
Poster advertising the East Midlands Gas Board. ca. 1950s

AAD/1978/1/48 Poster for KLM 1 item ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

AAD/1978/1/49 to 50 Posters for Safari airlines 2 items ca. 1950s

**Contains the following documents:**

Leisurely flying by Safari  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/49  
Poster advertising Safari airlines. ca. 1950s

Fly Viscount Safari  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/50  
Poster advertising flying Africa - UK at minimum fares. ca. 1950s

AAD/1978/1/51 to 52 Posters for Grant's Scotch Whisky 2 items ca. 1950s

**Contains the following documents:**

People like Grants Stand Fast Scotch Whisky  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/51 ca. 1950s

Grants Stand Fast Scotch Whisky  
1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/52 ca. 1950s

AAD/1978/1/53 to 67	Posters for the Danish Bacon Company 15 items Posters highlighting food hygiene.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	<b>Contains the following documents:</b>	
	A double danger - a single remedy: Cleanliness 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/53 Poster advertising food hygiene.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Personal cleanliness - the key to food hygiene 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/54	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	10 clean fingers, 2 safe hands 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/55	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	In the interests of Food Hygiene wash your hands often 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/56	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Summer is here... and now extra cleanliness please 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/57	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Keep food clean - Hygiene is in your hands 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/58	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Half clean is wholly dangerous 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/59	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Fresh as a daisy... with scrubbed hands & spotless overalls 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/60	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Fingernails in mourning are disease's warning 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/61	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Remember you're handling food, wash your hands often 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/62	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	A double danger - a single remedy: Cleanliness 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/63 Duplicate of AAD/1978/1/53.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Picture of Cleanliness, hair covered, hands washed, clothing clean 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/64	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s



	During the hot months - extra vigilance! 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/65	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Keep food clean - Hygiene is in your hands 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/66	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Remember you're handling food - wash your hands often 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/67	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/68	Poster for Ideal Home Exhibition 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/69	Posters for Unicef 2 items  Contains proof copy and final poster.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/70	Poster for the Observer 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/71 to 72	Posters for the Radio Times 2 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	<b>Contains the following documents:</b>	
	Who? What? When? Radio Times will tell you! 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/71  Design features a cowboy.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Who? What? When? Radio Times will tell you! 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/72  Design features a policeman.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/73	Record sleeve for Telefunken, mounted 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/74 to 75	Record sleeves for Decca 2 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	<b>Contains the following documents:</b>	
	Hindemith symphony Mathis des Maler 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/74	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
	Record sleeve for Honegger, Symphony No. 3 (‘Symphonie Liturgique’) 1 item, ref: AAD/1978/1/75	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/76	Poster for Styvestant cigarettes 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

AAD/1978/1/77	Greetings poster 1 item Annotated "with best wishes, Hans."	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/78	Print of "Motif 6" 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/79	Posters for Penguin books 2 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/80	Posters and proof for the Hans Unger commemorative exhibition 21 items	1977

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## Paintings by Hans Unger, 1939 - ca. 1961

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/81 to 87 : AAD/2007/12/3 to 5

**Extent:** 10 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1978/1/81	Working paintings for BEA poster	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/82	Painting (collage) for Penguin books mural, on board	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/83	Working painting for the window at St Stephens, Thornhill, acrylic on board 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/84	Painting, "The Church of England; an investigation by Paul Pervis", acrylic on board 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/85	Painting of a landscape, on board 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/86	Working painting of a Bison for the Bison Cement Company 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/87	Mounted print taken from the <i>Uganda</i> series 1 item	1961
AAD/2007/12/3	Artwork on board, Greek vase motif 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/2007/12/4	Coloured sketch annotated "Gruss Von Hans Unger, Cape Town, 1939" 1 item	1939
AAD/2007/12/5	Artwork for leaflet "Brasses and Brass" rubbings 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

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## Photographs of Hans Unger's graphic work, ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/88 to 94

**Extent:** 7 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1978/1/88	Photographs of posters produced for British Rail and London Transport 29 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/89	Photographs of work done for the General Post Office 19 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/90	Photographs of work done for BEA 5 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/91	Photographs of posters used in the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign and for the Ideal Home Exhibition 4 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/92	Photographs of work done for the <i>Radio Times</i> , <i>The Observer</i> , and <i>The Daily Herald</i> , and two record sleeves designed by Unger 34 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/93	Photographs of posters produced for the Danish Bacon Company, Grants whisky and cheese 10 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/94	Photographs of posters produced for African Airlines, Sasol, B.P., the Gas Board and other miscellaneous photographs 23 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

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## Cards and packaging designed by Unger, ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/95 to 96 : AAD/2007/12/6

**Extent:** 3 files

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1978/1/95	Collection of Greetings cards 15 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/2007/12/6	Christmas card designed by Hans Unger for Walter Brian Ltd 1 item Card depicts red star on purple and black background.	ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/96	Dinner menu designed for the Hilton Hotel and Christmas packaging designed for Gold Leaf Tobacco 2 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

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## Prints by Hans Unger, ca. 1960s

**Reference:** AAD/2007/12/7 to 8

**Extent:** 2 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/2007/12/7	Print by Hans Unger featuring a dove 1 item  Facsimile screen print produced by Walter Brian Ltd. London.	Dec 1962
AAD/2007/12/8	Print by Hans Unger featuring Ainkole cattle in western Uganda - from "Motif 6" 1 item	ca. 1960s

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## Material relating to mosaics produced by Hans Unger and Schulze, ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/97 to 102

**Extent:** 6 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/97	Photographs (prints and transparencies) of mosaics including work done for Penguin and ERF 134 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/98	Published material, illustrated, relating to Unger's mosaics 27 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/99	Photographs of mosaics produced for London Underground stations 4 items  The mosaics were produced for the following London Underground stations: Green Park, Seven Sisters, Blackhorse Road and Oxford Circus.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/100	Photographs and a leaflet relating to Lewisham Town Hall and the mosaics designed for the Hall by Unger 11 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/101	File of photographs and published material relating to the mosaics at St Jude's Church, Wigan 13 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/102	Photographs of ecclesiastical mosaics 12 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

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## **Published material and Unger's publicity folders, ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s**

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/103 to 107

**Extent:** 5 items

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/103	Catalogue for the Artist Craftsmen Exhibition held at the Camden Arts Centre 1 volume, 16 pp	1966
AAD/1978/1/104	Unger and Schulze publicity folder including illustrations of mosaics and stained glass	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/105	Unger and Schulze publicity folder	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/106	Publicity leaflet for Unger's graphic work	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/107	Papers relating to the Unger and Schulze Exhibition held at the Crafts Centre 1965 12 items Includes correspondence, catalogue and other papers.	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

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## **Material relating to stained glass produced by Hans Unger, ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s**

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/108

**Extent:** 1 file

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/108/1	Photographs and published material 15 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

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## **Photographs of Unger's mosaics, stained glass and graphic designs (prints and transparencies), ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s**

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/109 to 121

**Extent:** 13 files

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AAD/1978/1/109	Photographs of mosaics in St Jude's Church, Wigan 15 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/110	Photographs of the work at the Pallottine Convent, Rochdale 2 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/111	Photographs of the windows at St Columba Church, Upton-by-Chester 13 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/112	Photographs of work done for the Richie Dickson offices, Piccadilly 4 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

AAD/1978/1/113	Photographs of the work done at Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia 2 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/114	Photographs of stained glass crucifix 6 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/115	Miscellaneous photographs ca. 70 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/116	Miscellaneous transparencies, mounted 3 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/117	Glass negatives and colour transparencies of designs for <i>The Radio Times</i> and colour transparency of design for <i>The Observer</i> 8 items	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/118	Colour transparencies, mainly of Unger's work 1 folder and 5 cases of slides	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/119	Glass negative of St Columba, Upton-by-Chester 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/120	Glass negative of St Columba, Upton-by-Chester 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s
AAD/1978/1/121	Glass negative of St Columba, Upton-by-Chester 1 item	ca. 1950s - ca. 1960s

## Personal belongings of Hans Unger, 1955

**Reference:** AAD/1978/1/122

**Extent:** 1 file

Reference	Description	Dates
AAD/1978/1/122/1	Catalogue of memorial exhibition of Edward McKnight Kauffer 1 volume, 32 pp	1955