

Title: Dirks, Rudolph Collection

Reference Code: Mss-2167

Inclusive Dates: n.d.

Quantity: 0.2 cu. ft.

Location: RC7, Sh. 005

Abstract: Rudolph Dirks was an early and prominent comic strip artist, widely known for “The Katzenjammer Kids” and later “The Captain and the Kids.” He was born in Heide, Germany in February 1877. His family immigrated to Chicago when Rudolph was seven years old. He moved to New York and found work as an illustrator with William Randolph Hearst’s *New York Journal*. It was there he developed “The Katzenjammer Kids,” which first appeared in December 1897. Dirks left the *Journal* in 1912, and after a court battle, the newspaper retained rights to “The Katzenjammer Kids.” Dirks created a new strip called “Hans and Fritz.” The name was changed to “The Captain and the Kids” due to anti-German hysteria during World War I. Dirks continued the strip until he passed it on to his son around 1955. Rudolph passed away in 1968.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of a scrapbook of “Katzenjammer Kids” cartoons.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English