

**Collection #**  
**M 1281**  
**BV 5224**

**KINGAN & COMPANY**  
**COLLECTION, 1868–1966**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript boxes, 1 bound volume, 1 lantern slide box, 1 box of ink blotters, 1 OVA graphics box, 1 OVC graphics box, 1 OVC graphics folder, 1 photograph folder, 1 printed item, 1 framed lithograph

COLLECTION DATES: 1868–1966

PROVENANCE: Gift of Robert Kingan, July 2016

RESTRICTIONS: Lantern slides may be viewed only with the assistance of library staff.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 0067 (Indianapolis Belt Railroad & Stockyard Company Records). M 1024 (Caldwell VanRiper, Inc. Collection), Box 6: Folders 10–14, OMB 0130: Box 1, Folder 15. BV 5218 (White River Railroad Company Ledger). P 0490 (J.C. Allen & Son Collection).

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0174

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Kingan & Company traced its corporate lineage to Belfast, Ireland, in 1845, where the brothers Samuel, Thomas, and James Kingan established their first slaughterhouse. The Kingan brothers expanded their meat packing business to the United States in 1851. After their slaughterhouses in Brooklyn, New York, and Cincinnati, Ohio, burned, the brothers moved the business west to Indianapolis in 1862. According to the *Indianapolis Star* in 1914, Samuel Kingan declared "the good white hog from Johnson County, Indiana, was what first attracted our attention to [Indianapolis]."

By the company's centennial in 1945, the plant covered 27 acres at Maryland and Blackford Streets, employed 3,000 workers, and occupied both sides of the White River. Consolidation in the meat packing business resulted in Kingan's purchase by the Hygrade Food Products Corporation in 1952. Continued sharp competition in the field resulted in Hygrade's closure of the Kingan plant in 1966. A series of fires between 1967 and 1969 destroyed the vacant facility, and the grounds are now occupied by White River State Park.

### Sources:

"City's Largest Industry Founded in Old World." *Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce Activities* 39, no. 6 (1925): 7; 21. Accessed June 27, 2017.  
<http://www.digitalindy.org/cdm/ref/collection/icc/id/1090>

Donnelly, Cathleen F. "Kingan and Company." In *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Kingan and Company. *A Trip Through Kingan's*. n.p., n.d.

Sedwick, C.W. "History of the Indianapolis Live Stock Industry." *Indianapolis Star*, June 26, 1914. Accessed June 27, 2017. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/118679547/>

Taylor, Robert M. [et al.]. *Indiana: A New Historical Guide*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1992.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Kingan & Company Collection captures the significance of the company through a variety of manuscript, visual, printed, and graphic forms between 1868 and 1966. The collection is divided into five series according to physical types and formats, and then chronologically within each series.

Series 1 contains Kingan company procedures manuals, identified for the sake of organization as Product Instruction Books A through F, and then by several company-named manuals. Each instruction manual details a number of meat products and meat by-products and the information necessary to transform raw materials into a finished item. The Job Rates and Job Descriptions for Productions Gangs manuals preserve valuable data regarding how many workers were required to complete each task, how much they were paid, and the amount of time required for each task. Of interest are the higher wages paid to male employees, and gendered job classifications where only men or women were assigned to certain tasks. Names associated with the manuals are Earl J. Schwallie, an engineer, Harry F. Staub, a manager, and Edward Scheidenhelm, a company vice president.

Series 2 contains miscellaneous company records, including billheads, receipts, and a small amount of correspondence. A ledger attributed to Mary Jane (Kingan) Reid provides a great amount of detail into Kingan investments in stocks and bonds between 1868 and 1897.

Series 3 contains a wide variety of company advertising material from the 1880s to the 1960s. Ink blotters, trade cards, and magazine advertisements illustrates how Kingan spread the word about its products and encouraged their use, including a circa 1940 cardstock Kingan's Reliable Ham display designed by New York package designer Arthur S. Allen (<http://publications.newberry.org/digitalexhibitions/items/show/1198>. Accessed June 27, 2017).

Series 4 contains company publications, focusing mainly on cookbooks and pocket reference books distributed to customers.

Series 5 contains postcards featuring various Kingan subjects, photographs of a company baseball player, and glass lantern slides from 1938 that provide rare interior views of the plant showing workers performing tasks elaborated in the product manuals found in Series 1.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Company Procedures**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Product Instruction Book A: General Manufacturing Instructions and Casings (1 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 1
Product Instruction Book A: Hides, Time Limits, Lard, Lard Flakes (2 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 2
Product Instruction Book A: Seafoam and Kingex, King-Hi, Animal Feed, Inedible Rendering, Compost (3 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 3
Product Instruction Book B: Dried Beef, Tenderay Beef (1 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 4
Product Instruction Book B: Beef and Small Stock (2 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 5
Product Instruction Book B: Beef and Small Stock (3 of 3)	Box 1, Folder 6
Product Instruction Book C: Fresh Pork (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 7
Product Instruction Book C: Fresh Pork (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 8
Product Instruction Book D: Curing, Vinegar Pickled Products (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 9
Product Instruction Book D: Smoked Meats, Bacon Slice, Ham Cooking and Canning, Thawing for Cure (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 10
Product Instruction Book E: Fresh Sausage (1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 1
Product Instruction Book E: Fresh Sausage (2 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 2
Product Instruction Book E: Dry Sausage (3 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 3
Product Instruction Book F: Fresh Meat Packing (1 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 4
Product Instruction Book F: Canning (2 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 5
Product Instruction Book F: U-Freezer (3 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 6

Job Rates, Indianapolis Plant, 28 March 1955	Box 2, Folder 7
Job Descriptions for Production Gangs, 1952–1953 (1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 8
Job Descriptions for Production Gangs, 1952–1953 (2 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 9
Branch House Instructions, sections A–F, 28 May 1951 (1 of 4)	Box 2, Folder 10
Branch House Instructions, sections G–N, 28 May 1951 (2 of 4)	Box 2, Folder 11
Branch House Instructions, sections O–T, 28 May 1951 (3 of 4)	Box 3, Folder 1
Branch House Instructions, sections U–Z, 28 May 1951 (4 of 4)	Box 3, Folder 2

## **Series 2: Company Records**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Ledger of accounts for Mrs. Mary Jane Reid, administratrix, 1868–1897	BV 5224
Calculations to determine height and pitch, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 3
Samuel Kingan, record of accounts with Indianapolis, 1878–1891	Box 3, Folder 4
White River Railroad Company, mortgage to Samuel Kingan, 6 April 1889	Box 3, Folder 5
Kingan & Company, invoices, circa 1892–1916	Box 3, Folder 6
Samuel D. Davis & Co., notes on bond purchases, circa 1895	Box 3, Folder 7
Kingan & Company, memo regarding Mrs. Mary J. Reid's marriage settlement, 1902	Box 3, Folder 8
Kingan & Company, correspondence, 1906–1943	Box 3, Folder 9

Kingan Refrigerator Line, cancelled check, 14 January 1911	Box 3, Folder 10
Kingan & Company, envelopes with company logo and advertising, 1923–1938	Box 3, Folder 11
Sanborn fire insurance map, photocopy showing location of Kingan plant, circa 1966	OVC Graphics: Folder 1 of 1
<b>Series 3: Company Advertising</b>	
CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Kingan's Shopping Guide and Useful Information card, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 12
Kingan trade cards, circa 1880–1950 [7 trade cards]	Box 3, Folder 13
J.R. Robinson. <i>Picturesque Indianapolis</i> . Indianapolis: J.R. Robinson, 1889	General Collection: F534.I55 P54 1889 c.2
Kingan & Company's Price List, Indianapolis, Indiana, 23 January 1892	Box 3, Folder 14
Kingan & Company's Price List, Indianapolis, Indiana, 26 April 1898	Box 3, Folder 15
Kingan & Company's Price List, Indianapolis, Indiana, 28 February 1903	Box 3, Folder 16
Kingan advertising ink blotters, circa 1905–1925 [19 blotters]	Box 5
Wood picture frame embossed with the word "Kingan's". Three Kingan advertising ink blotters, circa 1905, are mounted and displayed in the frame	OVC Graphics: Box 1
Street Railways Advertising Company, advertising copy for Kingan Provision Company, Kingan's Crest Bacon, circa 1911	Box 3, Folder 17
Kingan & Company, advertising calendars, July–October 1916	Box 3, Folder 18
Kingan's Price List, Richmond, Virginia, 7 May 1917	Box 3, Folder 19
M.J.B. Coffee package with Kingan ham and bacon advertisement, circa 1920	Box 3, Folder 20

Kingan's Wholesale Price List, Richmond, Virginia, 10 March 1923	Box 3, Folder 21
International Trucks, "A Holiday Message to the Drivers of Trucks," features a Kingan & Co. delivery truck advertising Kingan's Reliable Hams and Bacon, clipped from <i>Colliers</i> , December, 1937	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1
Kingan's Reliable Ham, cardboard countertop advertisement, 1938	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2
Kingan's Reliable Tasti-Cooked Ham, cardboard advertising cutout, circa 1940	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 3
Tiny's Restaurant menu with Kingan's Ham advertisement, circa 1940	Box 3, Folder 22
Kingan's Pantry Foods, cardboard countertop advertisement, circa 1940	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 4
Kingan's Reliable Breakfast Bacon, cardboard advertising cutout, circa 1940	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 5
Kingan's Hamburger Patties, advertisement clipped from <i>Better Homes &amp; Gardens</i> , May, 1948	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 6
Kingan's Corned Beef Hash, advertisement clipped from <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i> , November, 1948	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 7
Kingan's Reliable Skinless Wieners, advertisement clipped from the <i>Indianapolis 500 Official Program</i> , 1949	Box 3, Folder 23
Kingan's Reliable Sausages, printer's proof for publication in the <i>Atlanta Journal and Constitution</i> , 26 and 27 October 1950	OVC Graphics: Folder 1 of 1
Kingan's New Skinless Wieners, advertisement clipped from <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i> , circa 1950	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 8
Kingan's Baseball Scorecard, featuring Tom Carnegie, WIRE radio, circa 1950	Box 3, Folder 24
Kingan's Reliable Skinless Wieners, <i>Weeny-Witch Party Book</i> , 1952	Box 3, Folder 25



Kingan & Company, Seafoam Vegetable Shortening, product labels, circa 1950	Box 3, Folder 26
Kingan meat inspection labels, circa 1960	Box 3, Folder 27
Kingan's paper crown, featuring advertisement for Hygrade's Original West Virginia Brand Ham, circa 1960	Box 3, Folder 28
Copper and wood printing blocks for Kingan's Reliable ham and wieners, circa 1950 [4 blocks]	Artifact Collection: 2016.0174
Hercules stamp and ink pad, for Kingan Division, Hygrade Food Products Corporation, circa 1960	Artifact Collection: 2016.0174
Kingan & Company, steel and celluloid pocket knives, advertising livestock buyers in Richmond, Va., Storm Lake, Iowa, and Indianapolis, Ind., circa 1940 [3 knives]	Artifact Collection: 2016.0174
Kingan & Company, Kingan's Reliable branded match book cover, steel and celluloid, circa 1930	Artifact Collection: 2016.0174
Kingan's Ham & Bacon, wood pencils advertising the company's 100th anniversary, 1945 [6 pencils]	Artifact Collection: 2016.0174

#### **Series 4: Company Publications**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
<i>Kingan's Reliable Meat Recipe Book</i> , n.d.	Box 3, Folder 29
<i>Kingan's Meat Recipe Book</i> , n.d.	Box 3, Folder 30
<i>Dinner Table Picnics</i> , n.d.	Box 3, Folder 31
<i>Souvenir of Indianapolis</i> , 1926	Box 3, Folder 32
<i>Useful Information</i> , 1927	Box 3, Folder 33
<i>Souvenir of Indianapolis</i> , 1927	Box 3, Folder 34
Pocket calendars, Kingan Provision Company, 1928, 1929, 1930	Box 3, Folder 35
<i>Noted Men and Women</i> , 1930	Box 3, Folder 36

<i>Seasonable Meat Recipes: Holiday Greetings from Kingan Provision Co., 1930</i>	Box 3, Folder 37
<i>"When do we Eat?" First Choose the Meat, 1937</i>	Box 4, Folder 1
<i>The Kingan Pilot, October, 1939</i>	Box 4, Folder 2
<i>"When do we Eat?" First Choose the Meat, 1939</i>	Box 4, Folder 3
<i>A Trip Through Kingan's, circa 1940</i>	Box 4, Folder 4
Kingan recipe pamphlets, n.d.–1941 [4 pamphlets]	Box 4, Folder 5
<i>Meat the Main Course, 1942</i>	Box 4, Folder 6
<i>Kingan's 100th Anniversary Meat Recipe Book, 1944</i>	Box 4, Folder 7
<i>Kingan's Reliable Meat Recipe Book, 1946</i>	Box 4, Folder 8
<i>Kingan Folks: A Magazine For and About Kingan Employees, August, 1952</i>	Box 4, Folder 9
<i>The 1953 Official Program: Indiana State Fair, Presented by Kingan &amp; Co.</i>	Box 4, Folder 10
<i>1956 Indiana State Fair, Official Program Compliments of Kingan's</i>	Box 4, Folder 11
<i>1957 Indiana State Fair, Official Program Compliments of Kingan's</i>	Box 4, Folder 12

## Series 5: Visual Materials

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Glass lantern slides of production processes at the Kingan plant in Indianapolis, 1938. Images depict workers packing products and operating machinery. The smokehouses are the only exterior view. Slides produced by the Kansas City Public Schools Department of Visual Instruction [8 lantern slides]	Lantern Slides: Box 1
Kingan & Company postcards, circa 1905–1950. Exterior views of the plant (one aerial), several views of the Kingan parade float and horse team, in addition to various promotional advertising cards [15 postcards]	Box 4, Folder 13

Fred Cato, baseball player for Kingan's Reliables, 1947

Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

"Hop" Howard, baseball player for Eagles Lodge 211, 1947

Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

"Kingan & Co."

Framed lithograph in the trompe l'oeil style showing a ham and side of bacon hanging on a wall and a Kingan's newspaper ad held to the wall by a knife. The ad mentions an "Old German Proverb" to promote the quality of Kingan pork products, based on newspaper ads that appeared in the 1891 *Indianapolis Journal*.

Framed  
Lithograph:  
Flat File 6-o