

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Newly Available and Processed Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

WHAT FOLLOWS ARE DESCRIPTIONS of some of the collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania that have either been acquired within the past year or more fully processed and are therefore more available and accessible to researchers. Full finding aids for these processed collections, and many others, can be found online at <http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=35>.

Recently Processed Collections

Presbyterian Ministers' Fund Records, 1718–1962, n.d. (bulk 1798–1899)

1 box, 42 volumes, 1 flat file
Collection 3101

Shortly after its establishment around 1716, the Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia created the “Fund for Pious Uses.” This charitable organization was intended to assist local Presbyterian ministers. In 1759, the organization became The Corporation for Relief of Poor and Distressed Presbyterian Ministers and of the Poor and Distressed Widows and Children of Presbyterian Ministers. In 1888, it became the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund (PMF), and it is recognized as the oldest life insurance company in America. PMF provided insurance policies to Protestant evangelical ministers and their families, and the corporation remained in existence for over two hundred years, until it was bought out in the early 1990s. This collection, which spans 225 years, contains cashbooks, day-books, journals, and ledgers. It also consists of sample policies, policy

receipts, a scrapbook, and a book of meeting minutes pertaining to the purchase of an organ for the Old Pine Street Church in Philadelphia. It includes four volumes that relate to the Methodist Ministers Relief Association and the Ministers Life Insurance Company of Boston, Massachusetts.

Daniel Parker Papers, ca. 1792–1848 (bulk 1802–1843)

26 boxes

Collection 466

Daniel Parker served as chief clerk of the United States War Department during the early 1800s. In 1814, the Senate nominated and appointed him to the office of adjutant and inspector general for the War Department, a position he held until he became paymaster general of the army in 1821. The Parker collection is comprised largely of War Department correspondence from the first half of the nineteenth century. It includes letters from Secretary of War William Eustis, Major General Andrew Jackson, Colonel Henry Leavenworth, and Major Sylvanus Thayer. The Parker Papers also contain incoming and outgoing correspondence from several presidents, including Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, and William Henry Harrison. Other correspondents are prominent military figures such as General Winfield Scott. Many of Jefferson's letters concern Native American tribes and their actions for or against American soldiers and settlers. There are several reports from Meriwether Lewis on his survey of Louisiana and the western territories. Other materials focus on war agitation, embargoes, and military preparedness, Aaron Burr as a conspirator and traitor, and raising the defenses of the port city of New Orleans. The collection contains numerous letters pertaining to the War of 1812, including information on battles, troop movements, military campaigns, and mobilization plans. Other miscellaneous documents concern Parker's personal correspondence with his brother, as well as various military papers, printed materials, and maps.

Society Print Collection, ca. 1800–ca. 1950

75 boxes, 167 flat files

Collection V89

The Society Print Collection is focused primarily on Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. It includes reproductions of prints, drawings, lithographs, etchings, woodcuts, and photographs, many of which have been clipped from newspapers, magazines, and calendars. It also contains postcards, greeting cards, invitations, and original watercolors, drawings, and photographs. The collection is arranged by image size (small, medium, and large), and it is further organized alphabetically according to subject within each size category. Subjects within the collection are quite varied and include everything from banks, insurance companies, museums, and libraries, to stadiums, churches, bridges, mills, schools, and amusement parks. Images under the heading “foreign views” show mostly landscapes, cityscapes, and landmarks from European nations such as Germany, Italy, and France; however, there are also views from countries like Cuba, Brazil, and Liberia. Those pictures under the “groups” heading depict groups of people in various civil, historical, and military situations. Another sizeable group of images are those categorized as “residences,” which show primarily the houses of famous Pennsylvanians, such as James Logan, Robert Morris, and various members of the Penn family. There are also several folders of images of famous ships, such as the *Alabama*, the *Constitution*, and the *Mayflower*. Under the heading “stores and factories,” images are arranged according to what was being sold or manufactured (e.g., chemical supplies, dry goods, glass, iron, marble, pianos). Those seeking images related to Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, or Abraham Lincoln will find them under the headings “Frankliniana,” “Washingtoniana,” and “Lincolniana.” Two other significant groups of images are listed under “Pennsylvania” and “United States,” and they depict views from across the state and most of the nation, respectively.

Sword Family Papers, 1751–ca. 1940 (bulk 1836–1845)

9 boxes

Collection 1878

The Swords, a merchant family from Philadelphia and New Castle, Delaware, participated in the China trade during the mid-nineteenth century. John Dorsey Sword traveled widely in the West Indies, South America, and China, and his wife, Mary Parry Sword, accompanied him to South America from 1837 to 1838 and to China from 1841 to 1845. While in China, she resided in Macao while he conducted business at Canton. Their papers, which date from 1836 to 1850, comprise the bulk of this collection. Their letters and journals focus on various aspects of the China trade, including their voyage to Canton, the Opium War of 1838, and the social life of westerners in Macao. John D. Sword's papers also include business correspondence with his business partner, John B. Trott. Mary's papers contain outgoing letters from Brazil, Chile, and China, letters to her husband in Canton, travel diaries from South America and China, and letters from her brother Thomas Parry on life in Philadelphia. The collection also consists of the papers of several other family members.

**Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers, 1769–1950
(bulk 1879–1950)**

39 boxes, 23 flat files, 29 volumes

Collection 867

Musician, inventor, lecturer, writer, and political activist Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt was born on September 8, 1871, in Beirut, Lebanon. Her mother, Sara (Tabet) Hallock, descended from an aristocratic Syrian family, and her father, Samuel Hallock, was a U.S. consul. Mary Elizabeth arrived in Philadelphia in 1882 at the age of eleven. She graduated from Philadelphia's Musical Academy in 1893, and in 1897 she went to Vienna to study piano with Theodore Leschetizky. She married Dr. Frank L. Greenewalt, physician-in-chief at Girard College, in 1898. Greenewalt was an accomplished pianist who was noted for her interpretation of Chopin. In the early 1900s, she began studying how graduated colored lighting could enhance the emotional expression of music. She obtained

eleven patents for an organ that projected a sequence of colored lighting arranged for specific musical programs. She believed that she created a new fine art with her combination of light and color as a single performance; she called it “Nourathar,” or essence of light. Greenewalt also lectured on music and served as a delegate to the National Woman’s Party, which was instrumental in winning woman suffrage. She died in 1950. This collection contains a diverse array of materials, including correspondence, which details the development and manufacture of Greenewalt’s invention, a photo album, an autobiography, a family history, copies of patents, blue prints and drawings, concert programs, scrapbooks, and a recording of Chopin that she made in 1920.

New Century Trust Records, ca. 1854–2004 (bulk 1882–2000)

103 boxes, 73 volumes, 3 flat files

Collection 3097

The New Century Trust was founded in 1893 as the incorporated body of The New Century Working Woman’s Guild. In 1895, the organization shortened its name to The New Century Guild and became a member of the Federation of Women’s Clubs of Pennsylvania. The trust oversaw and lent financial support to the guild’s activities for women in the workforce, and its programs included lectures and evening classes. The guild provided working women with low-cost meals, sleeping accommodations, and emergency financial assistance. It began publishing the *Journal of Women’s Work* in 1887. Written by and for guild members, the newspaper offered event calendars, advice columns, short stories, and poems. The guild eventually established its own library, gymnasium, and several internal committees on which members could serve. The collection includes board and committee meeting minutes, administrative files, membership materials and information cards, financial records, photographs, artifacts, clippings, and ephemera.

Helen C. Perkins Scrapbooks, 1875–1912 (bulk 1900–1912)

37 boxes
Collection V72

The Perkins collection is comprised of over eighty scrapbooks. Most of the books contain newspaper clippings, black-and-white prints, and photographs of various buildings and scenic views throughout Philadelphia and its neighborhoods and suburbs. Some of the images are accompanied by newspaper articles or Perkins's handwritten notations, and she frequently included a history of a location or building site and its occupants. She took many of the photographs herself and occasionally noted the conditions or occurrences on the street at the time they were shot. Other topics covered to a lesser degree include colonial families, statuary and centennial buildings, and public schools and scenes of New Jersey. The collection also includes a handwritten copy of "Souder's History of Chestnut Street," which was published in the *Sunday Dispatch* from April 1858 to October 1859.

Horace Trumbauer Collection, ca. 1898–ca. 1947

2 boxes, 112 flat files, 6 rolled items
Collection V36

Famed architect Horace Trumbauer was born in Philadelphia in 1868. He established his own firm in 1890 and focused initially on designing private residences. In 1894, he completed Gray Towers for William Welsh Harrison in Glenside, Pennsylvania. He subsequently designed Chelton House for George W. Elkins and Lynnewood Hall for P. A. B. Widener, both in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. Trumbauer also created various residences in New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. By the middle of his career, he turned his attention to commercial and public buildings. He is best known for designing, with architect Julian Abele, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and much of Duke University's campus in Durham, North Carolina. From the mid-1920s through the late 1930s, he designed Duke's West Campus in the gothic style and its East Campus in the Georgian style. He also designed buildings for Jefferson Medical College and Hahneman Medical College, parts of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and Widener Library at Harvard University. Trumbauer

died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1938 and Abele, the first black architecture graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and William O. Frank continued and finished Trumbauer's commissioned work under the name "Office of Horace Trumbauer." This collection is comprised of architectural drawings, blueprints, floor plans, elevations, and sections and details for dwellings, estates, and other buildings located in and around Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, Washington, DC, and Rhode Island. There are also some photographs, prints, and negatives. There are two boxes of manuscript material that primarily pertain to Duke University and include photographs, prints, printed materials, and floor plans.

Recently Acquired Collections (Currently Being Processed)

Joseph Smith Harris Correspondence, 1853–1906

2 volumes

Joseph Smith Harris (1836–1910) of Chester County and Philadelphia was a civil engineer, surveyor, and railroad administrator. In 1853, after attending Philadelphia's Central High School, he took a job as a topographer with the Easton and Water Gap Railroad (later the North Pennsylvania Railroad). He then worked for the U.S. Coast Survey from 1854 to 1864. In this capacity he assisted with the Northwest Boundary Survey, which established the U.S.-Canadian border along the forty-ninth parallel. He also participated in combat operations in Louisiana in 1862 during the Civil War. After 1864, he held positions with various railroad companies, rising to become president of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. In 1893, he became president of the bankrupt Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, and he led the company's successful reorganization into the new Reading Company; he resigned as company president eight years later. The collection consists of about 150 letters—both professional and personal in nature—to and from Harris. Many of the letters have been transcribed, and the collection includes biographical excerpts and a few scans of photographs and maps.

Mary A. Varallo Photographs and Memorabilia, ca. 1945–ca. 1968

1 box, ca. 25 framed items

Mary A. Varallo of Philadelphia served as a Democrat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1945 to 1960 and as a Philadelphia City Council member at large from 1960 to 1968. As a representative, she sponsored the Women's Equal Rights law of 1945, among many other bills, and rose to become minority whip and then majority whip for the Democratic caucus. She served as an alternate delegate to the 1956 Democratic National Convention and as a delegate to the 1960 and 1964 conventions. She sat on many boards and committees and received numerous awards and honors for her work related to women's rights, health care, the Roman Catholic Church, Italians and Italian Americans, and other issues. The collection includes photographs depicting Ms. Varallo at numerous public events (political, church, cultural, etc.) and with various local, state, and national public figures, including presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, among many others. Also included are several certificates and awards presented to Ms. Varallo and several typescripts and one clipping containing biographical information about her.

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