



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Andrew Carnegie letters

1868-1914

MssCol 4161

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013

Summary

Creator: Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919

Title: Andrew Carnegie letters

Date: 1868-1914

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Various gifts and purchases.

Abstract: Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist. The collection consists mainly of letters from Carnegie relating to his philanthropic endeavors, including his gift of five million dollars to fund the branch library system of the New York Public Library.

Preferred citation: Andrew Carnegie letters, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

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Creator History

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist. Born in Dunfermline, Scotland, he emigrated to the United States with his parents in 1848. He began his career as a telegrapher, and by the 1860s had investments in railroads, railroad sleeping cars, bridges and oil derricks. He built Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Company, which he sold to J.P. Morgan in 1901, creating the U.S. Steel Corporation. Carnegie devoted the remainder of his life to philanthropy, with special emphasis on local libraries, including the New York Public Library branch libraries. Institutions funded by Carnegie's endowments include Carnegie Hall, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Carnegie Institution for Science, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, Carnegie Hero Fund, and Carnegie Mellon University.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists mainly of letters from Carnegie relating to his philanthropic endeavors, including his gift of five million dollars to fund the branch library system of the New York Public Library. Recipients include John Shaw Billings, John D. Crimmins, and William Allen Butler. Letters to Carnegie relate to the management of funds for libraries in Brooklyn and Queens.

Key Terms

Occupations

Philanthropists

Names

Billings, John S. (John Shaw), 1838-1913

Butler, William Allen, 1825-1902

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919 -- Correspondence

Crimmins, John D. (John Daniel), 1844-1917

Brooklyn Public Library -- Endowments

New York Public Library -- Endowments

New York Public Library -- History