



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Informal Proceedings of the American Institute of the City of New York
1845-1860
MssCol 23098

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015.

Summary

Creator: Meigs, Henry, 1782-1861

Title: Informal Proceedings of the American Institute of the City of New York

Date: 1845-1860

Size: .3 linear feet (4 volumes)

Source: Purchased from Swann Galleries, 2014.

Abstract: Henry Meigs (1782-1861) was a New York lawyer, assemblyman, and congressman. He was the recording secretary of the American Institute of the City of New York for the Encouragement of Science and Invention. The Informal Proceedings of the American Institute consist of four volumes dating from 1845 to 1860. The proceedings sometimes function as Meigs' personal diary as well as a record of meetings. The volumes contain Meigs' comments on topics such as agriculture, new technology, developments in industrial production, current events in New York City, and American politics; they also contain personal recollections. Among the subjects of Meigs' entries are the exchange of agricultural specimens, outbreaks of cholera and yellow fever, the Crystal Palace at the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations, the dangers of steam power, and the likelihood of civil war. Each entry contains notes on the weather, at minimum. The volumes have minor annotations.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Informal Proceedings of the American Institute of the City of New York, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015.

Custodial History

These volumes were owned by novelist Bellamy Partridge, who included Henry Meigs as a character in his 1948 historical novel *The Big Freeze*.

Key Terms

Subjects

Agriculture -- United States
Industrial arts -- Societies, etc.
Industrial arts -- United States

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.) -- History -- 1775-1865
New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Proceedings

Names

American Institute of the City of New York

Container List

- v. 1 1845-1854
- v. 2 1854-1856
- v. 3 1856-1859
- v. 4 1859-1860