

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # *86 M 94

Location Annex C12-I-1/4 (R)

C12-J-4/6 (R)

Title Baldwin-McDowell Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1862-1917 Bulk dates 1889-1912

Date of receipt 1902

Received from Henry Baldwin
William Osborne McDowell

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 1 RC; 13 FB; 40 AB; 1 vol.; 1 pkg. 22 linear ft.

Condition fair. Letterbooks need wrappers, scrapbooks need treatment/rehousing

Restrictions n.a.

Description see attached sheet

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries
see attached sheet

Accessioned by MY

Date Jan. 1987

Biographical Sketch

Henry Baldwin (1832-1905) was a businessman of New York City and New Haven, Connecticut. He entered business at an early age and worked for various firms including the New York Exchange Company, the Gallatin Fire Insurance Company, and the stockbroking firm of Lawrence and Baldwin before opening his own office. The Haymarket Riot of 1886 revived Baldwin's interest in the long defunct Order of United Americans, an anti-Catholic, ultra-patriotic secret society which he had joined in 1850. He contacted its former members and representatives of other patriotic and fraternal organizations to encourage the formation of a new national association to defend America and its institutions against what he felt to be the threat of foreign influence within the U.S. and anti-American conspiracies abroad. He found sufficient support to organize three conferences: the Morton House Conference of American and Protestant Orders of the U.S. in 1889; the Philadelphia Conference of Patriotic Orders of the U.S. in 1890; and the Chicago Conference of the National Council of Patriotic Organizations in 1891. Declining to accept the chairmanship of the National Council, Baldwin was elected "Custodian of American History" and charged with creating a "Library Americana." The library's mission was to collect and verify every fact relating to American history and genealogy. Baldwin, with no historical training, took up this challenge and tasks related to it until old age and ill health forced him to relinquish his work. His Library Americana of over 700 books, scrapbooks, and manuscripts was given to the New York Public Library in 1902.

William Osborne McDowell (1845-1927) was a businessman of Newark, New Jersey. He worked as a banker, stockbroker, manufacturer, and railroad executive. A member of the New Jersey chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, he helped organize its national committee. His interest in patriotic groups and his awareness of their appeal led him to adopt the role of creator, fund raiser,

and promoter of numerous committees, subscription campaigns, and symbolic initiatives dedicated to the ideal of freedom, the spread of democratic institutions, international peace, and world government. One of his most successful ventures was the subscription campaign for the casting of a "Columbian Liberty Bell" to be exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and on patriotic occasions. The bell was successfully cast and rung, but McDowell was forced to resign as Chairman of the Columbian Liberty Bell Committee due to charges of financial mismanagement. Most of his other initiatives involved raising funds for international conferences and other projects which never came to fruition. Nevertheless, McDowell encouraged prominent friends and associates to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize. Other organizations of his creation include the Order of the American Eagle, Pan-Republic Congress Committee, Human Freedom League, United States of Freedom, Cuban-American League, and United Nations of the World/League of Peace. He involved Henry Baldwin in many of these organizations and worked for causes which interested Baldwin. He became a "trustee" of the Library Americana and fund raiser for the proposed University of the United States. After adding his own papers to the Library Americana, McDowell facilitated its donation to the New York Public Library.

Description

The Baldwin-McDowell Papers (formerly known as the Library Americana Collection) consist of the papers of Henry Baldwin, William O. McDowell, and, to a much lesser extent, Ethan Allen, dealing with their involvement in American patriotic organizations and enterprises.

The Henry Baldwin Papers consist of his correspondence, 1887-1902, and the notes and scrapbooks he assembled for the Library Americana. The correspondence includes letters, circulars, minutes, and printed material he sent and received during the organization of the Morton House, Philadelphia, and Chicago conferences of patriotic orders and his research on American secret societies. These letters to and from members of patriotic and fraternal orders throughout the U.S. discuss the need for one comprehensive national organization, foreign influence in the U.S., the restriction of immigration, anti-Catholicism, and related issues. Correspondents include Andrew Powell of the American Patriotic League and representatives of the Columbian College of Citizenship, the American Union Party, and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. The correspondence also concerns Baldwin's participation in William McDowell's Pan-Republic Congress Committee, Cuban-American League, and Columbian Liberty Bell Committee, as well as his attempts to raise funds and collect material for the Library Americana and the creation of a national University of the United States.

Baldwin's notes and scrapbooks include a card file of data on the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S., scrapbooks of correspondence, clippings, and printed material on the identification and preservation of historical landmarks in Connecticut, the American flag and its desecration, and the distribution of Ethan Allen's book, Washington, or the Revolution to raise funds for the Library Americana and the University of the United States. Two volumes entitled "American Papers" contain transcripts and excerpts from newspapers; meeting minutes, and other documents relating to the Catholic Church, Irish immigration, the Order of United Americans, Sons of America, and other nativist groups.

The remainder of Baldwin's papers consist of a box of contributions to the Library Americana (mostly the writings of William McDowell) and a box of his personal papers, including a handwritten manual of infantry tactics, 1861; notes for a bible study class; business papers and field reports on mines, 1864; and a draft history of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The William O. McDowell Papers contain general correspondence, 1874-1917, letterbooks, 1889-1908, organizational papers, 1890-1912, and business papers, 1874-1887. The correspondence and letterbooks contain a small amount of business and personal correspondence. However, they consist primarily of letters to and from McDowell regarding his work for the various organizations he created or to which he belonged. The organizations include the Sons of Veterans, Sons of the Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Institute of Christian Philosophy, Universal Peace Union, Cuban-American League, Pan Republic Congress Committee, Human Freedom League, United States of Freedom, Columbian Liberty Bell Committee, Society of the Who's Who, and United Nations of the World/League of Peace. Among his correspondents are his collaborators William H. Arnoux, John Clark Ridpath, Persifor Frazer, Alfred H. Love, Ethan Allen, and Josiah C. Pumpelly, as well as the numerous prominent individuals he tried to interest in his efforts, such as Andrew Carnegie, Auguste Bartholdi, Terence Powderley, and John Shaw Billings.

described below

The organizational papers contain additional correspondence and related material of eight of these organizations. McDowell's idea for a Pan-Republic Congress was modeled on the Pan-American Conference of 1889-1890. As secretary of the Pan-Republic Congress Committee he appointed numerous prominent Americans and a handful of Europeans to this committee charged with the task of arranging a meeting of delegates from every nation with a democratic form of government to discuss issues of common interest. The Congress was to be held in the U.S. in 1893 to coincide with the World's Columbian Exposition. The papers, 1890-1896,

contain statements of purpose, lists of committee members and nominees, correspondence with committee members, numerous letters from members of the public who were asked to make donations, meeting minutes, drafts and printed copies of form letters and other mailings, newspaper clippings, and photographs of committee members. Also included are papers of the Human Freedom League and the United States of Freedom, two related organizations.

McDowell also chaired the Columbian Liberty Bell Committee. This group raised subscriptions for the casting of a "Columbian Liberty Bell" to be exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition and at other patriotic celebrations, the distribution of "Liberty Primers" and the sale of miniature bells. The papers, 1892-1896, contain McDowell's fund-raising correspondence with contributors, sponsors, and promoters, printed promotional material, subscription lists, memoranda, auditor's reports, scrapbook of clippings, and photographs of the bell.

The Sons of Veterans material, 1889-1893, contains McDowell's correspondence concerning routine business of the organization, his attempt to be elected Commander-in-Chief, and the recruitment of members .

The Cuban-American League was organized to promote the independence of Cuba and its annexation by the United States. McDowell's correspondence as president, 1897-1901, consists of letters exchanged with members of Congress and the general public to garner support for the cause.

As vice-president of the Universal Peace Union, McDowell managed its fund-raising campaign to furnish the Union's new rooms in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. The papers consist of letters from potential contributors and the Union's president, Alfred H. Love, 1894-1896.

McDowell held the title of "The Peacemaker" in the United Nations of the World/League of Peace, an organization dedicated to the promotion of international peace through world government. He appears to have been its only member. The

papers, 1912, consist of letters written to his family while on a trip to Europe and letters to wealthy and prominent Americans soliciting contributions for his return trip to Europe and the organization of a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in the United States in 1915.

McDowell's business papers contain material on mining and railroad stocks and investments.

The Ethan Allen Papers, 1862-1896 were presented to the Library Americana. They include letters he received as Colonel in the 3rd Regiment, Merchants Brigade of New York, 1862-1863; manuscript, galleys, and promotional copy for his play, Washington, or the Revolution, and correspondence with McDowell and others, 1883-1896, regarding the publication of the play, his membership in the Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of the Revolution, and the Pan-Republic Congress Committee.

BALDWIN-McDOWELL PAPERS

Container List

Box

Contents

HENRY BALDWIN PAPERS

Correspondence Scrapbooks

- 1 1887-1890 (Morton House Conference)
2 1890-1891 (Philadelphia Conference)

Incoming Correspondence

- 3 1890-1892
4 1892-1893
5 1894-1897
6 1897-1898
7 1898-1900
8 1900-1902

Outgoing Correspondence

- 9 1891-1895
10 1896-1899
11 1900-1902

Personal Papers

- 12
13 Notes on the "Catholic Question"
14 Connecticut Historic Landmarks
15-16 Scrapbook on the American Flag
17 "American Papers"
18 Subject index to the "American Papers"
19-20 Submissions to the Library Americana
21 Scrapbook on the distribution of Washington, or
the Revolution to benefit the Library Americana and
University of the United States, 1890.

WILLIAM O. McDOWELL PAPERS

22-23 Business papers, 1874-1887

Correspondence

24 1874-1891

25 1892-1895

26 1896-1901

27 1905-1917; n.d.

Letterbooks

28 1889; 1890; 1899-1900

29 1901-1903

30 1903-1904

31 1904-1905

32 1906-1908

Organizational Papers

33 Order of the American Eagle--minutes, 1890

Pan-Republic Congress Committee

Minutes, 1890-1891

34-35 Correspondence, 1890-1896

36 Human Freedom League
United States of Freedom--membership certificates

37 Photographs

Columbian Liberty Bell Committee

38 1892-1893

39 1894

40 1894-1895

41-42 1895

43 1895-1896

44 1896; n.d.

45-47 unsorted

48 Letterbook, 1896-1897 (includes Society of the
Who's Who ballots used as interleaving pages)

- 49 Scrapbook, 1894-1895
- 50 Scrapbook, 1895-1896
- 51 Photographs
- 52 Sons of Veterans, 1889-1893
- 53 Cuban-American League, 1897-1901
- 54 Universal Peace Union, 1894-1896
- United Nations of the World/League of Peace, 1912
- 55 ETHAN ALLEN PAPERS, 1862-1896