

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

Accession # *87 M 32

Location 13-v-1/7(R) -- 13-z-5/7(R)

Title Wilberforce Eames Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1850-1937; bulk dates; 1900-1937

Date of receipt 1941

Received from The Estate of Wilberforce Eames

Volume on arrival approx. 128 l.f.

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 113: 80 RC; 22 AB; 7 FB; 1 oversize box; 2 file boxes - 90.5 l.f.

Condition good

Restrictions none

Description

see attached sheets

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

Temporary catalog card added entries

see attached list

Accessioned by FP

Date 5/19/87

WILBERFORCE EAMES PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wilberforce Eames, bibliographer, bibliophile and librarian was born in Newark, New Jersey on October 12, 1855. He was the son of Nelson Eames and Harriet Phoebe (Crane) Eames. In 1861 the family moved to Brooklyn where Eames lived for the remainder of his life.

Although his formal education ended before high school, Eames's love of books and learning led him to a life-long pursuit of scholarship. A self-taught scholar, Eames received honorary degrees from Harvard (1896), the University of Michigan (1924) and Brown University (1924).

Eames gained first-hand experience of the printing process while working at the East New York Sentinel in 1870. He was so taken with the process that he set up a small scale press at home where the products of his press included calling cards and catalogues.

While working as a postal clerk in Brooklyn Eames became acquainted with the book store of Edward R. Gillespie. Eames became a clerk there in 1873 and worked with Gillespie until 1879. Between 1879 and 1885 Eames was employed by N. Tibbals & Sons, Henry Miller and Charles L. Woodward, all book dealers. While gaining experience in the book trade Eames also began his own private collection and made the acquaintance of many of the bibliophiles with whom he was to work in later years. It was in 1885 that Eames, having already acquired a fine reputation among the bookmen of his day, went to work at the Lenox Library as personal assistant to Dr. George Henry Moore, who was then head of the Lenox Library. After Dr. Moore's death in 1892, Eames was made assistant Librarian and was later promoted to Librarian. When the Lenox Library was joined with the Astor Library and the Tilden Trust to form the New York Public Library Eames was named Lenox Librarian. He held this position until 1911 when the New York Public Library building opened and he was appointed Chief of the American History Division, including manuscripts, maps and rare books. In 1916 he was appointed Bibliographer of the New York Public Library, a position he held until his death. As Bibliographer, without administrative responsibility for the Division, Eames was able to concentrate his efforts on research and writing.

Among Eames's most important contributions was his work on Sabin's Dictionary of Books Relating to America. In addition to editorial responsibilities, Eames contributed bibliographies of the Bay Psalm Book, Ptolemy's Geography, Vespucci,

Ptolemy's Geography, Sir Walter Raleigh, Capt. John Smith and Ramusio's Voyages. Other bibliographic studies by Eames included works on American Indian Languages, Benjamin Mecom and the Antigua Press and Early printing in New York.

As a private collector, Eames assembled more than one significant collection. In 1904 his library contained about 20,000 volumes consisting of works on Americana, History, Literature, the Book Arts, Oriental History and Languages, India, American Indian Books and Africana. A collection of over 12,000 pamphlets on printing in the United States was sold in 1924. Much of Eames's private library at the time of his death, including his collection of Babylonian tablets and seals, was bequeathed to the New York Public Library.

In addition to his honorary degrees, Eames's scholarship was recognized by many organizations and individuals. He was awarded the gold medal of the Bibliographical Society of London in 1929, and in 1931 he received honors from the New York Historical Society. In a tribute to Eames, Harry M. Lydenberg expressed his esteem: "He [Eames] knew more about books and more kinds of books than any of his contemporaries ever knew or expect to know. His knowledge was comprehensive, accurate, final."

Wilberforce Eames died on December 6, 1937.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Wilberforce Eames Papers span the years 1850-1937 and reflect Eames's life-long interest in books and his scholarly achievements in the field of bibliography. The collection touches many areas that were of special interest to Eames, especially his study of Americana. It also reflects the very broad range of Eames's scholarship which embraced many subjects including American History, Oriental History, African and Native American languages, Cartography, cuneiform tablets and the history of printing in the western world.

Eames's correspondence and copious notes document the attention and care with which he approached all bibliographic questions. His career, from his early days in the book trade to his years at the Lenox Library and the New York Public Library, brought him into contact with all aspects of the bibliophile's world and his reputation for scholarship, integrity and helpfulness made him a highly respected member of that community. The collection contains material relating to the history and study of books, the fields of bibliography and librarianship, the antiquarian book trade and book collectors.

The Wilberforce Eames Papers have been organized into eight separate series: Correspondence, Writings and Research Files, Bibliographic Notes, Booksellers, New York Public Library/Lenox Library, Personal/Family Papers, Photographs and Miscellaneous.

The Correspondence (1866-1937) includes both business and personal correspondence with librarians, booksellers and bibliographers regarding bibliographic questions, sales information, exchange of photostats and comparisons of editions. Almost all of the correspondence is incoming. The letters are divided into General Correspondence and Individuals & Organizations. There may be some overlap in these two groups.

General correspondence is filed by date, for the most part, by decade. Alphabetical and chronological series kept by Eames have been left intact within the decade long arrangement. (i.e., 1910-1919 correspondence includes a 1910-1917 A-Z file). Of particular interest among correspondents 1880-1902 (A-Z) are Samuel P. Avery, John Bigelow, R.R. Bowker, Charles A. Cutter, Samuel A. Green, H. A. Homes, Oliver Wendell Holmes, George F. Hoar, E.R. Hoar, Rev. John F. Hurst and John Boyd Thacher. Later correspondents include Elmer Hutchinson, Douglas Mc Murtrie, A.J. Wall of the New York Historical Society, Belle da Costa Greene of the Morgan Library, William H. Murray, Henry F. DePuy and Randolph G. Adams of the Clements Library. There is no index to correspondents in the General Correspondence. Additional correspondence with book dealers can be found in the Booksellers series: Bills and Correspondence.

Individuals and Organizations represented in this section include George Watson Cole, Worthington and Paul Ford, the Bibliographical Society of America, Victor H. Paltsits and Lawrence C. Wroth. A complete list can be found in the accompanying container list.

Writings and Research Files include manuscripts of Eames's work, research notes, correspondence and printed matter relating to specific subject areas and to works by Eames. These are arranged alphabetically by subject and include files on Early New England Catechisms, The First Year of Printing in New York, Psalms and Psalmody and On the use of Hebrew Types in English America. Material on John Smith is filed in the oversize box.

The subseries of Library Checklists prepared by Eames contains lists for the Ogden Goelet Library, the H.V. Jones Library, the Marshall C. Lefferts Collection and Eames's own collection of Books on India.

The Bibliographic Notes include cut and pasted titles, typed citations, handwritten notes, correspondence and clippings. They have been divided into three subseries: Collected Bibliographic Notes, Miscellaneous Bibliographic Notes and Unsorted Bibliographic Notes.

The Collected Notes vary in content and format. They range from brief entries on small slips to full bibliographic citations including facsimiles of title pages. Eames's notations include information on provenance, sale price location of known copies.

"Bibliography, U.S." is a study of printing in America from colonial times through the 19th century. It includes numerous printed works: gazetteers, state histories and bibliographies. These are interfiled with the notes which are arranged by state. Sabin's Dictionary - Mormon Bibliography concerns Mormon imprints included in the dictionary, which Eames in part edited. It contains letters to Eames and assistant Elizabeth Greene from historians at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The "Bibliography, Non-U.S.", arranged by date of imprint (1455-1921) is concentrated on books relating to America but printed abroad. Other collected notes include: the Vespucci Bibliography compiled for Sabin's Dictionary, bibliographies of *Americana* and *Orientalia*, a small subject bibliography and a Bibliography/Index with no identifiable title. This unidentified file may have been kept by Eames for his personal use.

Miscellaneous Notes are mainly filed by place of printing, by date of printing or by printer. They are unsorted within these broad categories. There are also notes on newspapers and a small collection of photostats of title pages.

Unsorted Notes are completely unarranged.

The Booksellers series (c. 1879-1937) reflects Eames's long and varied involvement with the book trade. It has been divided into four subseries: Bills and Correspondence, Private Library Sales, Catalogues and Booklists/Publication notices.

A small segment of the Bills and Correspondence is sorted by the name of the bookseller, but this subseries is mainly unsorted. Much of the correspondence, which is interfiled with the bills, relates to payments, orders and discussions of particular titles. Book dealers represented include: Anderson Auction Co., Ernest Leroux, Dodd Mead & Co., Goodspeeds, Luzac & Co., Hiersmann, Bernard Quaritch, Bangs & Co., Franklin Bookshop, J. Maisonneuve, Lathrop C. Harper, Trubner & Co., Charles Heartman, Henry Stevens & Son and W.H. Lowdermilk & Co. Additional correspondence with booksellers can be found in the General Correspondence.

Private Library Sales contains catalogues filed by the name of owner. Many of the catalogues were marked by Eames to indicate prices and buyers, and in some cases, newspaper accounts of the sale were appended. A list of the sales is included in the container list.

Catalogues are included for many of the above-mentioned dealers. Many have been marked by Eames or cut and pasted for his own reference.

Booklists/Publication Notices includes a miscellaneous assortment of mailings and offerings from book dealers throughout the country and abroad.

The New York Public Library/Lenox Library papers (c.1883-1935) include lists of holdings (rare books, maps, etc.), prepared by Eames, reports on Library activities by Eames, Library printed matter, clippings and miscellaneous papers.

In the series of Personal/Family papers, personal papers include diaries of camping trips in New York and Canada, expense books (1893-1908;1937), legal and estate papers, papers relating to Eames's private library and biographical information. Diplomas and membership certificates are located in the oversize box at the end of this collection and in one oversize folder (charter case). Family papers (c.1850-1908) include genealogical information and family correspondence. Correspondence includes letters to Nelson Eames, Harriet Phoebe (Crane) Eames and John Eames. Letters from Wilberforce Eames to his parents are filed in this series. Other family papers include notebooks kept by Nelson Eames and a sampler made by Sally Matthews (b.1890), Nelson Eames's mother.

The Photographs (c.1870's-1930's) reflect Eames's enthusiasm for the out-of-doors and document his yearly camping trips to Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks, often in the company of L. Nelson Nichols of the New York Public Library. Five albums are devoted to Eames's trip o Quebec in 1915 with Henry F. De Puy. All of the photos

in the 25 albums in the collection (inventory attached) were taken by Eames. The miscellaneous box includes pictures taken by Eames and also studio portraits of Eames and others. Several large photos, including one by Arnold Genthe are stored in the oversize box.

Miscellaneous papers include photostats, printed matter, proofs, galleys and clippings. The photostats of material in other libraries were used by Eames for reference and research purposes. Proofs and galleys are for articles by Eames and also for articles by his colleagues sent to Eames for corrections and suggestions.

Wilberforce Eames PapersSERIES LIST

1. Correspondence
 - a) General
 - b) Individuals and Organizations
2. Writitngs and Research Files
 - a) A-Z (Alpha. by title/subject)
 - b) Library Checklists prepared by Eames
3. Bibliographical Notes
 - a) Collected Bibliographical Notes
 - b) Miscellaneous Bibliographical Notes
 - c) Unsorted Bibliographical Notes
4. Booksellers
 - a) Bills and Correspondence
 - b) Private Library Sales
 - c) Catalogues
 - d) Booklists/Publication Notices
5. New York Public Library/Lenox Library
6. Personal/Family Papers
7. Photographs
8. Miscellaneous

WILBERFORCE EAMES PAPERSCONTAINER LIST

Box	Contents
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
	General
1	1866-1899; c.1880-1902 (A-K)
2	c.1880-1902 (L-Z); 1900-1909
3	1900-1909
4	1910-1919
5	1920-1929
6	1930-1937
7	1930-1937; n.d.
	Individuals and Organizations
8	Ballou, Howard 1921-1925 Bartlett, J.R. and Brown, J.N. Bibliographical Society of America 1902-1909 & printed matter Brigham, Clarence S. c.1911-1932 Cole, George Watson c.1900-1935 Committee of Nine 1915 Egypt Exploration Fund Engelke, A.H. 1885-1888; 1890-1898 Ford, Paul Leicester 1886-1901 Ford, Worthington C. c.1890-1936 Gannett, M.J. 1867-1886 Green, Samuel A. 1884-1897 Hildeburn, C.R. 1883-1886 Holmes, Thomas J. 1921-1924 Homes, H.A. 1884-1886 Hurst, Rev. John F. 1882-1899
9	Kalbefleisch, Charles H. 1884-1889 Karpinski, Louis C. 1924-1937 Knowles, Arthur J. Lydenberg, H.M. New York Library Club New York Public Library 1897 New York State Library 1921-1922 Paltsits, Victor H. Pierce, John 1880-1895 Publisher's Weekly Putnam, Herbert 1908; 1921-1924 Sabin, J.F. 1881-1896 Sabin's <u>Dictionary</u> , Administrative 1885-1936 Shea, John Dawson Gilmary 1882-1892 Spofford, Ernest 1921-1924 Society of Biblical Archaeology Wagner, Henry R. 1921-1924 Winship, George Parker Winsor, Justin 1885-1891 Wroth, Lawrence C. 1920-1937

Box	Contents
10	Pilling, James C. to Eames 1881-1897
11	Eames to Pilling 1884-1894
	<u>WRITINGS & RESEARCH FILES</u>
12	Almanacs - Bradford
13	Brant - New York State
14	North American Aboriginal Portfolios - Ruge
15	Shakespeare - Writings, misc.
	Library Checklists Prepared by Eames
16	Ogden Goelet, H.V. Jones, Marshall C. Lefferts
17	Catalogue of Books on India
	<u>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES</u>
	Collected Bibliographical Notes
	<u>Bibliography of Americana</u>
18	Ab - Canada
19	Canar - Fly
20	Fo - Massachusetts (A-L)
21	Massachusetts (M-Z) - Pi
22	Pla - Vries
23	Wa - Zuni
	<u>Bibliography of the American Indian</u>
	<u>Bibliography of U.S. Documents (compiled by Joseph Sabin)</u>
	<u>Bibliography, U.S.</u>
24	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Calif., Colorado, Conn.
25	Conn.
26	D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois
27	Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois
28	Maine, Maryland, Mass.
29	Mass.
30	Mass. (Boston)
31	Mass. (Boston)
32	Mass. (Boston); Mass.
33	Mass.
34	Mass., New Jersey
35	New York City; New York State

Box	Contents
36	<u>Bibliography, U.S. (cont'd)</u> New York City
37	New York City; New York State
38	New York State, Ohio
39	Oregon, Pennsylvania
40	Penn.
41	Penn., Rhode Island, South Carolina
42-43	New York State
44	Kansas, Kentucky, New York State
45	Louisiana, Maine, Rhode Island, New Mexico
46	New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico
47	Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
48	New Mexico, Mich., Minn, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Utah
49	New Hampshire, Wyoming, Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas
50	Tenn., Vermont; Misc.
51	Misc. Volumes.
52	<u>Bibliography, non-U.S. (by country)</u>
53-54	<u>Bibliography, non-U.S. (by date of printing)</u> 1455-1517/
55-56	1517-1575
57-58	1576-1620
59-60	1621-1662
61-62	1663-1755
63-64	1756-1921
64	<u>Sabin's Dictionary - Mormon Bibliography</u>
65	<i>Bibliographies/Pamphlets by Douglas C. Murtrie</i>
	No boxes 66-67
68	<u>Vespucci Bibliography</u>
69	<u>Bibliography of Orientalia</u>
70	<u>Subject Bibliography</u>
71	<u>Bibliography/Index (unidentified)</u>
71	A - D
72	E - Mc
73	Ma - St
74	St - Van
75	Var - Z

Box	Contents
	Miscellaneous Bibliographical Notes
76	By place of printing
77	By place of printing/By printer
78	By place of printing/By date of imprint/Title pages
79-80	Newspapers
81-91	Unsorted Bibliographical Notes
	<u>BOOKSELLERS (c.1879-1937)</u>
	Bills & Correspondence
92	Bangs & Co. - Woodward
93-94	Unsorted
	Private Library Sales
95	Bancker Broadsides 1898 Brinley 1879, 1886 Christie-Miller 1927 Clinton, Sir. Henry 1882 Cook, Joseph J. 1883 Griswold 1876 Heartman 1932
96	Hoe, Robert 1911 Murphy, H.C. Whitmore, Henry 1865 Unsorted
97-99	Catalogues
100-101	Booklists/Publication Notices
102	<u>NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY/LENOX LIBRARY (c. 1850-1937)</u>
	<u>PERSONAL/FAMILY</u>
103	Personal Papers c.1870-1937
104	Family Papers c. 1850-1908
	<u>PHOTOGRAPHS (list of albums attached)</u>
105	Albums 1-8
106	Albums 9-18
107	Albums 19-20; Canada albums, 1-5
108	Miscellaneous

Box	Contents
	<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>
109	Printed Matter, Photostats
110	Proofs, Galleys :
111	Clippings
112	<u>Volumes</u> Scrapbook - Eames Memorabilia Scrapbook - "What's In A Name" American Indian Collection (bib. slips) 2 vols.
113	<u>Oversize Box</u> Diplomas, Membership Certificates Photographs John Smith: title pages, maps, notes

Photo Albums

1. Niagara Falls, Sept. 3, 1913
2. Portraits and snapshots: neighbors, Brooklyn
3. Hunn's Lake (New York), 1912
4. Cragsmoor & Ellenville to Kingston, Sept. 16-27, 1911
Washington, D.C., Sept. 28-29, 1911
Mt. Vernon and the Potomac, Sept. 29, 1911
5. Poughkeepsie to New York on the Hudson River, Sept. 11, 1911
Hudson River and West Point, Sept. 13, 1911
Niagara Falls, Sept. 14, 1911
6. Niagara Falls, 1913
7. Cragsmoor Part I, 1913
8. Cragsmoor Part II, 1913
9. Cranberry Lake (New York) Part 1, 1912-1914
10. Cranberry Lake Part 2, 1912-1914
11. Cranberry Lake Part 3, 1912-1915
12. Cranberry Lake Part 4, 1912-1914
13. Cranberry Lake, Bear Mountain, 1914-1918
14. Cranberry Lake, Eagle Island, Bear Mountain, 1912-1918
15. Cat Mountain & other locals (Adirondacks), 1912-1918
16. Adirondacks, 1922-1924
17. Adirondacks, Brandy Brook, Bear Mountain, 1913-1916
18. Adirondacks, Indian Mountain, 1912-1916
19. Hunn's Lake
Hudson River - Newburgh, Poughkeepsie
Redbank
New York City- Lenox Library demolition, 59th St. Bridge, Grand Central (these
are all out of focus)
20. Stissing Mountain, Hunn Lake area

Canada, 1-5 Camping trip to St. Maurice & Champlain counties, 1915