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Guide to the
Henry Strybing account book

1858-1864

MssCol 18576

Compiled by Philip Heslip, November 2012

Summary

Creator: Strybing, Henry, 1811-1887

Title: Henry Strybing account book, 1858-1864

Size: .21 linear foot (1 box)

Source: Donated by Daniel Noble Klinck, 2011.

Abstract: This account book documents the shipping business and personal expenses of Henry Strybing, a German-born commission merchant based in New York City, who sent goods to San Francisco, California, and Charleston, South Carolina.

Access: Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.

Preferred citation: Henry Strybing account book, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator history

Henry Strybing (1811-1887), born Joachim Friedrich Heinrich Strübing, immigrated to New York from Gnoien, Germany, in 1835. By 1840, he had established a successful commission merchant firm, and by 1853 had set up a warehouse on Front Street in Manhattan's Lower East Side. Strybing traded goods between Germany and the United States; most of his dealings were with importers in South Carolina and California. During and after the California Gold Rush, Strybing shipped goods to his brother, Christian H. Strybing (1821-1895,) a merchant and grocer who had settled in San Francisco in 1849. Henry Strybing died in Brooklyn, New York, in 1887.

Scope and content note

This account book documents the shipping business and personal expenses of Henry Strybing, a German-born commission merchant based in New York City who traded goods to San Francisco, California, and Charleston, South Carolina.

Entries typically contain a merchandise list, ship's name, recipient's name, prices for goods, and other expenses such as insurance costs. Strybing and his employee George W. Conklin entered the accounts in chronological order. Shipments to Christian H. Strybing in San Francisco, which span the entire volume, were given transaction numbers. These numbers range from 212 to 457 and occasionally contain references to transactions documented in an earlier volume. Strybing's other major clients were

the German-American firm Klinck, Wickenberg and Company of Charleston, South Carolina, and the wine trader Oscar Crazz of Richmond, Virginia. Strybing traded in food stuffs, such as barreled meat, sugar, flour, coffee, tea, cognac, and German and French wine; as well as candles and "Sett slate billiard slabs." All dealings with Southern merchants ended shortly after the start of the Civil War in April 1861.

The volume also contains entries for Strybing's personal expenses, including payments to vendors, real estate transactions in Manhattan and Brooklyn, bills for gas and piano lessons, and records of his children's savings accounts.

Arrangement

Entries were recorded chronologically.

Key terms

Subjects

Shipping -- United States -- 19th century

Names

Strybing, Christian, 1821-1895

Strybing, Henry, 1811-1887

Special formats

Account books

Occupations

Commission merchants

Distributors (Commerce)

Places

California -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

New York (N.Y.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865