

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

Accession # 86 M 68

Location Annex
21-m-1 (R)

Title James Speyer Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1896-1972; Bulk dates 1911-1939

Date of receipt July 8, 1986

Received from Estate of James Speyer
(via Carmelo Palmieri and de-
livered by Jerry McNeely)

Volume on arrival 1 large carton & 1 suitcase

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 2 RC, 2AB, 1FB ; 4 l.f.

Condition Fair

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

Ellin L. Prince

Aqueduct Guard Citizen's Committee
Ellin Prince Speyer Hospital for Animals
Museum of the City of New York
Speyer School
United Hospital Fund
University Settlement Society

Accessioned by FP

Date 9/3/86

James Speyer Papers

Biographical Note

James Speyer was born in New York City on July 22, 1861. He was educated in Frankfort, where the Speyers had been bankers for many generations, and later gained business experience in London and Paris. Speyer returned to New York in 1885 to become a partner in the New York branch of his family's banking house, Speyer and Co. In 1897 he married Ellin Prince (Lowry) who died in 1921.

Speyer was a well-known figure on Wall Street and the firm of Speyer & Co. was well respected until the time of its dissolution in 1939. In addition to his business activities, Speyer was actively involved with many social, educational and cultural organizations in New York City. He was one of the founders of the University Settlement Society, the first settlement house in the United States. As treasurer he raised funds for the Society's building which was erected in 1895 and he later served as the Society's president. Speyer also helped to found the Provident Loan Society in 1894, the Economic Club of New York in 1907 and the American Museum of Safety in 1911.

During World War I, Mr. & Mrs. Speyer formed the Aqueduct Guard Citizen's Committee to aid the troops guarding the Croton Aqueduct from New York City to the Catskills. Much of this activity was centered at Waldheim, their country home at Scarborough on Hudson. Speyer was also the initiator and founder of the Museum of the City of New York. Among the other philanthropic and civic organizations served by Speyer were the Speyer School at Columbia University, the Ellin Prince Speyer Hospital for Animals (founded in 1910 by Mrs. Speyer), the United Hospital Fund, the Salvation Army and the New York World's Fair Finance Committee.

James Speyer died in New York City on October 31, 1941. .

James Speyer Papers

Content and Scope

The papers of James Speyer consist of correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs and miscellaneous papers. While some of the material dates from the 1890's most of the papers are concentrated in the years 1911 to 1939.

The correspondence is mostly personal, and letters of birthday congratulations and tribute upon Speyer's retirement predominate. There are a number of letters in German. Additional correspondence can be found in Scrapbook 4 (condolence letters on the death of Mrs. Speyer in 1921) and Scrapbook 10 (letters re: Speyer's retirement in 1938 and the dissolution of the firm in 1939).

Miscellaneous papers include speeches and addresses by Speyer, genealogical and biographical notes, photographs, clippings and printed matter from organizations with which Speyer was involved. Also included are the specifications for Speyer's home at 1058 Fifth Avenue and the catalog for the auction of its contents in 1942.

The scrapbooks are for the most part made up of clippings reflecting the Speyers' involvement in the business and social life of New York City and in the various organizations to which they belonged. Prominent among these were the University Settlement Society, the Provident Loan Society, the Ellin Prince Speyer Hospital for Animals, the Speyer School, the Museum of the City of New York, the United Hospital Fund and the New York World's Fair. Scrapbooks 4 and 10, as previously noted, are made up of correspondence. Scrapbook 2 is devoted to Waldheim (the Speyer home at Scarborough on Hudson), Scrapbook 6 to the Museum of the City of New York and Scrapbook 11 to Speyer Hall of the University Settlement Society. In addition to clippings and correspondence, some of the scrapbooks also include photographs, invitations, menus, brochures and other ephemera.

James Speyer Papers

Container List

Box

- 1 Correspondence, c. 1922-1972
- 2 Speyer home, specifications and contents (1058 Fifth Ave.)
Speeches and addresses
Genealogical and biographical notes
Testimonials and awards
Clippings
Photographs
Miscellaneous papers
- 3 Scrapbooks
 - 1 1896; 1919-1920; 1924-1925 (clippings)
 - 2 1911-1924 (Waldheim)
 - 3 1915; 1921-1924 (clippings)
 - 4 1921 (condolence letters on the death of Mrs. Speyer)
 - 5 1928-1929 (clippings)
- 4
 - 7 1933-1935 (clippings)
 - 8 1935-1938 (clippings)
 - 9 1936-1941 (clippings)
 - 10 1938-1939 (letters re: Speyer's retirement and dissolution of the firm)
- 5
 - 6 1928-1932; 1937-1939 (Museum of the City of New York)
 - 11 1941 (Speyer Hall, University Settlement Society)