

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

Accession # to be assigned Location 5-a-3/4 (L)
Title Alexander Turney Stewart. Papers Annex
Approximate inclusive dates 1862-75 , bulk dates 1872
Date of receipt 1935 Received from unknown
Volume on arrival 26 Boxes Purchased
Number of boxes (after reboxing) 14 A:B
Condition Fair-Good. About a ¼ to ½ of the collection suffers from water damage.
Restrictions none

Description Alexander Turney Stewart (1803-1876) was a capitalist, philanthropist and merchant. Born in northern Ireland, he emigrated to the United States c. 1820 but returned home briefly to claim an inheritance. Stewart first went into the lace business in New York City in 1823 and in later years expanded into stocks. During the business depression, 1837, he bought up stocks of failed merchants.

Stewart was a profitable businessman and in 1862 he built his 2nd building, which encompassed an entire block. Stewart's wholesale and retail business continued to thrive and at his death, he owned wholesale and retail stores, stocks, interests in New England, New York and New Jersey Mills, offices and warehouses in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany and Switzerland and in New York he owned the Grand Union Hotel, Metropolitan Hotel, the Globe Theatre, etc.

Stewart was also a well known philanthropist. Among his charitable acts was the aid he sent to Ireland during the famine of 1847 and the thousands of dollars he gave to victims of the Chicago fire in 1871. He was appointed Secretary of Treasury by President Grant but couldnot accept because of a statute prohibiting a businessman from holding an appointed position. Stewart was survived at his death by his wife Cornelia Mitchell Clinch. Ironically, his remains were stolen from St. Mark's Cemetary, NYC. for ransom and it wasn't until 1880, that Stewart's remains were reinterned at Garden City.

The letters, 1862-75 are from thousands of individuals who sought financial support. These letters are from men and women who describe their personal problems of every description. They come from the poor, middle class, merchant, the illiterate and the well educated. Bulk date letters, 1872 are as a result of the aid he sent to the

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

Temporary catalog card added entries 1. Beggars - 19th cen. 2. Capitalists & financiers
3. Irish-Americans 4. Merchants 5. New York (City) -History 19th cen. 6. Petitioners-19th cen.
7. Philanthropists-^{NYC. 1862-75} U.S. Poverty -19th cen. 10. Social history -19th cen.
8. Photographs

Accessioned by Valerie Weyfield
Date 9/4/84

continue:

Chicago fire victims. Other requests were for business ventures, Stewart's autograph, references to Greeley vs. Grant election and advertisements. The majority of the letters are domestic, a few from Canada and abroad written in foreign languages.

Some of the letters are follow up for unanswered replies, others contain return envelopes and photographs of themselves or loved ones. It also should be noted Stewart name was often mispelled "Stuart". There are no copies of replies by Stewart and none of these letters are from his various business enterprises.

ALEXANDER TURNEY STEWART PAPERS P 2819

Box 1

- f.1 Correspondance 1862-70 January-June
- 2. 1870, July-Oct.
- 3. Nov-Dec.
- 4. 1871, Jan--April
- 5. May 1-15
- 6. 16-31
- 7. June

Box 2

- f.1. 1871, July 1-15
- 2. July 16-31
- 3. Aug. 1-15
- 4. 16-31
- 5. September
- 6. Oct. 1-15
- 7. 16-31

Box 3

- f.1. 1871, Nov. 1-15
- 2. Nov. 16-19
- 3. 20-31
- 4. Dec. 1-15
- 5. 16-19
- 6. 20-25
- 7. 26-31
- 8. 1872, Jan. 1-10

Box 4

- f.1. 1872, Jan. 11-15
- 2. Jan. 16-25
- 3. 26-31
- 4. Feb. 1-5
- 5. 6-10
- 6. 11-15
- 7. 16-29

Box 5

- f.1. 1872, Mar. 1-10
- 2. Mar. 11-19
- 3. 20-31
- 4. April 1-10
- 5. 11-15
- 6. 16-25
- 7. 26-30

Box 6

- f.1. Correspondance 1872, May 1-15
- 2. May 16-31
- 3. June 1-15
- 4. 16-30
- 5. July 1-5
- 6. 6-15
- 7. 16-25
- 8. 26-31

Box 7

- f.1. 1872, Aug. 1-5
- 2. Aug. 6-10
- 3. 11-15
- 4. 16-20
- 5. 21-25
- 6. 26-31
- 7. Sept. 1-10
- 8. 11-30

Box 8

- f.1. 1872, Oct.
- 2. Nov. 1-15
- 3. 18-30
- 4. Dec. 1-15
- 5. 16-31
- 6. 1873, Jan. 5-15
- 7. Jan. 16-31

Box 9

- f.1. 1873, Feb. 2-15
- 2. Feb. 16-28
- 3. Mar. 1-10
- 4. 11-15
- 5. 16-31
- 6. April-May 15
- 7. May 17-31
- 8. June 1-10
- 9. 11-30

Box 10

- f.1. 1873, July-Nov.
- 2. December
- 3. 1874, Jan. 3-15
- 4. Jan. 16-31
- 5. Feb. 1-14
- 6. 16-28
- 7. Mar. 1-10
- 8. 11-20

Box 11

- f. 1. 1874, Mar. 21-31
- 2. April 1-10
- 3. 11-20
- 4. 21-30
- 5. May
- 6. June 1-14
- 7. 16-30

Box 12

- f. 1. 1874, July
- 2. August
- 3. Oct.- Dec. 15
- 4. Dec. 16-31
- 5. 1875, Jan.
- 6. Mar. - May
- 7. June 1-10
- 8. 11-20
- 9. 21-31

Box 13

- f. 1. 1875, July 1-13
- 2. July 16-25
- 3. 26-31
- 4. Aug. 1-14
- 5. 16-25 (end)
- 6. n.d. Jan.-April
- 7. May-June

Box 14

- f. 1. n.d. July
- 2. Aug.-Sept.
- 3. Oct.-Dec.
- 4. n.d.
- 5. n.d.
- 6. miscellaneous envelopes
- 7. Photographs

~~Case 23 (RM 319)~~

Vol. I

An expression of gratitude for
A.T. Stewart's gift for relief
of Chicago fire victims. 1873;
5 pp on vellum

See also: Rogers, Charles E. Diary 1864-1865