

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

Accession # 45 M 71

Location Annex 12-j-1 (L)  
12-k-4/6 (L)

Title I.N. PHELPS STOKES. PAPERS.

Approximate inclusive dates 1909-1944

Date of receipt unknown. one small segment  
received 8-22-45; one box received 8-1-57

Received from estate of I.N. Phelps Stokes  
and Mrs. J.G. Phelps Stokes

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 21 AB; 12 FB; 2 FB (oversize); 16 linear ft.

Condition fair. Numerous brittle carbons warped from poor storage, several documents need flattening.

Restrictions n.a.

Description Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes (1867-1944), architect and housing reformer, was a member of one of New York City's most prominent families, known for generations for its wealth, religious faith, and philanthropic ventures. After graduating from Harvard College he worked briefly in banking before deciding on a career as an architect. Stokes studied architecture at Columbia University and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts before opening a firm in partnership with John Mead Howells. While the firm of Howells was responsible for such buildings as St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University and the Bonwit Teller department store, Stokes had studied architecture for the purpose of improving housing for the working class. He helped organize the Tenement House Committee of the Charity Organization Society in 1898, served on the New York State Tenement House Commission, helped write the New York Tenement House law of 1901, and designed several model tenements. By avocation Stokes was a print collector. He began to purchase prints in 1899, but it was not until the Hudson-Fulton celebration of 1909 sparked his interest in New York history that he began collecting in earnest. This newly ignited passion eventually resulted in his monumental work, The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909, a six volume pictorial history published between 1915 and 1928, and a renowned collection of prints of old New York. In 1922 Stokes expanded his collecting interest to include views of other major American cities. His collection was exhibited at the New York Public Library in 1927 and donated to the Library in 1930 as the Phelps-Stokes Collection of American Historical Prints, Early Views of American Cities, Etc. Stokes served on the Library's Board of Trustees from 1916 until 1938.

see attached sheet

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

Temporary catalog card added entries

Gilliss, Walter, 1855-1925  
Hotchkiss, Thomas W.  
Macarthy, Clinton H.  
Paltsits, Victor Hugo, 1867-1952.  
Stevens, Henry Newton, 1855-1930  
Wieder, Frederik Caspar, 1874-  
New York Public Library

Prints-Collectors and collecting  
New York, (N.Y.)-History  
New York, (N.Y.)-Description--Views

Accessioned by MY

Date 4/10/86

The I.N. Phelps Stokes Papers consist primarily of correspondence regarding his print collection and the research for and publication of The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909 as well as materials used in the preparation of the book. The correspondence, 1909-1928, contains Stokes' letters to and from booksellers, print dealers, librarians, fellow collectors, and scholars regarding the purchase, exchange, and copying of prints and maps of New York, research in New York history, and the preparation of the Iconography. There are a considerable number of letters of Walter Gilliss, whose Gilliss Press printed the work, and of Stokes' research assistants, Victor Hugo Paltsits and Thomas W. Hotchkiss, as well as a lesser number from his assistants Helen L. Young and Zula Ziebach. Other major correspondents include Henry N. Stevens, Dr. F.C. Wieder, and Clinton H. Macarthy. The letters are arranged alphabetically by year or years.

The correspondence for 1925-1929 concerns Stokes' attempt to sell his print collection, while that of the 1930-1933 period documents the further development of the collection, its donation to The New York Public Library, and the creation and sale of the catalogue of the collection. The remainder of the correspondence consists of a few letters to his assistant Ellen C. Ahern in 1944.

Materials used in the preparation of the Iconography include research notes, transcriptions and photostats of source materials, photographs of illustrations, drafts, and page proofs. Notes and drafts were prepared by Paltsits, Hotchkiss, and others as well as by Stokes. Finally, the collection contains an unsigned typescript of an article about New York's City Hall.

I.N. Phelps Stokes Papers

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	<u>Correspondence, 1909-1928</u>
1	1909-1911
2	1912-1913
3	1913-1919
4	1914-1922; unsorted
5	Henry N. Stevens, 1910-1912 Dr. F.C. Wieder, 1911-1913
6	Dr. F.C. Wieder, 1913-1914
7	Thomas W. Hotchkiss, 1921-1928
8	<u>Letters re sale of Stokes' print collection, 1925-1929</u>
	<u>Letters re Phelps-Stokes Collection of American Historical Prints, 1930-1933</u>
	A - Ha
9	Hi - O
10	P - S
11	U - Z
	Notes and drafts of the catalogue of the collection
12	Notes, drafts, and trial proofs for proposed supplementary catalogue [1944?]
	<u>Letters to Ellen C. Ahern, 1944</u>
	<u>Research Notes for Iconography of Manhattan Island</u>
13-14	Stokes' notes on slips of paper
15-23	Notes of Victor Hugo Paltsits and others; Transcriptions, photostats, photographs of source materials
	<u>Drafts &amp; Proofs of The Iconography of Manhattan Island</u>
24	Publication announcement Vol. I Dummy volumes of plates and plate descriptions; Author's first proofs

25	Vol. I Drafts of various chapters
26	Vol. II Dummy volume
27	Vol. III Chapter 5
28	Vol. III Chapter 6
29	Vol. III Chapter 7-8
30	Vol. IV sample pages Vol. V final page proofs
31-32	Bibliography
33	Photographs, film and glass negatives of illustrations
34	Oversize page proofs of illustrations
35	Typescript of an article on City Hall