

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

Accession # \*88 M51 Location D2 - j - 2  
Title RICH, Obadiah. Provenance Collection.  
Approximate inclusive dates ca. 1845-1848  
Date of receipt unknown Received from Lenox Library  
sources unknown  
Volume on arrival unknown  
Number of boxes (after reboxing) ½AB, 2 volumes (.5 l.f.)  
Condition Fair. Catalogs brittle.  
Restrictions Original catalog with annotations not to be served to readers. Bound photostat  
copy to be served. Original manuscript letters, here available in photostats,  
Description are the property of the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

Biographical/Historical Note

[545 ~~bb~~ \$a] Book dealer, ca. 1783\*-1850

[\$b] Obadiah Rich was a successful bookseller who dealt extensively in Americana. In 1844, he made the greatest purchase of his career, Henri Ternaux de Compans' collection of American early printed books and manuscripts. He augmented the manuscripts portion of the collection with material purchased from Lord Kingsborough and then sold it through Henry Stevens to James Lenox in 1848. With the consolidation of the Lenox and Astor libraries and the Tilden Trust in 1897, these documents, known today as the Rich Collection, became part of the holdings of The New York Public Library. Ternaux de Compans' printed Americana was sold through Stevens to Lenox and other collectors, principally John Carter Brown.

[\$z] The collection; Brownrigg, Colonial Latin American Manuscripts and Transcripts in the Obadiah Rich Collection, x-xviii; DAB VII, 549; Stevens, Recollections of James Lenox, 85-86.

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

Temporary catalog card added entries  
Book collecting  
Rich, Obadiah, ca. 1783-1850  
Stevens, Henry, 1819-1886

\*DAB gives Rich's birth as around 1783, determined by church documents. Appleton's Cyclopaedia lists it as November 25, 1777.

Accessioned by CF

Date August 5, 1988

Description

[351 ~~bb~~] Organized into two series: I) Letters and accounts; II) Catalogs.

[520 ~~bb~~ \$a] The Rich Provenance Collection includes negative photostats of letters and accounts, original printed catalogs, and a photostat of an annotated catalog.

[\$b] The letters are from Obadiah Rich to Henry Stevens, and they and the account statements relate to the sale of rare books and manuscripts to James Lenox, John Carter Brown, the British Museum, and others. The catalogs are of the Rich Collection of manuscripts as offered for sale. The catalog photostatted bears a library employee's transfers of James Lenox's manuscript annotations. The catalog with Lenox's original annotations, another with Appleton P. C. Griffin's notes, and a third with Wilberforce Eames' are in NYPL's rare book division, location \*KAY.

Container List

	Volume	
<u>I. Letters and Accounts</u>		
	1	1847-1848
<u>II. Catalogs</u>		
	2	Photostat of annotated catalog
	Box	
	1	Catalogs of the Rich Collection