

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

Accession # 37 M 7, 38 M 24

Location Annex 12-L-4-G (R)

Title Sabin Family Papers.

Approximate inclusive dates 1843-1932

Date of receipt December 1936, March 1937 Received from Mrs. J. Percy Sabin

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 9 AB, 3 FB; 56 volumes, some in boxes: 8 AB, 2 FB

Condition correspondence generally good (some written with high-acid ink); bound volumes contain some brittle paper. The bindings are (~~rotten~~) deteriorating.

Restrictions none

Description The Sabin Family: Joseph Sabin (1821-1881), Joseph F. Sabin (1846-1926), and J. Percy Sabin (1872-1934) were the principal proprietors of the Sabin family firm of book, autograph, and print dealers doing business in England and the United States from 1842 to 1934. In 1842, upon the completion of his apprenticeship to an Oxford book dealer, Joseph Sabin set up his own sale and auction house. In 1848, he moved to the United States, working for a number of Philadelphia firms as an auctioneer and cataloger, and in 1856 established his own shops in Philadelphia and New York City. Successful and respected as a dealer, Sabin is best known for the bibliography that he compiled and wrote: The Dictionary Catalogue of Books Relating to America (1868-1892, Sabin, New York), also known as the "Bibliotheca Americana". The bibliography was an attempt to record all books published in America, or elsewhere, pertaining to America. Sabin left the firm to his son Joseph F. Sabin in 1879 to dedicate all his efforts to the bibliography, completing twelve volumes by the time of his death. (Publication of the work was subsequently completed by the Bibliographical Society of America, 1928-1936.) Joseph F. Sabin continued the business of the firm until his health failed in 1926, from which time J. Percy Sabin, his son, continued until his death in 1934. Both the younger Sabins dealt more heavily in rare prints and autograph letters than in books, specializing in and personally collecting Americana and Washingtonia; both were adept amateur painters and printmakers.

See attached sheet for Scope and Content note.

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

Temporary catalog card added entries
Antiquarian booksellers - ~~America~~
Bibliography - bibliography - America
* Dictionary Catalogue of Books Relating to America
Joseph Sabin (1821-1881)
Joseph Fred Sabin (1846-1926)
Joseph Percy Sabin (1872-1934)
1801-1850
1851-1900
1901-1925
1926-1950

Accessioned by

Charles Kowitz

Date

10-30-85

The Sabin Family Papers

The papers, 1843-1932, of the Sabin family span the personal lives, and the publishing and bookselling careers of three generations of the family, Joseph Sabin (1821-1881), Joseph F. Sabin (1846-1926), and J. Percy Sabin (1872-1934), and are comprised of correspondence, notes, and financial records. The business and family portions of the correspondence (1859-1931) are closely related; for many years, the Sabin family maintained two establishments, one in ~~the~~ the United States and one in England. Correspondence between the two branches of the business often referred to ^{both} family ~~xxxxxxx~~ and business matters. Many letters concern requests for particular books or editions, payment for merchandise delivered or expected, advertising matters, maintenance of business premises, and the commission of works for the Sabins' print publishing endeavors. Correspondents include not only individual customers, such as Horace Greeley, but also the representatives of many of the institutions served by the Sabins, including the Boston Athenaeum, the J. Pierpont Morgan Library, the Lenox Library, and the Library of Congress. Another aspect of the correspondence relates to the Sabins' activities as publishers, concerning the the periodical ~~the~~ Bibliopolist, and including subscription requests and correspondence with contributors; the correspondence concerning publication centers on the Dictionary Catalogue of Books Relating to America, published by the Sabin firm from 1868 to 1892. As the catalogue was issued in parts, a large portion of the correspondence concerns not only ordering the next available installment, but also the supply of missing sections or title pages.

In addition to the correspondence, the Sabin papers contain business and financial records; bound volumes, 1843-1927, various years, include daybooks

for the firm variously doing business as Joseph Sabin, Joseph Sabin and Son, Joseph Sabin and Sons, Joseph Sabin's Son, Joseph F. Sabin, and J. Percy Sabin. Among the other bound volumes are cashbooks, account books, ledgers, invoice books, lists of subscribers to the Dictionary Catalogue of Books Relating to America, and address books. Unbound financial records include receipts, bills of lading, indices of prints for sale, invoices, drafts and cancelled checks, and check stubs.

Finally the Sabin papers contain a variety of other materials: the household account books¹⁸⁷²⁻¹⁸⁷³ of Jennet Sabin, wife of Joseph F. Sabin; various manuscript descriptions of items for sale by the firm; Joseph Sabin's description of the Nathaniel Greene papers sold by the firm to the W.L. Clemments Library, as well as the George Bancroft Library sold to the Lenox Library; J.F. Sabin's sketch and composition books, 1862-1864; and two versions of the catalogue of the Joseph F. and J. Percy Sabin collection of Washingtonia^{a portion of which is}, now part of the Washington collection in the manuscript division of the New York Public Library. There are, in addition, firm letterheads, manuscript fragments, unattributed transcripts of letters, undated rare book catalogue clippings, three logbooks, 1907-1909, of the Sabin family yacht, the Sabina, and unsorted notes, possibly relating to the Dictionary Catalogue of Books Relating to America. Finally, the Sabin papers include photographs of the Sabin family, homes, and yachts.

Sabin Family Papers

Container Listing

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Correspondence, 1859-1889
2	" , 1889-1927
3	" , 1906-1931
4	Financial records, 1860-1891
5	" " , 1892-1932 and no date
6	Household accounts, personal and business memoranda books, shipping records, 1859-1903
7	Diaries, student notebooks, receipt books, bankbook, address books, print indices, no dates
8	Notes, memoranda, lists of prints and autographs for sale, scrapbook of catalogue clippings
9	Lists of books, autographs and prints, catalogues and indices prepared by Joseph F. Sabin, letterheads, manuscript fragments, transcripts, clippings
10	Sketch books, loose sketches, student compositions, Joseph F. Sabin, 1862-1864
11	Check stubs, 1899-1926
12	Photographs
13	Unsorted notes, possibly pertaining to <u>Sabin's Dictionary Catalogue of Books Relating to America</u>

SABIN FAMILY Papers

Container Listing - Volumes

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1-2	Daybooks, Joseph Sabin, 1866-1869
3	" , Joseph Sabin and Son, 1871-1872
4-6	" , Joseph Sabin and Sons, 1873-1876
7	" , Joseph Sabin's Son, 1880-1886
8	" , W.W. Sabin (London), 1884-1889
9-16	" , Joseph F. Sabin, 1901-1925
17	" , J. Percy Sabin, 1926-1927
18-19	Cashbooks, Joseph Sabin and Son, 1870-1876
20	Account Book, Joseph Sabin and Son, 1870-1876
21	Accountbook/Disposition of Prints, Joseph F. and J. Percy Sabin, 1910-1929
22	Index to Account Book, 1881-
23	Account book, looseleaf, Joseph F. Sabin, and J. Percy Sabin, 1906-1927
24	Receipt Book, Joseph Sabin, 1853-1871
25-26	Ledgers, Joseph Sabin and Sons, 1867-1881
27	" , Joseph Sabin's Son, 1881-1883
28	" , W.W. Sabin, 1881-1889
29-30	" , Joseph F. Sabin, 1897-1912

Container Listing Continued- Volumes

- 31 Debenture Bond Register, Joseph F. Sabin, ca. 1890
 32 Invoices, Joseph Sabin and Sons, 1874-1876
 33 Invoices, Joseph F. Sabin, 1898-1904
 34 Invoices, Joseph F. Sabin, 1898-1904
 35 Invoice Book, Joseph Sabin's Son, 1882-1893
 36 Index to Subscribers to the Bibliopolist,
 37 Subscriptions to Books Relating to America, 1856-77
 38 Subscriptions to Books Relating to America, 1866-74
 39 Subscriptions to Books Relating to America, 1866-74
 40 Price List (Autographs and Prints)
 41 Catalog of Autographs and prints in Joseph and J. Percy Sabin's personal collection.
 42 Revised version of Catalog of Autographs and Prints in the Joseph and J. Percy Sabin Collection (Volume 41)
 43 List of Books Ordered, Joseph Sabin and Sons, 1871-1873
 44 Address Book, 1887
 45 Address Book, 1888
 46 Address Book, 1901-1902
 47 Address Book, 1903-1904
 48 Accounts, Joseph Sabin, 1843-1856
 49 Ledger, Joseph Sabin, 1847-1848, 1856
 50 Memoranda and Accounts, Joseph F. Sabin, 1868-1869
 51 Accounts, Joseph Sabin, 1871-1872
 52 Accounts, Joseph Sabin and Sons, 1874-1876
 53 Petty Ledger, Joseph Sabin and Sons, 1878-1879
 54 Record of Investments, J. Percy Sabin, 1927
 55 Unidentified Notebook and Scrapbook, ca. 1851
 56 Logbooks of the Sabin family yacht, the "Sabina", 1906-1907, 1909

*Chiefly
relating to
George Washington*