

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Franklin, Benjamin, Notebooks, 1666-1725; c. 1783

Location:

Octavo volumes "F"

Size of collection:

2 octavo volumes

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

See *Historical Magazine* (Jan., 1859, p. 9-12; Feb., 1859, p. 50-51; March 1859, p. 86-87); *AAS Proceedings*, vol. 53, p. 427 and vol. 66, p. 99-100; and Jared Sparks, *The Life of Benjamin Franklin* (Boston: Tappan & Dennet, 1844), p. 5-6, 450-452.

Source of collection:

Gift of Mrs. Dumont Clarke (from the Emmons Estate), 1956

Collection description:

Benjamin Franklin (1650-1727), the uncle of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), was a silk-dyer from London who came, in 1715, to Boston, Mass.

These volumes consist largely of poetry written by Franklin, 1666-1725. Several of these poems are acrostics and were written for family and friends. There are also many religious and moral poems as Franklin frequently converted psalms to rhymes.

Volume one contains three loose fragments. There is also an excellent trade card, c. 1675, pasted into the front cover of each volume, pertaining to Franklin's silk-dying business.

Most of volume two contains the writings and notes of an unidentified youth (in 1783?). Though the volumes carry the endorsements Jane Mecum and Elizabeth Franklin, no attribution of author can be made. There are school history notes and poems. Included is a copy of a letter and poem written by his nephew, Benjamin Franklin.