

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Lossing, Benson John, Album, c. 1831-1833

Location:

Octavo volumes "L"

Size of collection:

1 octavo volume, 120 leaves

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

N.A.

Finding aids:

For biographical information, see DAB, vol. 11, pp. 421-22; Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, 1892), new series, vol. 7, p. 305

Source of collection:

Bequest of Michael Papantonio, 1978

Collection Description:

Benson John Lossing (1813-1891), wood-engraver, author and editor, was born in Beekman, Dutchess County, New York on Feb. 12, 1813. Left an orphan at the age of eleven, he was apprenticed to a watchmaker in Poughkeepsie, New York and at the age of twenty-two, he became joint editor of the Poughkeepsie Telegraph. In 1838, he moved to New York City where he became a wood-engraver. In 1848, financed by Harper Bros., he made a narrative sketchbook of the American Revolution, which was followed by numerous and very successful narrative sketchbooks of American persons and events.

This volume contains material dated c. 1831-1833 and entered by Lossing in the Album (New Haven: Durrie and Peck and N.S.S. Jocelyn, 1826). It is a collection of poems, acrostics, words for songs, and conundrums that are largely original. It also contains an inked drawing of a factory and inked copies of a skull and swords in the British Museum, as well as water-colors of fruits, flowers and animals. Included in the volume are copies of the signatures of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The volume is of fine, black leather, richly tooled with the name "Benson J. Lossing" on the outside front cover.