

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection: Burrirt, Elihu, Papers, 1822-1868</p>	<p>Location: Octavo volumes "B" Misc. Mss. Boxes "B"</p>
<p>Size of collection: 3 octavo volumes; 1 folder (16 items)</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p>
	<p>RLIN id:</p>
<p>Finding aids: None. For a biography of Burrirt, see Peter Tolis, <u>Elihu Burrirt: Crusader for Brotherhood</u> (Hamden, CT: Archon Books, 1968)</p>	
<p>Source of collection: Account book and lecture, gifts of Samuel Jennison, 1857; album, gift of Mrs. Frederick W. Briggs, 1893; source of correspondence unknown.</p>	
<p>Collection Description: Elihu Burrirt (1810-1879), famous as "the Learned Blacksmith," was born in New Britain, Connecticut. During his youth he apprenticed himself to a blacksmith. After working at various jobs, he became interested in improving his education and moved to Worcester, intending to use the library of the American Antiquarian Society to study foreign languages. In Worcester, he worked as a blacksmith and taught himself to read some thirty languages. Burrirt decided he wanted a literary career and in 1839 he began to publish <u>Literary Geminae</u>, a magazine in English and French. The magazine failed the following year. He began lecturing at lyceums, and was involved in evangelical, temperance, and anti-slavery activities. In 1844 Burrirt started a weekly newspaper in Worcester called <u>The Christian Citizen</u>. He became increasingly interested in pacifism and associated himself with peace organizations. In 1846 he went to England and founded the League of Universal Brotherhood. During most of the remainder of his life he wrote numerous books and travelled extensively in Europe and America lecturing and working for world peace.  Octavo volume 1 in this collection is an account book for Burrirt's blacksmithing efforts in Worcester, 1839-1840. It also includes a list of subscribers for the bilingual <u>Literary Geminae</u>. The second volume is an album which includes authograph verse and copies of letters of Elihu, Emily and Elisha Hinsdale Burrirt pertaining to the deaths in Georgia in 1822 and Texas in 1837 of various family members. The third volume is a copy of an unpublished lecture on the League of Universal Brotherhood, delivered by Burrirt in England in 1847. The folder contains 14 letters written by Burrirt, a receipt, and a newspaper clipping.</p>	