

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

---

**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Munsell, Joel, Papers, 1835-1922

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. octavo vols. "M"  
Mss. boxes "M"

---

**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

31 octavo volumes; 1 folder

---

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographical data, see DAB, v. 13, p. 333; and George R. Howell, *Biographical Sketch of Munsell* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1880)

---

**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Volumes transferred in 1981 from AAS collection (previously catalogued in Z classed collection); most of the material in folder transferred from Munsell's copy of Isaiah Thomas' *History of Printing in America* (1810)

---

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Joel Munsell (1808-1880), printer and antiquarian, was born in Northfield, Mass., the son of Joel (1783-1865) and Cynthia Payne Munsell (-1864). In 1825, at the age of seventeen, he was apprenticed to the *Franklin Post* and *Christian Freeman* in Greenfield, Mass. Later, he worked in a print shop in Albany, NY., where in 1827 he went into the newspaper business for himself. Munsell printed many newspapers (e.g., *Albany Morning Express*) and periodicals (e.g., *New York State Mechanic*) and edited several. He also published reference books in history and prepared a few compilations, including *Outline of the History of Printing* (1839) and *Typographical Miscellany* (1850), a limited edition. Munsell gathered a large personal collection of works on printing and a large collection of newspapers. He was a founder of the Albany Institute and a member of the American Antiquarian Society.

This collection contains a variety of papers, 1835-1922, of Joel Munsell. The octavo volumes include Munsell's annotated copy of *Typographical Miscellany*, in which newsclippings relating to printing history and various manuscripts have been pasted. Among the latter are receipts, a copy of circulation figures for New York newspapers in 1816, notes concerning the sale of newspaper firms, a letter, 14 May 1835 (p. 114), of John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) to Hezekiah Piles (1777-1839) requesting extra sheets to an unidentified volume, and an exchange of letters, September 1856 (p. 128), between George Bruce (1781-1866) and Munsell concerning Adam Ramage's improvements in the old screw printing press.

There are also three octavo volumes compiled by Munsell titled, "Chronological Record of Printing, 1804-1856," containing handwritten information and newsclippings concerning the history and literature of printing; and six volumes titled "Typographical Collections, consisting of Fugitive Pieces relating to Printing and its Cognate Arts," 1853-1859. Munsell copied in these volumes articles from various periodicals that "show the progress of printing and the arts subservient thereto, during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Included is information on silk printing, wood engraving, and books in the Middle Ages. There are also five volumes of Charles H. Timperley's *A Dictionary of Printers and Printing with the Progress of Literature Ancient and Modern* (1839), with a sixth volume in the chronologically arranged set by Joel Munsell. This latter volume ends with 1842, while the span dates of the title page are 1839-1857. All six volumes are interleaved with Munsell's annotations, and some contain newsclippings and letters.

The final octavo volume was compiled in 1867 by Munsell's son, Charles Munsell ( 1852- ), later an Albany bookbinder, and was published the following year as *Collection of Songs of the American Press and Other Poems Relating to the Art of Printing*. The folder contains letters and reminiscences, 1858-1873, of various printers relating to the history of their profession, which served to aid Munsell in his compilations. There is a list of temperance newspapers in the U.S., 1851; information concerning a sketch of George Bruce; and non-contemporary copies of petitions, 1788, of people seeking appointment as printers of New York state laws and journals. The folder also contains newsclippings, 1860s-1922, relating to printing history.

**American Antiquarian Society  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

Munsell, Joel, Papers, 1835-1922  
CONTENTS LIST

Manuscript Volume	Date	Contents
1		<i>The Typographical Miscellany</i> , by Joel Munsell, annotated copy with pasted newspaper clippings
2		Chronological Record of Printing, 1803-1823
3		Chronological Record of Printing, 1823-1846
4		Chronological Record of Printing, 1846-1856
5	1853	Typographical Collections
6	1854	Typographical Collections
7	1859	Typographical Collections
8	1859	Typographical Collections
9	1859	Typographical Collections
10	1859	Typographical Collections
11	1867	Songs of the Press
12		Printers and Printing, 972-1500
13		Printers and Printing, 1500-1600
14		Printers and Printing, 1600-1700
15		Printers and Printing, 1700-1800
16		Printers and Printing, 1800-1838
17		Printers and Printing, 1839-1877
18	1834	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings pasted in <i>Scrap Book: A Repository of Belles-Lettres</i> (Albany, 1834)
19		Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry and anecdotes
20		Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry and anecdotes
21		Scrapbook of clippings of "Time's Telescope" from Munsell's Albany <i>Microscope</i>
22	1830	Newspaper clippings about the French Revolution of 1830, with printed title page by Munsell (Vol. 1)
23	1830	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry (Vol. 2)
24		Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry (Vol. 3)
25	1832	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry and anecdotes (Vol. 4)
26	1832	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry and anecdotes (Vol. 5)
27		Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry and anecdotes (Vol. 6)
28		Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, poetry and anecdotes (Vol. 7)
29	1870	<i>Chronology of Paper and Paper Making</i> (Albany, 1870), interleaved with notes
30	1872	<i>Bibliotheca Munselliana</i> (Albany 1872), interleaved with notes
31	1859	Scrapbook with clippings from the <i>Boston Transcript</i> related to the Faustus Association
<b>Folder</b>		
	1858-1873	Letters and Reminiscences