Manuscript Collections

Name of collection: Streeter, Thomas Winthrop, Papers, 1920-1965

Location: Mss. Boxes "S"

Size of collection: 20 mss. boxes

N.U.C.M.C. number: 72-847

Finding aids:

For biography of Streeter, see AAS Newslipping File. For biography of Henry R. Wagner, see AAS Proceedings, vol. 67, pp. 6-10.

Source of collection:
Gift of Ruth Cheney Streeter, 1970

Collection Description:

Thomas Winthrop Streeter (1883-1965) of Morristown, New Jersey, was an attorney, financier, and businessman before becoming a bibliographer, rare-book dealer, and owner of one of the largest collections of Americana in the country. His collection included early books, pamphlets, and maps, with a concentration on Texas history and Western transportation, 1795-1845. In 1952, Streeter published a bibliography of the items in his collection entitled America--Beginnings. He was president of AAS from 1952 to 1955 and was a member of the boards of many libraries and historical societies.

This collection contains 20 Hollinger boxes of Streeter's papers, 1920-1965, comprised of 4 boxes of correspondence, 3 boxes of donations lists, and 13 boxes representing a Catalogue of his American Library. Included in the correspondence is information on Streeter's friendship with Henry Raup Wagner (1862-1957) of Berkeley, California, a noted bibliographer and authority on early explorations of the West. The letters refer mainly to the buying and selling of Americana between the two collectors and from booksellers, such as Edward Emory Eberstadt (1883-1958) of New York City. There are occasional comments on the distress of the Great Depression and the presidential leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), as well as much family news. Also included is Streeter's correspondence with Lawrence Counselman Wroth (1884-1971), librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R.I. Their letters contain many references to Streeter's wish to extend his work on Joseph Sabin (1821-1881) and his enlistment of Wroth's help. There are also comments on the proceedings at the meetings of a number of historical societies.

cont'.
Collection Description (con't.) Streeter, Thomas Winthrop

The boxes of Donations contain lists of books and other items sent to various societies and libraries from 1940 to 1965, such as AAS, University of Virginia, Yale University, and the Library of Congress. These include appraisals made by Eberstadt and others.

Streeter's Catalogue of his collection is organized by subject in alphabetical order and includes correspondence with many dealers, bibliographers, and librarians at institutions, lists of his acquisitions, exhibition lists, assessments and appraisals, loan lists, several auction catalogues, pamphlets pertaining to a particular subject in his collection, his and others' "want" lists, many photostats of acquisitions and sale items, and photographs of portraits.

1 July 1977
Contents List

Thomas Winthrop Streeter Papers, 1920 - 1965

Box 1: Subject Catalog "A"

Folder 1: Adirondacks - books
2: Alabama - Flint River Association
   of Baptists, Huntsville, Ala.
3: Alabama - printing
4: Alaska and the North Pacific:
   lists of books, pamphlets, and maps
5: Alaska and the Klondike - misc.
   pamphlets
6: Alaska - Western Union map of
   Alaska, 1867, and other maps
7: Alaska and the Pacific
8: American literature - bibliography
   (e.g., Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849))
9: American Railroad Journal
10: American Revolution
11: Arizona (including notes of Henry Raup
    Wagner on Arizona and New Mexico)
12: Arkansas - books
13: Arrington, Alfred W. (1810-1867) - works
14: Atlases - Arrowsmith, Aaron
15: Atlases: Atlantic Neptune
16: Atlases: Bermuda
17: Atlases: Burr Atlas
18: Atlases: Dudley, Sir Robert (1574-1649)
19: Atlases: Faden maps (William Faden, 1750-1836) and Thomas Jefferys,
    1720-1771, American Atlas
20: Atlases: Mercator, Gerardus (1512-1594)
21: Atlases - William Norman, A Pilot for the
    West Indies
22: Atlases: Corneille Wytfliet, Descriptionis
    Ptolomaeicae Augmentum

Box 2: Subject Catalog "B"

Folder 1: Bibliography - correspondence regarding general information
2: Bibliography - correspondence with Albert Henry Allen (1875-1953)
3: Bibliography - correspondence with various institutions
   (e.g., Princeton University)
4: Bibliography - information on terms, rules, etc.
5: Binding - information
6: Book finishings and repair - information
7: Books for disposal
8: Books - items ordered reported sold or returned as not appropriate
    for collection
9: Books - early books - correspondence
10: Books - list relating to bibliography and history in Streeter's
    library - checklist and appraisals
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Box 2 (continued): Subject Catalog "B"

Folder 11: Books in Streeter's library - accessions and lists, 1920-1922, including rare books lists and purchases
12: Books - Streeter's list of books from specific sales
13: Books loaned out temporarily, 1943-1947
14: Books regarding book thieves, i.e., Borden Clarke, Old Authors' Farm
15: Booksellers - desiderata, etc.
16: British Columbian imprints
17: Buache, Philippe (1700-1773), and Jean Nicolas (1741-1825) - their books
18: Burr - Wilkinson Conspiracy (including Wagner's notes for bibliography)

Box 3: Subject Catalog "C - CAT"

Folder 1: California - Bear Flag
2: California - Castanares Coleccion, 1845
3: California - Hutcheson's California Magazine and Pioneer Magazine
5: California - imprints and stamp covers
6: California - maps, prints, and manuscripts
7: California - newspapers and magazines
8: California playbills
9: California - quotes from booksellers, etc.
10: California - secularization of missions
11: California - miscellaneous subjects
12: California - railroad pamphlets with maps
13: California - regional information
14: California State Library - correspondence
15: California - Henry Raup Wagner - his list
16: Cambridge Platform - correspondence with Rev. J. A. Harrer ( ), Congregational Library of the American Congregational Association, Boston, Massachusetts
17: Canada - miscellaneous
18: Canada - Selkirk settlement
19: Canada - western and northwestern
20: Canada - canal items
21: Carolinas - books
22: catalog - Streeter's subject headings
23: Cattle, etc. - Streeter's "want" list
24: cattle and Wyoming brand books

Box 4: Subject Catalog - "CH - CONS"

Folder 1: Cherokee alphabet
2: Cherokee items - rough notes
3: Cherokee items - James A. Tyson ( ) - his list and correspondence
4: Chicago, Illinois - see Illinois
5: Classification lists
6: College libraries and their books sought by Streeter
7: "Colophon" file in Streeter's collection
8: Colorado - imprints and maps
Box 4 (continued): Subject Catalog - "CH - CONS"

Folder 9: Columbus, Christopher and his letter regarding first voyage, 1493
10: Confederate Constitution and imprints
11: Connecticut - books
12: Considerant, Victor Prosper (1808-1893) - correspondence between Streeter
    Arthur E. Bestor, Jr. (1908- ) of Stanford University re Considerant
13: Constitution - U.S. - and Bill of Rights
14: Constitution - U.S. - Streeter's copy of list of pamphlets with locations

Box 5: Subject Catalog - "CONT - E"

Folder 1: Continental Congress - Beresford and Jefferson, Report on Indian Affairs
2: Continental Congress - 1784 - Draft of Ordinance of 1785
3: Continental Congress - Jefferson's Reports on Western Territory - 1784
4: Cook, Capt. James - materials
5: Cortés Society - materials
6: Cresap, Michael (1742-1775) - concerning Jefferson papers on Cresap
7: Dakota - Black Hills
8: Dakotas - imprints, including notes on Bismarck Directory of 1879
9: DeBow's Review
10: Declaration of Independence - materials
11: Directories in Streeter's collection
12: Discovery and exploration period - U.S.
13: Duplicates (misc. grade "A") - lists of February 1946 and April 1947
14: Duplicates (Texas grades "A" and "B") - lists of February 1946 and
    April 1947
15: Duplicates (grade "B") - railroads to the Pacific - lists of April 1947
16: Duplicates - July 1950
17: Duplicates - information
18: East - regional material
19: Echaniz Lot - lists
20: Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910), Papers - correspondence
21: Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910), Papers - " "
22: Mary Baker Eddy, Papers - Carpenter Foundation correspondence
23: Engraving - early American
24: Engraving - Mexico

Box 6: Subject Catalog - "F - H"

Folder 1: Files taken concerning the upstairs of Streeter's library
2: Florida - photostats, correspondence
3: Benjamin Franklin - bibliography
4: Thomas Freeman, An Account of Red River, 1807
5: French and Indian War
6: French and Indian War - Robert Auchmuty's Importance of Cape Breton to the
    British Nation; plus correspondence concerning the war
7: Fur Trade - government documents and Wagner's notes
8: Georgia - books
9: Haiti - books
10: Richard Hakluyt, Principall Navigation, 1589
11: Hawaii - books
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Box 6 (continued): Subject Catalog - "F - H"

Folder 12: Historical Society of Pennsylvania - concerning Quaker epistles
13: Rev. William Hubbard, Narrative of 1677 - The Troubles with the Indians in New England
14: Hudson Bay Company vs. U.S. - U.S. Checklist
15: Hunting and sport

Box 7: Subject Catalog - "I - L"

Folder 1: Icarian material - concerning Etienne Cabet's (1738-1856) communistic society in Nauvoo, Illinois
2: Idaho - maps
3: Idaho - Nez Perces and Lapwai - imprints
4: Illinois - Chicago bibliography
5: Illinois and Chicago printing
6: Imprints, early - notes
7: Indian captivities in Streeter's collection
8: Indian treaties - material
9: Indiana - books
10: Iowa - books
11: Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) - his library
12: Thomas Jefferson - Plan for the Temporary Government of the Western Territory, 1784 - photostats
13: John Carter Brown Library - copy of an address delivered by Streeter there
14: Kansas - printing
15: Kentucky - Daniel Boone map, Filson map, et al.
16: Latter Day Saints - Millennial Star
17: Library of Congress - Duane pamphlets - notes of Henry Raup Wagner
18: Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) - address at Gettysburg
19: Abraham Lincoln - Emancipation Proclamation
20: Abraham Lincoln - Republican Standard broadside; also, general items
21: Louisiana - printing - Henry Raup Wagner's notes
22: Louisiana Purchase; Lewis & Clark expedition

Box 8: Subject Catalog - "MA - MATH"

Folder 1: Manuscripts - mending
2: Maps - American Revolution
3: Maps - Drake, Sir Francis
4: Maps - lists and correspondence
5: Maps - Mason and Dixon map
8: Maps - Melish map - correspondence with Col. Lawrence Martin, Library of Congress, 1942-1945
9: Maps - New England, including Sellers map
10: Maps - New York
11: Maps - United States
Box 8 (continued): Subject Catalog - "MA - MATH"

Folder 12: Maps - Washington, D. C.
13: Massachusetts - seventeenth-century material
14: Massachusetts - books
15: Cotton Mather, Magnolia... - watermarks

Box 9: Subject Catalog - "MAY - MIS"

Folder 1: Maximilian Alexander Philipp, prinz von Wied-Neuwied (1782-1867), Travels in America
4: Mexican War - materials
5: Mexico - books
6: Michigan - books
7: Miscellaneous notes
8: Miscellaneous subjects
9: Mississippi - books
10: Mississippi Valley - books
11: Missouri - correspondence with R. F. Perotti ( ) of Kansas City, Missouri, concerning imprints, 1956-1963
12: Missouri - notes on Missouri Gazette, extracted from Albert H. Allen's notes; also, Missouri imprints and correspondence with Missouri Historical Society

Box 10: Subject Catalog - "MONT - 0"

Folder 1: Montana - books
2: Music in American history - materials
3: Morristown, N. J. - Morris County newspapers
4: Nebraska - printing
5: Nevada - books
6: New England - general; also, materials on Massachusetts
7: New England - books
8: New France and the Mississippi Valley to 1763
9: New Hampshire - books
10: New Jersey - general; also, lot of Harold E. Pickersgill (1872-1943); also, correspondence with George C. Rockefeller ( )
11: New Mexico - books
12: New York - Novi Belgii maps
13: Nootka Sound - materials
14: Ohio - materials including Maxwell's Code, Cincinnati, Ohio
15: Oklahoma - books
16: Old Northwest - books; materials
17: Oregon - books
18: Overland journeys - expeditions, etc.
Box 11: Subject Catalog - "P - PLA"

Folder 1: Pacific Northwest - materials
2: Pacific voyages - materials
3: Pennsylvania - Holme map - correspondence
4: Pennsylvania - Holme map - memoranda
5: Pennsylvania - imprints
6: Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania/Maryland boundary
7: Petroleum - materials
8: Plains and Rockies - classifications of Streeter
9: Plains and Rockies - correspondence with Charles Lewis Camp (1893- ), Berkeley, California, 1934-1953
10: Plains and Rockies - notes on items and their locations
11: Plains and Rockies - Streeter's "want" list
12: Plains and Rockies - "want" lists of Graff, Holliday, American Antiquarian Society, et al. - correspondence

Box 12: Subject Catalog - "PLU - R"

Folder 1: John Plumbe, Jr. ( - ) - Pacific railroads
2: Presidents of the U.S. - general material
3: Prints and Views - material
4: Radical literature - Shakers, Oneida community, etc.
5: Railroad conventions, 1823-1889 - Bureau of Railway Economics
6: Railroads - correspondence regarding checklists with New-York Historical Society and with Thomas F. Thomson (1906- ), New York Public Library
7: Railroads Checklist - New York Public Library
8: Railroads - New York Public Library "want" list
9: Railroads - Georgia
10: Railroads magazines - rough notes
11: Railroads Record - rough notes (pamphlet)
12: Railroads - University of Michigan Transportation Library - correspondence
13: Railroads - Van Deusen list and Hargrett list
14: Railroads through 1840 - bibliography
15: Railroads - Wagner's list
16: Railroads - Pacific railroads - correspondence and data
17: Regional - miscellaneous (Pacific and Mississippi Valley)
18: Rhode Island - books
19: Arthur Hiler Ruggles (1881- ) concerning the exhibition at Butler Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island, 7 December 1940

Box 13: Subject Catalog - "S - Z"

Folder 1: Scenographia Americana, 1768
2: Capt. John Smith - material
3: Spanish Southwest - books
4: Sports - Baseball-Football Bibliographic Review
5: Sir William Drummond Stewart (1795-1871), Edward Warren; biographical notes
Box 13 (continued): Subject Catalog - "S - Z"

Folder 6: Subjects - miscellaneous
7: Tahiti - books
8: Tennessee - books
9: Ulster County Gazette - material
10: Union Catalog at the Library of Congress
11: United States - early years
12: United States - government documents
13: United States - history - general
14: Utah and the Mormons
15: Vault - combination instructions
16: Henry Raup Wagner - miscellaneous notes
17: Henry Raup Wagner, Spanish Southwest
18: War of 1812 - general material
19: Daniel Webster - portraits by Chester Harding (1792-1866); also, Rufus Choate portrait by William Willard (1819- ) - photographs
20: Noah Webster - bibliography
21: West - regional - general material
22: The West in fiction
23: West Indies - books
24: Wisconsin - books
25: Wyoming - books

Box 14: Correspondence with Henry Raup Wagner, 1927-1942

Box 15: Correspondence with Henry Raup Wagner, 1943-1952

Box 16: Correspondence with Henry Raup Wagner, 1953-1957; letters concerning Blanche Collet Wagner (1873-1957), Mrs. Henry Raup; also, letters concerning Streeter articles on Wagner

Box 17: Correspondence with Lawrence Counselman Wroth, 1933-1964

Box 18: Donations made by Streeter to various institutions and societies, including the American Antiquarian Society and the University of Virginia, 1940-1952

Box 19: Donations made by Streeter to various institutions and societies, especially the Railroads Collection given to the American Antiquarian Society, 1953-1962

Box 20: Donations made by Streeter to various institutions and societies, including the New-York Historical Society, 1963-1965

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