## American Antiquarian Society
### Manuscript Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of collection:</th>
<th>Location:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cole, George Watson, Papers, 1851-1939</td>
<td>Manuscript boxes &quot;C&quot; Special Stacks Octavo volumes &quot;C&quot;</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of collection:</th>
<th>N.U.C.M.C. number:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66 manuscript boxes 92 octavo volumes</td>
<td>62-3181</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sources of information on collection:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source of collection:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts of George Watson Cole, 1930s</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Collection description:</th>
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George Watson Cole (1850-1939), librarian and bibliographer, titled the draft of his autobiography "Recollections of a Hillside Country Boy who Made Good" and headed the second chapter "Wasted Opportunities: schools, teaching, and law--1850-1885." These appellations are accurate because it was not until Cole was 35 years old that, encouraged by his mother-in-law, he began the library work which was to occasion the autobiographical chapter he entitled "success." He entered the first class of Melvil Dewey's library school at Columbia College and graduated in 1888. For the next two years he worked as an assistant at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Ill., and from 1891 to 1895 he was librarian of the Free Public Library of Jersey City, N.J. Marriage in 1894 to a wealthy third wife allowed him to retire from that job and devote the rest of his life to travel and bibliographic research.

Shortly after leaving Jersey City, Cole and his wife spent three months in Bermuda--long enough for him to be spurred by an interest in its history and to begin the research which culminated in the 1907 publication, *Bermuda in Periodical Literature; with Occasional Reference to Other Works, A*
Bibliography. His most outstanding bibliographical work was the series of annotated catalogs of the private library of E. Dwight Church. Cole achieved fame with this series for they were considered to be the best analytical descriptions of books published up to that time in both America and Europe. Dr. Cole (he received an honorary degree from Trinity College in Connecticut) was recruited by Henry E. Huntington to be librarian of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, a position he held from 1915 to 1924. He organized the staff and established the principles and methodology for cataloging and administering the library.

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:
Cole, George Watson, Papers, 1851-1939

Collection description (continued):
An enthusiastic transplant from the East Coast to California, Cole early became interested in the Spanish missions, and after much visiting, gathering notes, and assembling photographs, he published in 1910 "Missions and Mission Pictures; A Contribution towards an Iconography of the Franciscan Missions of California." This interest also introduced him to Charles Beebe Turrill, a San Francisco photographer whose life-long enthusiasm was preservation and collection of Californiana.

Cole, and his wife, Laura Ward Roys (translator of Dr. Frederic van Eeden's The Quest) were fond of European travel and Cole, who was a meticulous record keeper, tabulated that his nine trips to Europe from 1895 to 1929 totalled 3 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Sturdy and inexhaustible in interests, Cole filled the years after 1924 with lecturing, writing, and a trip in 1929 to Europe as the U.S. delegate from the Bibliographical Society of America to that group's World Congress. He died at the age of 89, and his wife, whom he described as "frail from childhood," survived him by several months, dying at the age of 92.

This voluminous collection was generated by Cole's myriad interests. Virtually every facet of his career and travels is covered by notes, correspondence, diary entries, addresses, and essays. Much of the correspondence is with librarians and bibliographers and deals with bibliographic problems. There are letters with his publisher. Cole frequently sent copies of his articles to friends and libraries, requesting letters of acknowledgement, and the collection contains many of these letters, excerpts from some of which he included in his 1936 "List of Printed Productions of George Watson Cole, 1870-1936, with Comments by Friends." There is one box of correspondence from
Charles B. Turrill, 1910-1927. There is also personal correspondence with his mother, his wife, friends from his school days at Phillips Andover Academy (he left before he was expelled), and people he met in Europe.

The collection includes 36 boxes of papers, addresses, notes, essays, catalogs, indexes, newspaper clippings, reminiscences of his trips, poetry, photographs, etc. Cole prepared a "File Key" to these manuscripts. There are 9 boxes of notes for his bibliography on Bermuda and 9 boxes of photographs of Spanish missions in California (including notes by Cole and some materials on portraits of Junipero Serra).

Cole's precise record keeping is evidenced by his diaries--51 volumes covering the years 1874-1936. Unfortunately for the researcher, all but the first four are written in Takigraphy. Cole was enthusiastic about the time and space this system saved and included in the collection several articles he wrote extolling its virtues. He also included guides and manuals to enable the researcher to learn the system.

There are 35 volumes recording his cash disbursements (illustrating his attention to his appearance and his fondness for sweets) and 5 volumes recording his correspondence from 1913 to 1917.

10 June 1975
25 October 1990
revised 16 February 2010

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

George Watson Cole, Papers, 1851-1939

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Folder 7: Letters from Cole's mother, Mrs. Levi Thrall, 1878-1909  
Folder 8: Thrall Estate Insurance Controversy, 1904-1905  
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Folder 11: Material concerning Woodcock Family  
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Box 12 Newspaper Clippings; Letters from Charles B. Turrill, 1910-1927

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Folder 12: Bibliographical Society of America, list of members, 1933
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Folder 2: "Scheme of Bibliography: shelf-list"
Folder 3: "Compiling a Bibliography"
Folder 4: "Bibliography--Curios of Curiosities of Elizabethan Book-Making, Part I"
Folder 5: "Bibliophile Society--List of Publications, with Prices"
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Folder 7: "Some American Book Collectors"
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Folder 2: Californiana
Folder 3: On Cataloguing Married Women's Names
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Folder 6: E. Dwight Church Catalogue--List of Contents of Boxes 32-52
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Folder 8: Bibliographies, Catalogues, etc. consulted in Compiling the E. Dwight Church Catalogue
Folder 9: "The Clergyman, the Businessman, and the Telephone." An Anecdote
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Folder 1: Americana in the Library of E. Dwight Church
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Folder 3: "Lewis Hughes, the Militant Minister of the Bermudas and His Printed Works," AAS Proceedings, reprint, 1928
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Folder 1: Notable Editions of the Scriptures in whole or in part, especially those of the English Bible--working copy
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Folder 1: Notable Editions of the Scriptures--working copy, 1931-1932
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Folder 5: Newscipping on Prince Henry's Bermuda diary, 1902
Folder 6: Article on Bermuda from *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, March 1874
Folder 7: The Sudden Appearance of Butterflies in Bermuda in 1847 and 1875
Folder 8: Book Catalogs relating to the Bermudas
Folder 9: "The Boers in Bermuda," magazine article in the *ERA*, May 1902
Folder 10: *American Journal of Science*: "Remarks on the Chemical analyses of samples of soil from Bermuda," 1873
Folder 13: *New York Times*, December 1929: "The Life of the Ocean Depths as recorded by the members of the Beebe Expedition in Bermuda," 1929
Folder 14: Bermuda Maps in Atlases--Reports from various libraries
Folder 15: Miscellaneous Bermudiana Notes
Folder 16: Thirteen envelopes of newspaper clippings relating to Bermuda, early twentieth century

Box 46

Folder 1: Jesuit and Franciscan Missions of Lower California; also, Dominican Missions
Folder 2: Building Records of the Franciscan Missions of California
Folder 3: The Portraits of Fray Junipero Serra
Folder 4: Books containing material on the California Missions, arranged chronologically, 1757-date
Folder 5: Missions of California and Mission pictures--contents of boxes remaining in this collection
Folder 6: Edward Vischer and his Drawings of the California Missions

Box 47

Folder 1: California Missions--miscellaneous sheets
Folder 2: Postcards of the California Missions: various lists
Folder 3: Notes on Postcards of the California Missions
Folder 4: Notes on the Oriana Day Paintings of the California Missions made about 1884
Folder 5: Etchings of the Franciscan Missions by Henry Chapman Ford

(cont.)
Folder 7: Prints of the Oriana Day Paintings of the Missions
Folder 8: Films of Surveys of the California Missions, 1854

Box 48 Mission Photographs

One folder concerning Missions of California and Mission Pictures, and twenty-four folders of photographs of: San Diego; San Luis Rey; Pala; Santa Isabel

Box 49 Mission Photographs

Nineteen folders of photographs of: San Juan Capistrano; San Gabriel; San Bernardino- Agua Mansa; Los Angeles

Box 50 Mission Photographs

Eighteen folders of photographs of: San Fernando; San Beuna Ventura; Santa Barbara

Box 51 Mission Photographs

Sixteen folders of photographs of: Santa Ynes; San Luis Obispo; Santa Margarita; San Miguel; La Purissima; San Antonio de Padua

Box 52 Mission Photographs

Thirteen folders of photographs of: Soledad; San Carlos Carmelo; San Juan Bautisa; Santa Cruz; Santa Clara; San Jose; San Carlos-Monterey

Box 53 Mission Photographs

One folder containing Henry Chapman Ford's "Etchings and Franciscans in California," and five folders of photographs of: San Rafael; San Francisco Solano; Sonoma; San Francisco de Asisi-Delores

Box 54

Folder 1: Henry Chapman Ford's Watercolor Sketches of the California Missions in Stanford University Museum
Folder 2: Lists of California postcards and mission pictures
Folder 3: Ground Plans of California Missions
Folder 4: Photostats of papers dealing with California court proceedings on Catholic Church lands and property, 1850s-1860s
Folder 5: Junipero Serra Portraits--copies
Folder 6: Photostats and photographs of Missions
Folder 7: Correspondence concerning Missions, 1930s

Octavo Volumes (filed in Manuscripts Room)

(cont.)
Cole, George Watson, Papers, 1851-1939  Contents List (cont.)

Diaries, 1874-1885; 1891-1894; 1902-1936 (octavo volumes 1-51)

v. 1, 1874; v. 2, 1875; v. 3, 1876; v. 4, 1877; v. 5, 1878; v. 6, 1879; v. 7, 1880;
 v. 8, 1881; v. 9, 1882; v. 10, 1883; v. 11, 1884; v. 12, 1885; v. 13, 1891; v. 14, 1892;
 v. 15, 1893; v. 16, 1894; v. 17, 1902; v. 18, 1903; v. 19, 1904; v. 20, 1905; v. 21,
 1906; v. 22, 1907; v. 23, 1908; v. 24, 1909; v. 25, 1910; v. 26, 1911; v. 27, 1912;
 v. 28, 1913; v. 29, 1914; v. 30, 1915; v. 31, 1916; v. 32, 1917; v. 33, 1918; v. 34,
 1919; v. 35, 1920; v. 36, 1921; v. 37, 1922; v. 38, 1923; v. 39, 1924; v. 40, 1925; v. 41,
 1926; v. 42, 1927; v. 43, 1928; v. 44, 1929; v. 45, 1930; v. 46, 1931; v. 47, 1932;
 v. 48, 1933; v. 49, 1934; v. 50, 1935; v. 51, 1936

Cash Account Books, 1923-1934 (octavo volumes 52-63)

v. 52, 1923; v. 53, 1924; v. 54, 1925; v. 55, 1926; v. 56, 1927; v. 57, 1928; v. 58,
 1929; v. 59, 1930; v. 60, 1931; v. 61, 1932; v. 62, 1933; v. 63, 1934

Appointment Book, undated (octavo volume 64)

Cash Journals, undated; 1915-1936 (octavo volumes 65-87)

v. 65, undated; v. 66, 1915; v. 67, 1916; v. 68, 1917; v. 69, 1918; v. 70, 1919; v.
 71, 1920; v. 72, 1921; v. 73, 1922; v. 74, 1923; v. 75, 1924; v. 76, 1925; v. 77, 1926;
 v. 78, 1927; v. 79, 1928; v. 80, 1929; v. 81, 1930; v. 82, 1931; v. 83, 1932; v. 84,
 1933; v. 85, 1934; v. 86, 1935; v. 87, 1936

Correspondence Records, 1913-1917 (octavo volumes 88-92)

v. 88, 1913; v. 89, 1914; v. 90, 1915; v. 91, 1916; v. 92, 1917

(cont.)