

Winterthur Library

An Introduction to Resources



Collectors and Collecting

In addition to the records of Winterthur Museum founder Henry Francis du Pont (1880–1969), which form the nucleus of the Winterthur Archives, the library holds the papers of a number of decorative arts collectors who were also scholars in the field.

Alphonso T. Clearwater Papers

Alphonso T. Clearwater (1848–1933) was a judge on the New York Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. His collection of early American silver objects was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The Clearwater silver collection is the basis for C. Louise Avery's *American Silver of the XVII and XVIII Centuries: A Study Based on the Clearwater Collection* (1920).

The papers primarily contain correspondence with dealers, collectors, and museums. Also included are publications about the collection and a series of cards describing individual pieces of silver.

Samuel Laidacker Papers

Samuel H. Laidacker (1904–94) was an antiques dealer in eastern Pennsylvania, specializing in American historical glass and Staffordshire pottery. He was the author of *Anglo-American China* (1954) and *The Standard Catalogue of Anglo-American China* (1938). He also published the magazine *American Antiques Collector*.

The collection includes correspondence with collectors and dealers, auction-related material, two small boxes of cards identifying collectors and dealers, and miscellaneous clippings and photographs. Of particular interest is a collection of

illustrated notes on the classification of Anglo-American china.

Percy Edward Raymond Papers

Percy Edward Raymond (1879–1952) was a professor of paleontology at Harvard and first president of the Pewter Club of America. He was also a collector of pewter and studied the history of early pewtermaking.

The papers are made up of research notes on early pewterers, particularly in New England.

Ledlie I. Laughlin Papers

Ledlie I. Laughlin (1890–1977) was a renowned pewter collector, scholar, and author and wrote *Pewter in America: Its Makers and Their Marks* (vols. 1 and 2, 1940; vol. 3, 1969).

The collection consists of research notebooks, cards, and reference material for Laughlin's books. Included are sets of plates of illustrations and photographs, including many not featured in the book.

Stanley B. Ineson Papers

Stanley B. Ineson (1882–1970) was a collector of early American silver spoons. Between the early 1930s and the mid-1940s, he amassed more than 1,700 silver items. His goal was to form a “research library” of silver by early American craftsmen. The Ineson silver collection was given to Winterthur in 1962; the Ineson papers came to the library in 1976. *Marks of American Silversmiths in the Ineson-Bissell Collection*, by Louise Conway Belden (1980) is based on the collection.

The papers are composed of correspondence, subject files, clippings, lists of silversmiths, rubbings of touchmarks, photographs of silver, and wax impressions of touchmarks from the backs of silver spoons. A name index to the collection is available.

Lyon Family Papers

Irving Whitall Lyon (1840–96) and Irving Phillips Lyon, father and son, were physicians. Both were also scholars of early American furniture. Irving W. was the author of *The Colonial Furniture of New England: A Study of the Domestic Furniture in Use in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (1891). Irving P. wrote a series of articles during the 1930s in *The Magazine Antiques* on oak furniture in New England.

The collection comprises research notes, correspondence, photographs of furniture, and drafts of the book and articles.

Phoebe Phillips Prime Collection

Alfred Coxe Prime (1883–1926) and his wife, Phoebe Phillips Prime, documented the craftsmen and manufacturers of the eighteenth century. Alfred Prime worked for the Engineering Department of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and later with

the firm of Phillips and Jacobs, manufacturing chemists in Philadelphia. His book, *The Arts and Crafts in Philadelphia, Maryland, and South Carolina ... Gleanings from Newspapers*, was published by the Walpole Society in 1929.

After his death, his wife continued and expanded on his work. “The Alfred Coxe Prime Directory of Craftsmen Compiled by Phoebe Phillips Prime from Philadelphia City Directories,” a four-volume unpublished manuscript, is available in the Winterthur Library. The collection includes twenty-three scrapbooks of clippings from newspaper and magazine articles and antiques dealer advertisements with photographs. Of these, two focus on furniture, seven on china, and fourteen on silver. A card file includes transcriptions of thousands of craftsmen’s ads from eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century newspapers.

Belknap Family Papers

Waldron Phoenix Belknap Jr. (1899– 1949), a collector of colonial paintings and English mezzotints, was well known as a scholar of early American portraiture. The collection includes Belknap’s research notes on early American painting and drafts for a book that he was working on at the time of his death.



Winterthur Library is located in the Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from the main entrance to Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

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