

Winterthur Library News Spring 2017

Greetings from Winterthur.

The weather seems to have finally turned the corner, and the days are getting longer. With the March Bank just receding, the azaleas can't be far behind. As I am sure many of you have heard, E. Richard McKinstry retired from Winterthur in January after 40 years of service, the last eight as library director. While Rich is greatly missed, we all wish him well in his retirement. Emily Guthrie and Jeanne Solensky are at the helm guiding the library while still attending to their respective areas.

Beginning in April, the library opens for half-days on second Saturdays to better accommodate researchers' schedules.

In this issue, guest contributor and 2016 research fellow Fionnuala Hart Gerrity details her case study on the development of bookbinding in the colonies and early America using a group of cyphering books in the manuscript collection.

To celebrate the return of major league baseball, we offer an article on the history of baseball activity on the Winterthur estate. We also highlight a new acquisition made possible by the H. W. Wilson Foundation; an inventory of a Revolutionary War pensioner; the new library exhibition *Alphabet Soup*; and more adopt opportunities.

We hope you both enjoy this newsletter and find it informative. Emily, Jeanne, myself, and all of the library staff send all best wishes.

Gregory J. Landrey Director for Academic Affairs

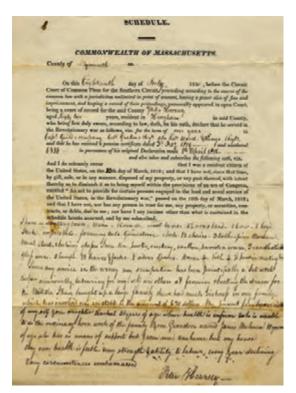


NEW WEEKEND HOURS IN 2017

The Winterthur Library is pleased to announce new weekend hours. In addition to our 8:30 am—4:30 pm, Monday—Friday hours, we are now open on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 am—1:00 pm, April through December. Please note that researchers needing material from special collections (Rare Books, Manuscripts, Archives, Visual Resources) **must** submit requests via e-mail to reference@winterthur.org by noon on the Friday before. Additional questions may be sent to the same e-mail address. For researchers visiting us for the first time this year, please bring a current government-issued ID and complete a reader registration form at the Security Desk before entering the library. We look forward to seeing you!



A REVOLUTIONARY INVENTORY



Inventory of Peter Hearsey, 1820

Inventories of possessions, found in homes and the workplace, have assisted researchers over the years in both understanding what objects populated households and places of business and how they were used. The library's miscellaneous collection of inventories, wills, and administration papers—Collection 61—includes about 1,800 items. Last November another inventory came into the holdings—one that, while not different from most of the others we have in terms of describing possessions, does have a unique reason for being.

Peter Hearsey (or Hersey) was a resident of Hingham, Plymouth County, Massachusetts. He was born on December 5, 1757, the son of Jonathan and Sarah Whiton Hearsey. For one year, 1776, he was a drummer in the Revolutionary War army. An 1893 history of Hingham reads: "We seem to see our forefathers as they gather on the company training-fields at South Hingham, the Lower Plain, and Broad Bridge, while Levi Burr, Peter Hearsey, Reuben Sprague, and Zadoc Hersey wake the sleepers with the continual roll of their drums ..." After his wartime service, Hearsey settled into civilian life as a cooper and occasional farmer, married twice, raised nine children, and in 1807, was instrumental in establishing the Third Congregational Society.

In 1818, Hearsey applied for a Revolutionary War soldier's pension. His application was approved, and he began to receive payments. Then, in 1820, Hearsey was required to formally prove that he was still entitled to receive his pension, which he did on July 18 before the Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the Southern Circuit.

A document, called a schedule, affirming Hearsey's continuing qualification issued by the state of Massachusetts said in part, "I have not ... by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent to thereby diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress ... nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed." In other words, for Hearsey to keep receiving his pension, he had to state that he hadn't jettisoned his possessions to make himself poorer and that he was reporting his full income.

Following the principal printed words of the document is a handwritten list of Hearsey's possessions—a clock; 12 chairs; 3 tables; a pine bureau; 2 looking glasses; iron, tin, pewter, crockery, earthen, and wooden ware; 8 silver spoons; 12 knives and forks; 2 lamps; cooper's tools; a house and barn; etc. Additionally, Hearsey noted that he had a large family and that because members were sickly and infirm, he had been forced into debt, owing creditors \$630.00. Hearsey ended his summary by declaring that "My own health is feeble & my strength & ability to labour every year declining & my circumstances embarrassed."

Because of his Revolutionary War pension, we know a bit about how Peter Hearsey, a cooper living in early 19th-century Hingham, Massachusetts, furnished his house and lived. We do not know why, but on March 1, 1823, Hearsey was taken off the soldiers' pension payment roll. Hearsey died on May 16, 1844, having reached the age of 86.

CYPHERING BOOKS IN WINTERTHUR'S DOWNS COLLECTION

by Fionnuala Gerrity

The Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera at Winterthur has a remarkable collection of blank books from Colonial and early North America. These have proved fertile ground for the nascent study of American blank book production, most notably in Consuela Metzger's article "Colonial blankbooks in the Winterthur Library" in volume 1 of Julia Miller's *Suave Mechanicals: Essays in the History of Bookbinding*. That article gives an excellent overview of the history of blank books and focuses on case-bound account books held in the Downs Collection. I recently had the pleasure of studying a related collection of school exercise books, many of which are examples of the cyphering tradition of mathematics education in the colonies.

These books came to my attention while attending Historic Book Structures for Conservators, a course funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, held at Winterthur in July 2014. A collection of digitized exercise books caught my eye while browsing the catalog. These books seemed a perfect case study into the development of bookbinding in the colonies; they tend to be a simple single-section pamphlet structure, made with sheets of approximately one quire of writing paper, with covers of heavy paper. They occasionally incorporate colored or printed paper, cloth, and leather in the bindings, or feature decorative techniques like colored or sprinkled edges. The level of craftsmanship was wide, from quite crude bindings to very polished ones. It seemed likely that bookbinders or other craftsmen in the colonies could produce these books with relative ease and with minimal specialized equipment, making them an indicator of bourgeoning craft traditions.

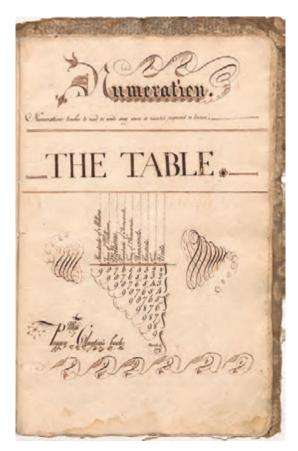
The focus of my initial study was to record the physical attributes of 13 of these books made between 1750 and 1833, and to begin classifying characteristics that might distinguish between imported, domestically produced, and owner-made books. A month-long research fellowship in November 2016, allowed me to continue that work and describe an additional 77 blank books held in the Downs Collection. A larger data set has resulted in a more data-driven approach to questions such as what percentage of blank books were imported or made domestically. I used evidence in the objects, such as watermarks, printer's waste, printed cover decorations, and binders' tickets, along with information in the catalog records drawn from the owner's inscriptions of names, dates, and places, to determine (if possible) approximately when and where these books were bound.

The school exercise books in the Downs Collection trace the development of the single-section blank book format from a somewhat hodgepodge beginning to a more refined structure. Towards the beginning of the period studied, books tended

to be imported. Stationery binding in England was well established, and colonial customers could order many formats of blank books, as stationer's advertisements attest. As the colonies began to develop their own home industries (the first paper mill was established in 1690, and there are records of bookbinders in the colonies beginning is 1636), the size, format, and materials of exercise books diversified. Bookbinders, and possibly the owners themselves, constructed covers using heavy paper as well as cloth, decorative paper, leather, and printer's waste. The bindings show great creativity in the use and re-use of materials. Slowly this diversity of materials gives way to a more streamlined product, and by the 1840s it is possible to describe a "typical" exercise book of 12 ruled folios sewn with a pamphlet stitch through the fold with a colored paper cover often printed with text and images.

My current data set is small, but a good start for further research. The exceptional quality of cataloging for these items made my job much easier, as did the knowledge and assistance of the librarians and archivists. Already it is possible to see the beginnings of patterns, but more data is necessary to identify those patterns with more certainty. I plan to continue research into blank books, with an added focus in comparing the formats of account books to that of school exercise books, to clarify whether or not the single-section format was made with a specific use in mind.

Fionnuala Hart Gerrity is a 2011 graduate of the North Bennett Street School Bookbinding program and has worked as a book conservation technician in general and special collections at several institutions, including Boston Athenaeum, Yale University Libraries, and Harvard University Library.



A page from Peggey Clayton's cyphering book, 1776

FROM THE ARCHIVES: WINTERTHUR GOES UP TO BAT

[The following article is reprinted from the October 1978 issue of Winterthur Reporter, vol. II no. 5, Winterthur's long-ago staff newsletter.]



Winterthur Baseball Team in Hockessin, ca. 1949

The year was 1926. Henry Ford inaugurated the eight-hour, five-day work week; the first trans-Atlantic radio telephone conversation was made between New York and London; singers were crooning "I Found a Million-Dollar Baby in the Five and Ten Cent Store"; and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the New York Yankees 4–3 in the twenty-third World Series.

Meanwhile, at Winterthur, baseball fever was so high that a team was formed. Howard Lattomus, retired superintendent of farms, remembers that most members worked in the dairy barn and lived in the boarding house. "It was a fairly good team for a group of ordinary guys working on a farm," he recalls. "They were crazy about baseball." The men organized card parties at the Clubhouse to raise money to buy their blue and white striped uniforms. Each outfit had a bold, blue "Winterthur" stitched on the shirt front and a white "W" centered on the blue cap.

"Whoever challenged us, we played," Howard says. This included teams from the industrial leagues, Chadds Ford, Longwood Gardens, St. Barnabus Church, the Kentmere Red Sox, Elk Mills, Dilwyne and Kennett Square. The latter group was partially sponsored by the National Guard.

Henry Francis du Pont gave his support to the Winterthur team by supplying some equipment and the use of a field. He even came to some of the early games. The first ball field was "a little wet," Howard says, so the team moved from the meadow along Adams Dam Road to where the golf course is now on Center Meeting Road. That was the "best field we had," Howard remembers. The team often played five nights a week.

World War II interrupted baseball activity at Winterthur, but in 1948 the team surfaced again, this time as part of the Diamond State League that included Yorklyn, Hockessin, Rockland and Dilwyne. Games were also played with teams from Landenburg [sic], Montchanin, Elsmere, Mt. Cuba and even the Public Workhouse (the prisoners had to play all games on their home field!).

Ernie McCann played right field during those years, with his brother Park, Jr., sometimes filling in as shortstop and his father Park, Sr., coaching. Many other members of Winterthur families also played, as evidenced by the accompanying photograph. Ernie describes Winterthur as a "winning team." In the first year the men won thirty games and lost only two. For two years in a row, outfielders Walter Heckman, Leonard Foulsham and Ernie were chosen to play on the All-Star team in Hockessin.

After the first year, the team also held card and bingo parties at the Clubhouse to raise money for uniforms. They would pass the hat at games to pay the umpire his \$5 fee and to buy bats and other equipment.

By this time, the baseball field had moved again, to a site along Thompson's Bridge Road. Mr. du Pont put up an electric fence "to keep the cows out," Ernie recalls, and made sure the field was moved before each game.

The Korean War spelled the end of organized baseball at Winterthur after 1952. All that remains of the League are the two versions of the uniform, donated by Ernie to the Library Archives, and photographs given by several persons.

From the Archives: Winterthur Goes Up to Bat continued...

A field is still in use between the old Front Drive and the Wilmington Country Club, however. Despite the lack of uniforms and official organization, Winterthur staff members have been playing baseball or softball games every summer. Sometimes one division challenges another; other times everyone just chooses a side and gets out to have some fun. Over fifty years have gone by, but the reaction is still the same when the umpire calls out "play ball!"

This article and the accompanying photos were based on documentation in the Winterthur Archives. Over the years since the time this article was written, Winterthur staff members, both men and women, have continued to gather casually over the spring and summer months to play softball on the estate—still sans uniforms and formal schedules.



Winterthur Baseball Team, ca. 1926

AUTHORS EXPRESS THEIR THANKS

Winterthur Library staff has been acknowledged for providing images and research assistance for the following studies:

Kenneth Hafertepe. The Material Culture of German Texans. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2016.

Sandra A. Soule. Seeking Robert White Quaker, Shaker, Husband, Father. Clinton, N.Y.: Richard W. Couper Press, 2016.

Leroy Graves. Early Seating Upholstery: Reading the Evidence. Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2015.

Akiko Shimbo. Furniture-Makers and Consumers in England, 1754–1851: Design As Interaction. Burlington, Vt. Ashgate Publishing Co., 2016.

Matthew Skic. Muskets for the Use of the United States: Philadelphia's Gunsmiths during the War for Independence. Winterthur master's thesis, 2016.

Hannah Boettcher. Mary Custis Lee Unpacks the Washington Relics: A Revolutionary Inheritance in Museums, 1901–1918. Winterthur master's thesis, 2016.

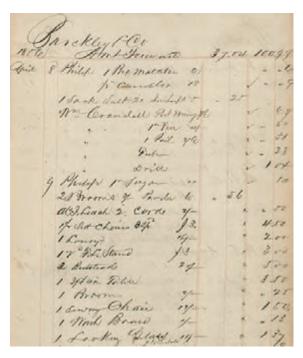
David W. Granston. A Story of Sunshine and Shadow: Elizabeth Colt and the Crafting of the Colt Legacy in Hartford. Winterthur master's thesis, 2016.

Rosalie K. Hooper. Out of the Shade: Uncovering the Manufacture and Use of Umbrellas and Parasols, 1830–1850. Winterthur master's thesis, 2016.

Katie Lynn Bonanno. Ecology in Print: Publishing Picturesque California, 1887–1976. Winterthur master's thesis, 2016.

Emily C. Pazar. The Progress of the Art: Paper Marbling in the United States, 1880–1950. Winterthur master's thesis, 2016.

THE DAYBOOK, INVENTORIES, AND STENCILS OF WILLIAM BARCKLEY & CO. (AND MORE)



A page from Barckley & Co.'s daybook, 1856

Opening a manuscript volume can lead to unexpected delights. Multiple stories come to light, as they do in the daybook kept by several people in Erie County, New York, in the second half of the 19th century. The first owner was an unidentified Buffalo shopkeeper, who used the volume to track sales of groceries, brandy, soap, brooms, cigars, and more to his clients in 1854. The next section belonging to William Barkcley & Co. of Springville starts nine months later in September 1855 with sales of a variety of goods including groceries and furniture. In the 1850 census, William Barckley (1820–1892) was listed as a cabinetmaker living in the adjacent town of Concord. Among the items Barckley sold are: frame doors, looking glasses, flag chairs, bedsteads, sewing chairs, candle stands, and coffins. He also repaired furniture, sawed lumber, and provided undertaking services. The style of record-keeping changed once again in December 1857 with this section kept by an unknown person also recording furniture and coffin sales until 1860.

A succession of inventories, mostly relating to the shop and furniture sections, is recorded in the back of the volume. Barckley & Co. compiled an inventory on February 18, 1856, of store goods including spoons, soap, tobacco boxes, combs, paper, indigo, spices, nails, ticking, and drill. An undated inventory lists tools and benches; an 1854 inventory lists wine and brandy; and two separate furniture inventories, one dated February 15, 1856, itemize dining tables,

trundle bedsteads, coffin plates, Windsor chairs, table stand legs, lounge posts and rails, and New York and Boston rockers. The most interesting inventory, at least from a librarian's perspective, is one of books owned by a M. Louise Dayton in April 1855. Books are often listed in inventories as a "lot" with sometimes only a Bible highlighted individually, but Dayton catalogs her collection of novels, histories, biographies, and manuals including "Pilgrim's Progress," "The Pickwick Papers," "The Vicar of Wakefield," "Goldsmith's History of Rome," "Battle of Lake Erie," "Life of Washington," and "Practical Treatises on Business."

Sometime after 1860, the volume changed hands yet again and was acquired by James Prior, who made practice drawings and stored his stencils in it. The stencils could have been, and most probably were, used to decorate furniture; but the accounts do not indicate that he worked on any of that furniture. The stencils and pin-prick patterns are mostly for flowers, leaves, seashells, wheat, and numerals. Lyres are featured in several patterns; part of a bird is found, also an eagle with 13 stars above it; and a bowl that could have been used for fruit, although no fruit stencils are included. Several patterns have an arts and crafts sensibility, and a blotter from September 1909 attests to the fact that the stencils were referred to as late as that date. Sketches are also found on miscellaneous ephemera, such as on the back of a ticket to the 1858 New Year's Festival at Smith's Assembly Rooms in Springville and on part of a printed lease form dated 1863. The volume also housed pages of embroidery designs from *Peterson's Magazine* that could have been used for stencil inspiration or for embroidery patterns.

We hope researchers will help us solve the mysteries found in these pages. We thank the H. W. Wilson Foundation for its generous support in the purchase of this volume.



ALPHABET SOUP

The latest library exhibit is all about our ABCs. Featuring selections from the rare book collection, the display showcases the many ways in which the alphabet was taught, embellished, celebrated, and commodified. Nineteenth-century alphabet books illustrate nice (and sometimes naughty) ways to remember the ABCs. Catalogs of type specimens reveal the many forms and fonts available to printers during the hand press period. And letters dance across the page in the fluid lines found in penmanship manuals and cypher books. *Alphabet Soup* was coordinated by librarians Sarah Lewis, Linda Martin Schaff, and Emily Guthrie with assistance from Aleks Berger.

An example of the chromatic wood type manufactured by Wm. H. Page & Co. of Greenville, Connecticut, 1874

ADOPT A BOOK

We hope you will consider adopting from our current list. Donors will be recognized in our next newsletter. If you have any questions about the books please contact Emily Guthrie (eguthrie@winterthur.org). Donations should be sent to Winterthur Library, 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735. Please make checks payable to Winterthur Museum. Thank you very much.

We thank Catherine Whalen, Associate Professor, Bard Graduate Center, for adopting Rosey Grier's Needlepoint for Men from our last issue. Catherine wrote, "It would be a great addition to the Winterthur Library. I have copy myself and it's fascinating." We also send our gratitude to Laura Parrish, a member of the library staff, for adopting Regency Women's Dress: Techniques and Patterns, 1800–1830, by Cassidy Percoco. John Bacon, a graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, class of 1990, donated funds to support the purchase of three titles, Painting in Tempera, c.1900; Imagining the Americas in Medici Florence; and Stitching the World: Embroidered Maps and Women's Geographical Education.

Ellen Pearlstein, ed. *Conservation of Featherwork from Central and South America*. Archetype, 2017. \$65.00. The editor reviews the philosophical and scientific state of the conservation of feathered cultural heritage through an exploration of intangible and tangible properties of feathers and a summary of scientific and conservation literature. The book presents six case studies in which examination methods are applied to Central and South American featherwork from the collections of the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Sidney E. Berger. *The Dictionary of the Book: A Glossary for Book Collectors, Booksellers, Librarians, and Others.* Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. \$125.00.

A definitive glossary of the book, offering readers 1,300 terms they need to understand how books are made, the materials they are made of, and how they are described in the bookselling, book collecting, and library worlds. The definitions are supplemented by more than 100 illustrations showing the book as a physical object.



Riikka Raisanen, Anja Primetta, and Kirsi Niinimaki. *Dyes from Nature*. Archetype, 2016. \$110.00.

Plants, algae, fungi and insects have been used as dye sources for centuries. Focusing on the sources of dyes that grow wild or are suitable for cultivation in Northern Europe, this book explores the versatility, practical uses and environmentally safe applications of natural dyes, while at the same time delving into their botany and chemistry and methods of dyeing.

R. Bruce Hoadley. A Field Guide to Identifying Woods in American Antiques & Collectibles. Taunton Press, 2016. \$29.95.

At the core of his book is a discussion of 37 woods commonly found in American antiques. Each wood is described in terms of its physical properties, visible features, and characteristics. A macroscopic view of a cross-sectional surface explains critical features used in identification.

Related to each wood, two or more objects are shown by an overall photograph, then in detail views, to confirm the identification of the wood.

Robert F. Smith. Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution. Westholme Publishing, 2016. \$29.95.

Robert F. Smith states that during the Revolutionary War, the colonies provided their military with the arms needed to fight, survive, and outlast the British enemy. This manufacturing system not only successfully supported the Continental Army, it also demonstrated new production ideas to the new nation. Through this system, the government promoted domestic manufacturing after the war, becoming a model for how the country could produce goods for its own needs.

Paul K. Berg. Nineteenth-Century Photographic Cases and Wall Frames. Berg, 2016. \$95.00.

This book is a reference for the study of miniature photographic cases—including Daguerreian and Union cases—wall frames, and collar boxes of the 19th century. It includes over 1,400 illustrations, a rarity listing, and a price guide. The book features over 50 pages of historical text and related illustrations on the manufacturers, designers, engravers, and patents of cases and frames.

Christine Hadsel. Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater Scenery in Northern New England. David R. Godine, 2015. \$40.00.

In small-town New England, long before television and the internet, the prevailing custom was to provide one's own entertainment, often in the form of a play at the local grange or town hall. The performances relied on all-purpose backdrops, painted canvases of local scenes and interest. Many of these masterpieces of vernacular art still survive. This book presents photographs of these pieces of art that have been hidden in plain sight. Winner of the Historic New England Book Prize.



Marilyn Palmer and Ian West. *Technology in the Country House*. Historic England Publishing, 2016. \$120.00.

The authors explore how new technologies changed country houses and the lives of the families living in them beginning in the 19th century. A wave of improvements promised better water supplies, flushing toilets, central heating, and communication by bells and then telephones. Country houses, however, were often too far from urban centers to take advantage of centralized resources and so were obliged to set up their own systems. Some landowners chose to do this, others did not. This book examines the motivations for their decisions.

Annette Blaugrund, Franklin Kelly, and Barbara Novak. *Thomas Cole: The Artist as Architect*. The Monacelli Press, 2016. \$30.00.

The importance of Thomas Cole's paintings and the significance of his essays, poems, and philosophy are well established, yet an analysis of his architectural endeavors and their impact on his painting has not been undertaken. This book focuses on Cole's architectural interests through architectural elements in his paintings and drawings, as well as in his realized and visionary projects. Published to coincide with the exhibition *Thomas Cole: The Artist as Architect* at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site and the Columbus Art Museum, this study adds a new dimension to scholarship on the artist.

Elsa Smithgall, Erica Hirshler, Katherine M. Bourguignon, et al. William Merritt Chase: A Modern Master. Yale University Press, 2016. \$47.98.

Through five essays, this volume examines William Merritt Chase (1849–1916) and his contribution to the history of modern art. Chase was a leading member of the international artistic avant-garde and was best known for his mastery of a wide range of subjects in oil and pastel, such as figures, landscapes, urban park scenes, interiors, and portraits. Chase mentored a new generation of modernists, including Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Joseph Stella.

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Hours:

Monday–Friday 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Second Saturday of the month

9:00 am-1:00 pm