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William Smith Mason Papers

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1459

TITLE: William Smith Mason Papers

DATES: 1909–1935

BULK DATES: 1922–1931

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8 linear feet (21 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The William Smith Mason Papers contain correspondence, invoices, bookseller descriptions and scrapbooks documenting Mason's acquisition of Benjamin Franklin-related books and manuscripts. The collection spans the dates 1901 to 1935, but the bulk of the material dates from between 1922 and 1931. Major correspondents include the bookseller and collector William J. Campbell; George S. Eddy; Luther Livingston; the Arthur H. Clark Company; and the Rosenbach Company.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wsmithmason>

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Smith Mason Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

William Smith Mason Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

WILLIAM SMITH MASON (1866-1961)

William Smith Mason (1866-1961) was an American real estate and railroad executive and collector of historical books and manuscripts, particularly those related to Benjamin Franklin. Born in Millburn, Illinois in 1866, he was graduated from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School with a B.Phil in Engineering in 1889. An active member of many bibliographical and historical societies, including the Grolier Club and the American Philosophical Society, Mason donated his entire collection of books, pamphlets, ephemera and manuscripts by and related to Benjamin Franklin to Yale University Library in 1936. He died in Rancho Santa Fe, California, in January 1961 at the age of 94.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1901-1935; II. Scrapbooks, 1909-1935.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1886-1992

5.74 linear feet (11 boxes)

English

Series I, Correspondence, is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	A - general	1921-1927
b. 1, f. 2	Affleck, B. F.	1924-1926
b. 1, f. 3	American Antiquarian Society	1922-1925
b. 1, f. 4	American Art Association, New York	1921-1926
b. 1, f. 5	American Institute of Graphic Arts	1923-1926
b. 1, f. 6	American Philosophical Society	1913-1928
b. 1, f. 7	American Railway Express	1922-1924
b. 1, f. 8	The Anderson Galleries	1921-1926
b. 1, f. 9	Antiquarian Book Society	1923-1926
b. 1, f. 10	D. Appleton & Company	1925-1926
b. 1, f. 11	B - general (Ba-Bi)	1916-1926
b. 1, f. 12	B - general (Bo-Bz)	1919-1926
b. 1, f. 13	G. A. Baker, Inc.	1921-31
b. 1, f. 14	Barnard, P. M.	1923-1926
b. 1, f. 15	Bay, J. C.	1922-1925
b. 1, f. 16	The Benjamin Franklins	1924-1926
b. 1, f. 17	Berthel, Albert	1924-1926
b. 1, f. 18	E. F. Bonaventure, Inc.	1915-1926
b. 2, f. 19	The Book Shop Bindery	1922-1926
b. 2, f. 20	The Book Shop of Evanston	1924-1926
b. 2, f. 21	R. R. Bowker, Co.	1923-1926
b. 2, f. 22	Brentano's	1919-1923
b. 2, f. 23	Brentano's	1924-1926
b. 2, f. 24	Briggs, Morris H.	1925-1926
b. 2, f. 25	Britnell, Albert	1923-1926
b. 2, f. 26	Brown, William A.	1922-1926

b. 2, f. 27	C - general	1919-1933
b. 2, f. 28	Cadmus Book Store	1918-1926
b. 2, f. 29	Campbell, William J.	1910
b. 2, f. 30	Campbell, William J.	1911
b. 2, f. 31	Campbell, William J.	1912
b. 2, f. 32	Campbell, William J.	1913-1914
b. 2, f. 33	Campbell, William J.	1915-1916
b. 2, f. 34	Campbell, William J.	1917-1918
b. 2, f. 35	Campbell, William J.	1919-1922
b. 2, f. 36	Campbell, William J.	1923-1924
b. 2, f. 37	Campbell, William J.	1925-1934
b. 3, f. 38	Carey, Lewis J.	1924-1926
b. 3, f. 39	Champion, Honoré	1922
b. 3, f. 40	Champion, Honoré	1923
b. 3, f. 41	Champion, Honoré	1924-1926
b. 3, f. 42	The Chicago Book Store	1923-1925
b. 3, f. 43	Chinard, Gilbert	1923-1925
b. 3, f. 44	Arthur H. Clark Company	1917-1919
b. 3, f. 45	Arthur H. Clark Company	1919
b. 3, f. 46	Arthur H. Clark Company	1920-1921
b. 3, f. 47	Arthur H. Clark Company	1921 Jan-Jun
b. 3, f. 48	Arthur H. Clark Company	1921 Jul-Dec
b. 3, f. 49	Arthur H. Clark Company	1922
b. 3, f. 50	Arthur H. Clark Company	1923
b. 3, f. 51	Arthur H. Clark Company	1924-1925
b. 3, f. 52	Arthur H. Clark Company	1925 Jan-Sept
b. 4, f. 53	Arthur H. Clark Company	1925 Sept-Dec
b. 4, f. 54	Arthur H. Clark Company	1926
b. 4, f. 55	John Clark Company	1922-1926
b. 4, f. 56	Librairie C. Clavreuil	1925-1926

b. 4, f. 57	Collector's Book Exchange	1923-1925
b. 4, f. 58	Copley Gallery	1924-1926
b. 4, f. 59	Copy Service Corporation	1924-1926
b. 4, f. 60	Crane, Warren C.	1925-1926
b. 4, f. 61	Cross, Austin J.	1923-1924
b. 4, f. 62	Librairie Cumin Frères	1922-1926
b. 4, f. 63	Librairie Cynos - Office	1923-1925
b. 4, f. 64	D - general	1915-1926
b. 4, f. 65	Dobell, P. J. and A. E.	1920-1926
b. 4, f. 66	Dodd, Robert H. see also Livingston, Luther S.	1909-1915
b. 4, f. 67	Dodd, Robert H.	1916-1926
b. 4, f. 68	R. R. Donnelley & Sons	1923-26
b. 4, f. 69	Dorbon, Ainé	1924-26
b. 4, f. 70	Downing, William	1924-1925
b. 4, f. 71	James F. Drake, Inc.	1923-26
b. 4, f. 72	Dulau & Company, Ltd.	1924-26
b. 4, f. 73	Dunster House Bookshop	1925
b. 5, f. 74	E - general	1922-1926
b. 5, f. 75	E. P. Dutton & Company	1920-1926
b. 5, f. 76	Eddy, George S.	1915-20, n.d.
b. 5, f. 77	Eddy, George S.	1921
b. 5, f. 78	Eddy, George S.	1922 Jan-Jul
b. 5, f. 79	Eddy, George S.	1922 Aug-Dec
b. 5, f. 80	Eddy, George S.	1923 Jan-Jul
b. 5, f. 81	Eddy, George S.	1923 Jul-Dec
b. 5, f. 82	Eddy, George S.	1924
b. 5, f. 83	Eddy, George S.	1925
b. 5, f. 84	Eddy, George S.	1926
b. 5, f. 85	Edwards, Francis	1921-1926

b. 5, f. 86	Ehrich, H. L.	1920-1925
b. 5, f. 87	Eliot, Thomas D.	1923-1924
b. 5, f. 88	Ellis	1923-1926
b. 5, f. 89	Evans, Charles	1917-1926
b. 6, f. 90	F - general	1922-1930
b. 6, f. 91	Fay, Bernard	1924-1935
b. 6, f. 92	R. Fletcher, Ltd.	1921-1925
b. 6, f. 93	Ford, Worthington C.	1921-1925
b. 6, f. 94	Librairie Georges Fousset	1926
b. 6, f. 95	Fowler, Albert	1922-1925
b. 6, f. 96	W. & G. Foyle, Ltd.	1923-1926
b. 6, f. 97	Frampton, R. S.	1924-1926
b. 6, f. 98	Franklin Bookshop	1921-1924
b. 6, f. 99	French Binders	1923-1925
b. 6, f. 100	Fridenburg, Robert	1923-1926
b. 6, f. 101	Friehold, Edward George	1924-1926
b. 6, f. 102	G - general	1922-1926
b. 6, f. 103	Geering, Rudolf	1921-1924
b. 6, f. 104	Gough, W. A.	1921-1924
b. 6, f. 105	Van de Graaf Dopere, H. F.	1926
b. 6, f. 106	Grafton & Company	1922-1924
b. 6, f. 107	Grant, John	1923-1924
b. 6, f. 108	Grolier Club	1914-1925
b. 6, f. 109	H - general	1912-1924
b. 6, f. 110	Harper, Lathrop C.	1921-1924
b. 6, f. 111	Harrassowitz, Otto	1921-1924
b. 6, f. 112	Heartman, Charles F.	1919-1922
b. 6, f. 113	Heartman, Charles F.	1923-1924
b. 6, f. 114	Heise, John	1924
b. 6, f. 115	Hierseman, Karl W.	1921-1924

b. 6, f. 116	Hill, Walter M.	1912-1924
b. 6, f. 117	Hudson Book Company	1917 - 1918 Mar
b. 6, f. 118	Hudson Book Company	1918 Apr - 1924
b. 7, f. 119	I - general	1922-1924
b. 7, f. 120	International Benjamin Franklin Society	1923-1944
b. 7, f. 121	J - general	1921-1925
b. 7, f. 122	K - general	1921-30
b. 7, f. 123	Koch, Theodore W.	1921-22, n.d.
b. 7, f. 124	Koch, Theodore W.	1923-1935
b. 7, f. 125	L - general	1920-1928
b. 7, f. 126	Lange, Otto	1921-1924
b. 7, f. 127	Lapham, Ruth	1922-1924
b. 7, f. 128	Lemallier, G.	1921-1924
b. 7, f. 129	Levy, M. J.	1912-24
b. 7, f. 130	G. F. Libbie & Company	1921-1924
b. 7, f. 131	Library of Congress	1921-1933
b. 7, f. 132	Livingston, Flora	1914-24, n.d.
b. 7, f. 133	Livingston, Luther S.	1909
b. 7, f. 134	Livingston, Luther S.	1910
b. 7, f. 135	Livingston, Luther S.	1911
b. 7, f. 136	Livingston, Luther S.	1912
b. 7, f. 137	Livingston, Luther S.	1913
b. 7, f. 138	Livingston, Luther S.	1914
b. 8, f. 139	Lowe Brothers	1923-1924
b. 8, f. 140	M - general	1912-1924
b. 8, f. 141	Madigan, Thomas F.	1922-1924
b. 8, f. 142	Maggs Bros.	1921-1922
b. 8, f. 143	Maggs Bros.	1923
b. 8, f. 144	Maggs Bros.	1924
b. 8, f. 145	Marggraff, Alphonse	1922-1924

b. 8, f. 146	Masson, Pierre	1923-1924
b. 8, f. 147	McGirr, Newman	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 148	Miller, M.	1923-1925
b. 8, f. 149	Morrison, Noah F.	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 150	N.T.A. Munder & Company	1922-1923
b. 8, f. 151	Museum Book Store	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 152	Myers & Company	1923-1924
b. 8, f. 153	N - general	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 154	Nijhoff, Martinus	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 155	North, Ernest Dressel	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 156	O - general	1921-1924
b. 8, f. 157	Oswald, John Clyde	1923-1924
b. 8, f. 158	P - general	1918-1941
b. 8, f. 159	Photostat Service Corporation	1923
b. 8, f. 160	Pierce & Scopes	1922-1924
b. 8, f. 161	Q - general	1917-1924
b. 9, f. 162	R - general	1922-1924
b. 9, f. 163	Rare Book Company	1923-1924
b. 9, f. 164	Richardson, C.	1923-1924
b. 9, f. 165	Ritti, Paul	1923-1924
b. 9, f. 166	Robinson, William H.	1923-1924
b. 9, f. 167	The Rosenbach Company	1912-1915
b. 9, f. 168	The Rosenbach Company	1916-1917
b. 9, f. 169	The Rosenbach Company	1918
b. 9, f. 170	The Rosenbach Company	1918-1922
b. 9, f. 171	The Rosenbach Company	1920-1921
b. 9, f. 172	The Rosenbach Company	1922
b. 9, f. 173	The Rosenbach Company	1923
b. 9, f. 174	The Rosenbach Company	1924
b. 9, f. 175	Rosengren, Frank	1921-1924

b. 9, f. 176	S - general	1922-1928
b. 9, f. 177	Sabin, Frank T.	1920-1924
b. 9, f. 178	Salmon, Lucy M.	1922-1923
b. 9, f. 179	John E. Scopes & Company	1922-1924
b. 9, f. 180	G. W. Sheldon & Company	1922-1924
b. 9, f. 181	Smith, George D.	1921-1924
b. 10, f. 182	Brad Stephens & Company	1922-1923
b. 10, f. 183	B. F. Stevens & Brown	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 184	H. Stevens, Son & Stiles	1916-1919
b. 10, f. 185	H. Stevens, Son & Stiles	1920-1921
b. 10, f. 186	H. Stevens, Son & Stiles	1922
b. 10, f. 187	H. Stevens, Son & Stiles	1923 Jan-Jun
b. 10, f. 188	H. Stevens, Son & Stiles	1923 Jul-Dec
b. 10, f. 189	H. Stevens, Son & Stiles	1924
b. 10, f. 190	Stifler, James Madison	1920-1923
b. 10, f. 191	Sweet, Forest H.	1924
b. 10, f. 192	T - general	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 193	Thompson, Lewis M.	1917-1924
b. 10, f. 194	Thorp, Thomas	1919-1924
b. 10, f. 195	The Tuttle Company	1921-1924
b. 10, f. 196	U - general	1923-1924
b. 10, f. 197	V - general	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 198	W - general	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 199	Walker, John W.	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 200	Wegelin, Oscar	1921-1924
b. 10, f. 201	Wells, Gabriel	1922-1924
b. 10, f. 202	Wildenstein & Company	1923-1924
b. 10, f. 203	Wilson, James	1923-1924
b. 10, f. 204	Y - general	1922-1925
b. 10, f. 205	Unsorted	1911-24, n.d.

Series II: Scrapbooks, 1909–1935

The scrapbooks in series II contain invoices, receipts and business correspondence documenting Mason's purchases of Franklin-related materials.

Series II, Scrapbooks, is arranged largely chronologically by the earliest entry in each scrapbook.

b. 11, f. 206	Scrapbook 1	1909–1913
b. 12, f. 207	Scrapbook 2	1912–1921
b. 13, f. 208	Scrapbook 3	1921 - 1922 Oct
b. 14, f. 209	Scrapbook 4	1922 Oct - 1923 Sept
b. 15, f. 210	Scrapbook 5	1923 Oct - 1924 Jul
b. 16, f. 211	Scrapbook 6	1924 Jun-Nov
b. 17, f. 212	Scrapbook 7	1924 Nov - 1925 Apr
b. 18, f. 213	Scrapbook 8	1925 Jun - 1926 Feb
b. 19, f. 214	Scrapbook 9	1926 Feb-Nov
b. 20, f. 215	Scrapbook 10	1926 Oct - 1927 Sep
b. 21, f. 216	Scrapbook 11	1928 Feb - 1935 May