

August H. Shearer Collection, circa 1903-1941

Administration Information

Creator

Augustus H. Shearer (1878–1941)

Call Number

RBR WNYO 1903.S54

Extent

2 manuscript boxes

Abstract

Bulk of the collection contains personal papers of Dr. Shearer, which include handwritten and typed drafts of his work as an academic historian, creative writer, and library professional. Materials also include pictures, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and maps.

Terms of Use

The Augustus H. Shearer Collection is open for research.

Reproduction of Materials

See librarian for information on reproducing materials from this collection, including photocopies, digital camera images, or digital scans, as well as copyright restrictions that may pertain to these materials.

Copyright statement

BECPL holds the rights to the physical materials but not intellectual property rights.

Preferred Citation

Folder Title or Item Title, Box and folder number, Augustus H. Shearer Collection, c. 1903-1941, Central Library: Grosvenor Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

Acquisition

The Augustus H. Shearer Collection was donated to the Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library by the family of Dr. Shearer. Future additions to the collection may occur.

Language of Collection

All materials are in English.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Carl Lew, Special Collections Librarian, July 2021.

Biographical Note

Augustus H. Shearer served as the Director of the Grosvenor Library in 1917 until his death in 1941. Dr. Shearer tripled the book collection and increased library usage through innovative

outreach strategies including the use of weekly radio broadcasts to disseminate interesting information to the public and highlight library services. In addition to his duties as director, Dr. Shearer produced a variety of scholarly, popular, creative, and personal writings, served as a president of the New York Library Association (NYLA) from 1922-1928, and routinely collaborated with an array of local educational and cultural institutions.

Born in Philadelphia on February 21, 1878, Dr. Shearer attended Rutgers University (class of 1899) and earned his Ph.D from Harvard in 1903. Chapters 5 through 8 of his thesis "The History of Political parties in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790" are housed within this archival collection.

Before being appointed as Director of the Grosvenor Library, worked as a bibliographer at the Newbury Library in Chicago. At various points in his career, Dr. Shearer also served as the Secretary to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Director of the Library School at the University of Buffalo, Secretary of the Bibliographical Society of America from 1924-1933 and as its President from 1933-1936. In addition to these professional duties, Dr. Shearer consistently lectured at a variety of colleges, including the University at Buffalo, on topics related to historiography, history, and library science. Dr. Shearer would continue his work as a professional and public intellectual until his death in 1941.

This collection also contains a multitude of items relating to Dr. Shearer and his wife's attendance to cultural matters, most often concerts and theatre.

Scope and Content

This collection contains two boxes of materials, mostly relating to his work as a historian and as a librarian. Certain items have no clear provenance. Unless noted otherwise, items are undated.

Arrangement

This collection has been broken into four Series: I. Biographical Content; II. Writings; III. Librarianship; IV. Miscellaneous.

Container List

Box 1. Series I. Biographical Content

- 1.1 Biography
- 1.2 Bulletin on Bibliography and Dramatic Index, Vol. 16, No. 8, January–April 1939
- 1.3 The Papers of the Bibliographic Society of America, Vol. 35, Second Quarter 1941
- 1.4 Grosvenor Library Bulletin, Vol. 23, No. 4, June 1941 (in memorium)
- 1.5 Erie County League of Women Votes Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 4, February 1921
- 1.6 Newspaper Clippings
- 1.7 Correspondence
- 1.8 Photographs
- 1.9 Cultural Participation
- 1.10 Awards

Series II. Librarianship

- 2.1 George Washington Books
- 2.2 Gift of Shakespeare Folios

- 2.3 “Historical Sketch of Library War Service” for the American Library Association Bulletin, Vol. 13, No. 3, July 1919
- 2.4 Is it for the Pottage?
- 2.5 Note Regarding Acquisitions – Art and Architecture
- 2.6 Note Regarding Acquisitions – American Southwest
- 2.7 Grosvenor Library Bulletin, Vol. 1, No.2, December 1918
- 2.8 Report of the Librarian of the Grosvenor Library for the 60th Year (1918-1919)
- 2.9 Grosvenor Library Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 2, December 1925
- 2.10 Grosvenor Library Bulletin, Vol. V-VIII, September 1922–June 1926 (incomplete)
- 2.11 Grosvenor Library Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 2, December 1926 (Exhibit of Murals)
- 2.12 French War Posters – Gift of Mr. Edward Michael
- 2.13 Classification of War Posters – Clark University Library
- 2.14 New York Library Association
- 2.15 On the Use of Statistics in Library Service
- 2.16 Report on the State Archives of Vermont
- 2.17 Thursday Club
- 2.18 University at Buffalo

Series III. Writings

- 3.1 Handwritten Notes

Box 2. Series III. Writings

- 3.2 Apple Production
- 3.3 Book Talk: “The Correspondence of Thomas Jefferson and Pierre Samuel du Pont Nemours
- 3.4 Book Talk: “Roadside Meetings” by Hamlin Garlin
- 3.5 Buckwheat for Beauty
- 3.6 Creative Writings – Short Stories, Poetry, and Humor
- 3.7 “The History of Political Parties in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790”, Chapters V-VIII (Ph.D. Thesis at Harvard)
- 3.8 Notes on Colonial America
- 3.9 Biographical and Descriptive Notes on the Issues in the Journal of the Pennsylvania Assembly, 1776-1790
- 3.10 Books Withdrawn in 1779
- 3.11 The Depression in Pennsylvania in 1779
- 3.12 The Economic Distress of 1779
- 3.13 Early America and the Constitution
- 3.14 English Fascists
- 3.15 Historical Societies – Individualized or Paternalized
- 3.16 Individual Culture vs Socialism
- 3.17 Local News
- 3.18 Manuel of Historic Literature
- 3.19 Modern Language Notes, Vol. 31, No. 2, February 1916
- 3.20 The New Declaration of Independence – November 2, 1937
- 3.21 On Moralists
- 3.22 On Morals

- 3.23 “Readers of Books” – Opening address of annual book fair at Canisius High School
- 3.24 Regarding Ambassadors
- 3.25 Regarding Songs
- 3.26 Scriptories, 1920-1939
- 3.27 Steadman, William, “Journal of a trip to Buffalo and Niagara Falls, June 1812”
- 3.28 The United States – Different
- 3.29 American Association for International Conciliation – List of Contributors
- 3.30 Plans for Disarmament (post-WWI)
- 3.31 German-American Contributions to American Culture

Series IV. Miscellaneous

- 4.1 Hamilton Correspondence (1917)
- 4.2 Music
- 4.3 Maps
- 4.4 Diary of John Bragg
- 4.5 A Poem by Camillo
- 4.6 West Aurora Anti-Slavery Society Constitution
- 4.7 Coronation Program – King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, May 12, 1937
- 4.8 Cromwelliana Pamphlets

Separated Materials

Two maps were separated from the collection due to preservation and conservation concerns. The folder is listed on the finding aid and contains catalog records corresponding to the maps.

Related Materials

D Z6201 .G94 A *Guide to Historical Literature*

PZ3 .S49R9 *Little Book of Rutgers Tales*

Buffalo Collection Z881.B9G8, Copy 4, *Grosvenor Library Bulletin, 1938-1941, V. 21-24*

RBR SLAVERY 1842.W4, *Record of the Anti-Slavery Society of West Aurora*

Search Terms

Authors

600 Shearer, Augustus H.

Subject Terms

610 Grosvenor Library
610 New York Library Association
610 University at Buffalo
610 Bibliographical Society of America
650 Libraries—New York (State)—Buffalo

Genre Terms

655 manuscripts

655 notes

655 correspondence

655 photographs