Ernest E. Simmons Papers, circa 1894-1966, undated

Administration Information
Creator
Simmons, Ernest E., 1884-1966

Call Number
RBR Roycroft 1894 .S56

Extent
6 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 6 oversize folders (3.42 linear feet)

Abstract
The papers of Ernest E. Simmons, employee of the Roycroft organization. Collection consists mainly of correspondence, advertisements, newspaper clippings and photographs.

Terms of Use
The Ernest E. Simmons Papers are 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.

Acquisition
The Ernest E. Simmons Papers were purchased by the Grosvenor Society, date undetermined. See Rare Book Librarian for more information.

Biographical Note
Ernest E. Simmons was born in 1884 in East Elma, New York. Simmons first worked as an assistant in the home of Dr. Arthur L. Mitchell in East Aurora, New York at the age of 16. Through his association with Dr. Mitchell, Simmons became acquainted with Elbert Hubbard and began his career at the Roycroft organization in 1907.

Simmons’ duties at Roycroft included typing Hubbard’s handwritten manuscripts and notary public work. Throughout his career, Simmons was also in charge of various departments at the organization including shipping, purchasing and inventories. Following the death of Elbert Hubbard in the 1915 sinking of the Lusitania, Simmons remained at Roycroft, serving as the corporation secretary and later as a sales representative. His career at Roycroft ended in 1929 when he left to pursue another position.

In 1965 Ernest E. Simmons co-authored a book about the Roycrofters, entitled Sinners, This Is East Aurora. He was also instrumental in the opening of the Elbert Hubbard Library and Museum in East Aurora. Simmons died in East Aurora in August of 1966.
Scope and Content
Although not comprehensive, this collection offers important documentation of the personal life and professional career of Ernest E. Simmons, and is comprised of two series: Personal and Roycroft.

Series I. Personal, circa 1912-1965, undated
Personal records include correspondence, photographs, a book that belonged to Simmons, other collected publications (some inspired by or in the style of Roycroft) and 2 scrapbooks.

Series II. Roycroft, circa 1894-1964, undated
Roycroft records include business records, photographs, publications, correspondence and clippings about Roycrofters and affiliated persons.

Arrangement
Series I. Personal, circa 1912-1965, undated
Series II. Roycroft, circa 1894-1964, undated
Subseries A. Business records, 1894-1964, undated
Subseries B. Photographs and artwork, 1922, undated
Subseries C. Publications, 1896-1963, undated
Subseries D. Roycrofters & affiliated persons, 1898-1930, undated

Container List
Series I. Personal, circa 1912-1965, undated
Scope and content: Contains personal correspondence, photographs, book and Simmons’ scrapbooks. Some items in “Publications” were inspired by and are in the style of Roycroft.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

1.1 Artwork, undated; includes caricatures: Clark Gable, Victor Mature, Bing Crosby, Bette Davis; drawing: “Missing Comrade,” landscapes, train. [3 pencil drawings, 2 watercolor]

1.2-1.3 Correspondence, circa 1912-1965; includes Christmas cards; letters from Fred Andrews; inquiries for Roycroft information.


1.5 Photographs, undated; images of Simmons, post card images.

1.7 Scrapbook 1, circa 1907-1912; features a subject index, pamphlets and clippings including George Washington, Mark Twain, John Brown.

1.8-2.1 Scrapbook 2, circa 1915-1931; includes clippings on Lusitania; photograph, program of Hubbard memorial; correspondence; New York Times on sinking of Titanic [original located in Map 8.3.2+]; Saloon rates and plan for Lusitania [original located in Map 8.3.5+]. [2 folders]

Series II. Roycroft, circa 1894-1964, undated

Subseries A. Business records, 1894-1964, undated

Scope and content: Contains bulletins/memos, correspondence, financial records, forms/stationery, minutes, notes.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

2.2 Bulletins/memos, 1894-1926

2.3-2.4 Correspondence, circa 1895-1964; includes copy of agreement between Hubbard and Taber, letters from Edward Shay Advertising Agency.

2.5-2.6 Financial records, 1909-1921; includes bank book, employee time book, checks, School of Life ledgers.

2.7 Forms/stationery, undated; includes envelopes, order forms, fellowship cards.

2.8 Minutes, 1902-1924; includes meeting minutes.

2.9 Notes, 1894-1934; biographical notes, bibliographies.

Subseries B. Photographs and artwork, 1922, undated

Scope and content: Contains images of the Hubbards, various Roycrofters, Roycroft campus, East Aurora, and travels. Caution: Use gloves when handling.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.
3.1  Drawings, undated; includes caricatures of Elbert Hubbard. [6: ink, pencil]

3.2  East Aurora, undated; includes Cazenovia Creek, C.E. Gleed Horseshoeing, Erie County Fair, Fred Green home, Pfifferling Block, street views. [12 photos]

3.3  Hubbard, Alice, undated; portraits, Alice and Elbert. [5 photos, 6 prints]

3.4-3.5 Hubbard, Elbert, undated; includes portraits, Elbert with “Old Ted Darling,” unknown man. [20 photos, 11 prints]

3.6  Hubbard family, 1928, undated; includes Alta, Elbert II, Elbert III, Julia Frances, Ralph, Sanford (Sandy), and Silas Hubbard. [9 photos, 3 prints]

3.7  Individuals, undated; includes Anson Blackman (Ali Baba), Jerome Connors, Dr. Algernon Crapsey, Alexis Fournier, Margie and Walter Jennings, Victor Robinson, Victor Wade Toothaker, Fred Welsh. [8 photos, 4 postcards, 1 print]

3.8-3.10 Roycroft Campus, undated; includes bank, blacksmith shop, chapel/library, dining room, farm, “first shop,” fountain, Hubbard home, inn, print shop, Roycroft shop, salon, well. [47 photos, 4 postcards, 24 prints]

3.11  Roycroft Convention, 1922, 1924; group views. [1922 convention: copy; original located in 8.3.6+] [1 photo]

3.12  Roycroft events, 1930, undated; includes Elbert Hubbard birthday, memorial tree planting for Hubbard, Hubbard statue dedication. [3 photos]

3.13  Roycrofters, 1910, undated; includes group views. [19 photos, 2 prints]

8.3.6+ Roycrofters, undated; includes Elbert and Alice Hubbard; Roycroft Band; School of Life; 1922 Roycroft Convention. [4 photos]

3.14  Roycrofters at work, circa 1910-1930, undated; includes artisans, baseball team, bindery, “first shop,” printing department, School of Life, shipping, ten-mile camp, three-mile camp. [25 photos, 1 print]

3.15  Travels, 1898, 1914, undated; includes Hubbard’s trips to Boston, Cologne, Venice, Yellowstone. [10 photos]

3.16  Warner, Samuel: artwork, undated; 5 landscapes. [5: watercolor? ink?]
Subseries C. Publications, 1896-1963, undated

Scope and content: Consists of advertisements, books, catalogs, clippings, epigrams, journals, labels, manuscripts and programs.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

3.17 Advertisements, undated; regarding complete writings of Hubbard, life membership.

8.3.1+ Advertisements, 1913, undated; includes “A Love Letter to the Elect,” “A Suggestion,” “Goodie Box.”

4.1-4.2 Catalogs, undated; booklet and cataloging index, copper products.

4.3 Clippings, circa 1896-1963; regarding Elbert Hubbard; Juliana Hubbard; Roycroft activities; Woodrow Wilson; Lusitania; Buffalo Evening News Magazine, June 2, 1945 [original located in Map 8.3.3+]; “Filosophy for Farmers” by Elbert Hubbard [original located in Map 8.3.3+].

8.3.4+ East Aurora Ad Club, 1913; signed constitution including John Thomas Hoyle, Fred Bann.

4.4-4.6 Epigrams, 1911, undated; 1,001 Epigrams, loose epigrams.

7.5+ Epigrams, undated [2 broadsides]

4.7 The Feather Duster, circa 1907; vol. 1, no 4-7.

4.8 “The Fra,” undated; subscription cards.

4.9 “Goodie Box,” undated; list of contents, recipe. [see also 8.3.1+]

5.1 Labels, 1905, undated; Roycroft library book labels.

5.2 Lectures, undated; includes Alice and Elbert Hubbard, Stephen Marion Reynolds.

5.3-5.4 The Liberators, 1915 [unbound signatures]
5.5  *Little Journeys*, 1894, 1922, undated; includes George Eliot, Jesus of Nazareth, brochures, clippings regarding “Little Journeys.”


5.7-5.8  Pamphlets, undated; regarding arts and crafts, Roycroft Inn, writings, others.

5.9  “The Philistine,” undated; clippings, handwritten notes, affidavit, advertisements.

5.10  *Photogravures from the Roycrofters, East Aurora, N.Y.*, undated

6.1-6.2  Programs, circa 1904-1924; Hubbard memorials, tickets, dance cards, conventions, concerts.

7.1-7.4+  Research, undated; includes prints relating to Roycroft publications, mainly *Little Journeys*.

6.3  *Roycroft Inn*, undated [2 copies]

6.4  *Roycroft Reminder*, 1907

6.5  *Some Oxaline*, 1910 [2 copies: 1 incomplete]

6.6  Others, 1899, 1913, undated; includes *An Appreciation of Minnie Maddern Fiske; Contemplations; The Emersonian* vol. 1 no. 1 (March 2, 1913); *Roycroft Business Printing; The Roycroft Inn; Some Books for Sale at Our Shop*.

**Subseries D. Roycrofters & affiliated persons, 1898-1930, undated**

*Scope and content:* Consists mostly of correspondence with Roycrofters and persons affiliated with the organization including Percy A. Beach, Harry Esty Dounce, Alice Hubbard, Karl Kipp, M.M. Mangasarin, A.L. Mitchell and Marilla Ricker.

*Arrangement:* Alphabetical by subject.

6.7  Beach, Percy A., 1915, 1923; includes pamphlet: “Book Notes from Beach’s Bookshop.”
6.8 Dounce, Harry Esty, 1930; includes questionnaire/history of Roycrofters.

6.9 Hubbard, Alice, circa 1899-1915; includes household expenses, notes, letters of recommendation for Alice Moore.

6.10 Kipp, Karl, 1906, 1911, undated; includes wedding invitation, pamphlet.


6.12 Mitchell, Arthur L., 1898, 1908, 1912; includes “Dr. & Mrs. Mitchell Withdraw Permanently from the Practice of Medicine,” clippings.

6.13 Ricker, Marilla, circa 1907-1913; includes “Anti-Woman Suffragists,” “Marilla Ricker’s Reply to Elder A.E. Kenyon,” clippings.

**Separated Materials**
The following books have been removed from the Simmons Papers and accessioned into our general rare book collection:

RBR PZ 3.B4191 SH

RBR PT 9831.E5 S5 1911

**Related Materials**
For more Rare Book Room collections regarding the Roycroft organization, see:

*Harry Persons Taber Papers, 1881-1945*
RBR Roycroft 1881.T33
Abstract: Collection of materials from Harry Persons Taber, a founding member of the Roycroft Shop and editor of the *Philistine* journal. Includes correspondence, writings, biographical records, and Roycroft publications.

*History and Bibliography of the Roycroft Printing Shop: Papers of Paul McKenna, circa 1899, 1927-1983, undated*
Abstract: Contains research materials of author Paul McKenna used in the creation of his book, *History and Bibliography of the Roycroft Printing Shop*. Includes
photographs, audio materials, correspondence, printed publications, and photocopies of journal articles.

*In Memorium, Elbert and Alice Hubbard [scrapbook]*

**RBR Roycroft 1915 .S515**

Abstract: Contains mounted photos, clippings, and programs. Compiled by Ernest Simmons.

**Search Terms**

**Authors**

600 Simmons, Ernest E.
600 Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915

**Subject terms**

610 Roycroft Shop—History
610 Lusitania (Steamship)
650 Publishers and publishing—New York (State)—East Aurora—History
650 Arts and crafts movement—New York (State)—East Aurora
651 Roycroft Campus (East Aurora, N.Y.)

**Genre terms**

655 articles
655 books
655 correspondence
655 magazines (periodicals)
655 manuscripts
655 notes
655 photographs