The Michael W. Ranger Endowment for Special Collections
MSS Collection #226

Introduction & Scope

The Michael W. Ranger Endowment for Special Collections at St. Lawrence University is a permanent endowed fund for the Special Collections in the Owen D. Young Library. The endowment is fund the purchases of materials to acknowledge and reflect Mike's love of history, St. Lawrence University, and the North Country (the northernmost counties of New York State.) Under the supervision of the Special Collections and Archives Librarian, the collection will bring both unique primary source materials into the collection, as well as appropriate titles for the Rare Book Collection.

Dates

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

Creator

The endowed fund for the collection was established in the spring of 2023 when Mr. Ranger retired from the Board of Trustees. The collection speaks, firstly, to how he values books and reading, and, secondly, is a tribute to Mr. Ranger's love for and service to St. Lawrence University.

The Special Collections and Archives Librarian curates the collection.

Availability

The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

Michael W. Ranger served as a St. Lawrence University trustee for a total of 22 years, between 1993-2004 and 2012- 2023, and was elected as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the final year of his five-year term. Ranger served as co-chair of the Campaign for Every Laurentian, the largest and most ambitious fundraising effort in St. Lawrence University's history. The campaign concluded successfully in June of 2021, raising a record $232 million. Eight of the ten largest gifts in the University's history came during the Campaign.

Language of the Materials

English

Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

Repository Details

Materials in the collection are shelved with either the Rare Book collection, or in the manuscripts area depending on peservation considerations.

Collection Organization

Manuscripts

St. Lawrence River District of Oswegatchie Custom House Letter Copybook

> Leather and paperbound book measuring 12 & ½ inches high by 8 inches wide by 1 inch tall. Unlined paper sewn into binding in 18 gatherings. First dated entry is November 21st 1829 and ends on June 30th 1845 (there is a gap between 1829 June 25th 1834). Copies of letters written by the Collectors of the customs house, which was located at what is now the Post Office at 431 State Street in Ogdensburg. The book is the collector's "hard drive" of letters written to Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury or the Secretary of the Treasury. The letters record information on shipping, smuggling (especially smuggling of clothes), taxation, ownership of property, and other matters of trade. Several letters relate to events occurring in the Patriot's War, notably a letter from November 29th, 1838.
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> The copybook is in very legible cursive, written in three hands. The collectors were: Baron S. Doty, 1829-1836; Smith Stilwell, 1836-1840; D G. Judson 1840-45.

Shelved in OVERSIZED MANUSCRIPTS

Related Collections: MSS #13 King-Smith Papers, MSS #114 Logs of St. Lawrence Ships, MSS #132 Pamphlets of 1812 War.

Rare Books

Holzer, Harold, editor. *Abraham Lincoln Defender of Freedom: A Selection of Documents.* Newburgh NY: Thornwillow Press, 2012. (Rare Books E457.92 2012)

> Our book-copy is number 44 in a run of 250 copies, and is signed by Holzer at the half-title and by the printer, Luke Ives Pontifell, on the colophon. It is bound in half-black morocco with paste paper over boards and as endpapers. Spine label in gilt against blue leather. The book and the box that accompanies the book are in fine condition.

Lincoln, Abraham. *Gettysburg Address.* Bela, Blau, 1983. (Rare Books E475.55 L56 1963)

> Our book copy numbers is 135 in a run of 1000 copies. Bound in red leather with gold gild, the book measures 1 ¼ inches wide by 1 11/16th inches tall.

Macauley, James. *The natural, statistical, and civil history of the state of New-York.: in Three Volumes.* New York : Gould & Banks ; Albany : William Gould & Co., 1829. (Rare Books F119 .M11 1829)

> This is a three volume work. Volume One is a natural history of the state covering geology, botany, and zoology; Volume Two is a social and political history;, Volume Three is a detailed account of the revolutionary war, an account that extends beyond New York's borders. Of particular note, in Volume One there is a chapter on "Winds," an extraordinary account of which prevailing wind blows when and what weather it brings. In Volume two there is a considerable accounting for the history of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, in which Macauley refers to the Haudenosaunee as the Agoneaseah—an archaic spelling in use in eighteenth and nineteenth European texts about the Americans. His account references ongoing hostilities between the Agoneaseah and the "Adirondacks."

Scripps, John Locke. *The First Published Life of Abraham Lincoln.* Detroit: Cranbrook Press, 1900. (Rare Books E457.3 S423 1900)

> Our book copy is number 45 in a run of 245 copies. A reprinting of John Locke Scripps' 1860 biography of Abraham Lincoln. Scripps' work marked the first personal history of Lincoln, and the Cranbrook Press reprint was edited by Scripps' daughter Grace Locke Scripps Dyche. Along with the book is a carbon typed letter, signed by George Booth, proprietor of Cranbrook Press, dated November 22, 1901, announcing a price increase on the Press' backlist.

Whitman, Walt. *Death of Abraham Lincoln.* Chicago: Black Cat Press, 1962. (Rare Books E457.52 .W55 1962)

> One of 300 copies, this is a miniature book measuring 2-9/16"x2-1/8". Full black calf lettered in gilt on spine with a gilt vignette on the front cover, with a note by Paul M. Angle, typography by Norman Forgue, and illustrations by Ralph Frederick.

Related Collections: Book Arts Collection of St. Lawrence University.