

Guide to the George Watson Cole Papers

MS 143



compiled and edited by Steven Litwack and Peter Sargent

August 1970

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735
(203) 432-7441
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 143

CREATOR: Cole, George Watson, 1850-1939

TITLE: George Watson Cole papers

DATES: 1883-1935

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (11 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Manuscripts, notes, working papers, correspondence, and other papers of George Watson Cole, bibliographer and librarian. Most of the papers pertain to various bibliographic problems and topics that Cole was interested in. There is also some material relating to his work as librarian for the Henry E. Huntington Library.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0143>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0143>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Cole estate and the American Antiquarian Society, 1942-1944.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

George Watson Cole Papers (MS 143). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

George Watson Cole was born at Warren, Conn., September 6, 1850. His early education was received in the public schools of his native county and at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. After teaching school for four years, during which time he read Law, he was admitted to the bar in 1876 and practiced law in his native county until 1885, when he abandoned law to engage in library work.

During 1885 and 1886 he compiled the printed *Classified Catalogue of the Fitchburg (Mass.) Public Library*. From Fitchburg he went to New York in the autumn of 1886 to become the Librarian of the Pratt Institute of Brooklyn; at the same time he attended the Library School at Columbia University, from which he was graduated in 1888. For the next three years he was connected with the Newberry Library in Chicago, which he left in January 1891 to become the Librarian of the Free Public Library of Jersey City, N.J., then being organized. In December 1895, because of ill-health, Mr. Cole resigned his position as Librarian and devoted the next three years to travel.

On his return to this country he became interested in bibliography; in December 1901, he began compilation of the extensive and valuable collection of American and English Literature and Miscellany in the Library of the late E. Dwight Church, of Brooklyn. The result of his labors was a catalogue comprising seven volumes, containing in all 3,789 pages, with 1,755 facsimiles of title pages, colophons and other interesting features of the collection.

In October 1915, Cole became Librarian of Henry E. Huntington's collection, then housed in New York. He continued to hold the position after the collection was transferred in 1920 to the present location of the Huntington Library in California.

In 1924 he became Librarian Emeritus. Thereafter he continued to publish articles and books on bibliographical and other topics. He died on October 10, 1939.

Scope and Contents

Manuscripts, notes, working papers, correspondence, and other papers of George Watson Cole, bibliographer and librarian. Most of the papers pertain to various bibliographic problems and topics that Cole was interested in. There is also some material relating to his work as librarian for the Henry E. Huntington Library.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Manuscripts. II. Subject File.

Collection Contents

Series I: Manuscripts

This series contains many minor manuscripts of articles, essays, speeches and fiction. The two main topics are bibliography and travel. Also included are essays on temperance and The Huntington Library.

Boxes 4 and 5 of this series contain material pertaining to G.W. Cole's edition of Ben Jonson's *The Masque of the Gypsies*. Included are photostatic copies of three 17th century texts that Cole employed in compiling his edition and correspondence pertaining to *The Masque of the Gypsies*.

Of particular interest is Cole's juxtaposition of the three 17th century texts and Cole's subsequent version. This includes a line by line comparison and Cole's notations of variances.

b. 1, f. 1	"Account of Vacation in England, Trip Taken in 1916" (1st draft) English	1916
b. 1, f. 1a	American Bibliography, before New York State Library School, Albany	1893 May 8
b. 1, f. 2	"American Book Collectors" English	Undated
b. 1, f. 3	"The Authors Club Visit", draft and carbon of later version English	
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Beautiful Jersey</i> , bound English	Undated
b. 1, f. 4a	<i>Beautiful Jersey</i> , bound English	Undated
b. 1, f. 5	"Belgium's Famous Cities," as revised English	1927 July 17
b. 1, f. 6	"Biblio-Curios or Curiosities of Elizabethan Book-Making," miscellaneous draft sheets English	
b. 1, f. 7	"A Bibliographical Catalogue," 6 sheets typed English	
b. 1, f. 8	"Bibliographical Ghosts" (appears to be a chapter or section of a larger work) English	
b. 1, f. 9	"Bibliographical Ghosts" (see note above) English	
b. 1, f. 10	"Bibliographical Ghosts" (see folder 8 note) English	
b. 1, f. 11	"Bibliographical Jottings," revised English	1922 May 10
b. 1, f. 12	"Bibliographical Pitfalls: Linked Books" (draft) English	
b. 1, f. 13	"Bibliographical Problems with a Few Solutions" (carbon copy) English	

b. 1, f. 14	"Bibliography-A Forecast" (17 pp. typed) English	
b. 1, f. 15	"Biographical Data," G.W. Cole English	
b. 1, f. 16	"Biographical Fragments," G.W. Cole English	
b. 1, f. 17	"Book Collectors with Reference to the Library of Henry Edwards Huntington" English	
b. 1, f. 18	"Books, Bibliography and Bibliophiles" (Address), cancelled sheets English	
b. 1, f. 19	Cabot Map Legends in MS (photostats)	
b. 2, f. 20	"The Cataloguing of Rare Books in the Huntington Library" English	
b. 2, f. 21	"The Church Catalogue of British Literature and Miscellanea" English	
b. 2, f. 22	"Do You Know Your Lowndes?" (draft, carbon, with working title "William Thomas Lowndes, the English Bibliographer") English	1935
b. 2, f. 23	"Do You Know Your Lowndes?" (final revision) English	1935
b. 2, f. 24	"The Earliest Book in American Literature" English	
b. 2, f. 25	"Early Library Development in New York State" English	1800-1900
b. 2, f. 26	"Early Library Development in New York State" (notes and clippings for preceding) English	1800-1900
b. 2, f. 27	"Elizabethan Americana" English	
b. 2, f. 28	"Evolution of the Alphabet and of the Recorded Thought" English	
b. 2, f. 29	"Facilities for Historical and Literary Research in the Huntington Library" English	
b. 2, f. 30	"Famous Printers of the 15th and 16th Centuries I: The World Prepares to Welcome the Printer" English	1930
b. 2, f. 31	"Famous Printers of the 15th and 16th Centuries II: The Invention and Development of Printing" English	1930
b. 2, f. 32	"Famous Printers of the 15th and 16th Centuries III: Other Master Printers" English	1930

b. 2, f. 33	"The First Folio of Shakespeare: A Further Word..." English	1909
b. 2, f. 34	"The Genealogy of the 1616 Edition of Chapman's <i>Bussy d'Ambois</i> " English	1919
b. 2, f. 35	Historical Society of Southern California, resume of speech delivered before	
b. 2, f. 36	"The Huntington Family in America" English	
b. 2, f. 37	"Henry Huntington, Book Collector" English	
b. 2, f. 38	"Huntington Library" (Interview revised) English	1922
b. 2, f. 39	"Huntington Library," seech at the Staff Library English	1924
b. 2, f. 40	"The Huntington Library" (Speech) English	1930
b. 2, f. 41	"Huntington Library, Report on Early English Printed Books" English	
b. 3, f. 42	"Huntington Library, Report of the Librarian" English	1924
b. 3, f. 43	"Huntington Library, Report of the Librarian" (draft) English	1924
b. 3, f. 43A	Torrington, Ct. Library. First catalogue	1881
b. 3, f. 44	"Itinerary of My European Trip" English	1929 May 31-July 31
b. 3, f. 45	"Libraries for Scholarly Research" English	
b. 3, f. 46	"Library Schools in the United States" English	1923
b. 3, f. 47	"Mal de Mer" English	
	<i>Masque of the Gypsies</i> (Jonson)	
b. 4, f. 48	Correpondence relative to	
b. 4, f. 49	List of contents boxes 68-73	
b. 4, f. 50	Text A	
b. 4, f. 51	Text B	
b. 4, f. 52	Text C	

Masque of the Gypsies (Jonson) (continued)

b. 4, f. 53	Text F English	
b. 4, f. 54	Collation worksheet pp. 1-20	
b. 4, f. 55	Collation worksheet pp. 21-40	
b. 4, f. 56	Collation worksheet pp. 41-67	
b. 4, f. 57	Negative photostats of a contemporary edition	
b. 4, f. 58	Negative photostats of Grifford's edition	1816
b. 4, f. 59	Negative photostats of the Folio edition	1640
b. 5, f. 60	Positive photostats of the Folio edition of 1640, pp. 55-95	1640
b. 5, f. 61	Positive photostats of the Folio edition of 1640, pp. 260-263	1640
b. 5, f. 62	Negative & positive photostats mounted Folio edition	1640
b. 5, f. 63	Positive photostats of the Folio edition (metamorphosed Gypsies) (Jonson) .	1640
b. 5, f. 64	Positive photostats of the Huntington Library MS edition (The Gypsies metamorphosed) (Jonson), pp. 98-212	
b. 5, f. 65	Negative photostats of the music (printed on pp. 15-19 etc.)	
b. 5, f. 66	Positive photostats of the music and other items	
b. 5, f. 67	Negative photostats of the ? edition (pp. 88-94)	
b. 5, f. 68	Publicity information	
b. 5, f. 69	Transcript of the MSS of Jonson's...	
b. 6, f. 70	Missions, notes from books containing illustrations of the California Missions	
b. 6, f. 71	Missions, California Missions, notes and cancelled sheets	
b. 6, f. 72	Missions and Mission Pictures, copy 3 and later enlarged, typed	1935 February
b. 6, f. 73	"Missions in California," historical material English	
b. 6, f. 74	"Northern Germany" (24 pp.) English	
b. 6, f. 75	"Northern Germany," revised English	1927 July 27
b. 6, f. 76	Notable Editions of the Scriptures List of Contents of Boxes 74-85	
b. 6, f. 77	"Notable Editions of the Scriptures" I & II English	1931-1932
b. 7, f. 78	"Notable Editions of the Scriptures" Vol. III English	1931-1932

b. 7, f. 79	"Notable Editions of the Scriptures" Vol. IV English	1931-1932
b. 7, f. 80	"Notable Editions of the Scriptures" Vol. V English	1931-1932
b. 7, f. 81	"Notable Editions of the Scriptures" Vol. VI English	1931-1932
b. 7, f. 82	"The Photostat and Its Use in Bibliographical Work"	1921 May 26
b. 7, f. 83	Poems by G.W. Cole	
b. 7, f. 84	"The Portraits of Fray Junipero Serra" English	1935
b. 7, f. 85	"The Preservation and Transmission of Recorded Thought" English	1931
b. 7, f. 86	"Rambles in Baltic Lands" English	
b. 7, f. 87	"Reminiscences of the Netherlands", many bibliographed English	1931 July
b. 7, f. 88	Rev. Wyllys Warner (1800-1869) Biographical and Obituary Notes	
b. 7, f. 89	"Robert Browning, A Lecture before the Browning Club" English	1921
b. 7, f. 90	"Samuel Daniel and Simon Waterson" English	
b. 7, f. 91	"Shakespeare, A Sketch" English	
b. 7, f. 92	"Shakespeare Checklist" (Foreign Libraries) English	
b. 7, f. 93	"Shakespeare Quartos with False Dates," 1st and 2nd drafts English	
b. 7, f. 94	"Shakespeare, Mr. William Shakespeare" 8 pp. English	
b. 7, f. 95	"Some American Book Collectors," List of Book Collectors English	
b. 7, f. 96	"Some Bibliographies of English Literature" English	
b. 7, f. 97	"The Special Library" English	
b. 8, f. 98	Spenser's <i>View of the State of Ireland</i> , notes on	
b. 8, f. 99	Travel Record of George Watson Cole	

b. 8, f. 100	"Treasures of Time" English	
b. 8, f. 101	"Uncle Ben" English	
b. 8, f. 102	"The Use of Alcohol in Health and Disease" English	
b. 8, f. 103	"What Should be Found in Bibliographies" English	
b. 8, f. 104	"What Should We Do With the Liquor Traffic" English	(1883)
b. 8, f. 105	"Why Should not a System of Phonetic Writing be Taught...," working copy English	
b. 8, f. 106	"William J. Fletcher's Classification...," 27 pp. English	
b. 8, f. 107	"William Tyndale's English Bible," carbon copy English	1927 July
b. 8, f. 108	"Woman and Literature," a speech 7 pp. English	

Series II: Subject File

This series contains biographical information relating to G.W. Cole and general correspondence. Included in this are an article about Cole by Harold D. Carew ("Toiler in the Vineyard of Books") a list of the books in G.W. Cole's private library, and a list of G.W. Cole's printed productions.

Other material in this series includes a folder of general correspondence and a check list of Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers*.

b. 9, f. 1	Bacon's Elements of the Common Lawes, notes on some editions	
	Cole, G. W.	
b. 9, f. 2	Article about ("Toiler in the Vineyard of Books", by Harold D. Carew)	1932 October
b. 9, f. 3	Article about ("Toiler in the Vineyard of Books", by H.D. Carew) working copy	1932 October
b. 9, f. 4	Christmas Book Presented to	
b. 9, f. 5	Commemorative Book Presented to	1923
b. 9, f. 6	Commemorative Book Presented to	1924
b. 9, f. 7	Library of Subject Catalogue	1935
b. 9, f. 8	List of printed productions of cancelled sheets	
b. 9, f. 9	List of printed productions of cancelled sheets	
b. 9, f. 10	List of printed productions of working copy	
b. 10, f. 11	Correspondence: appreciations from various sources (typed copy)	1933
b. 10, f. 12	Correspondence: appreciations	
b. 10, f. 13	<i>Cries of London</i> , bibliography English	
b. 10, f. 14	<i>Cries of London</i> , materials on English	
b. 10, f. 15	Dickens' <i>Pickwick Papers</i> , checklist	
b. 10, f. 16	Different editions with same date	
b. 10, f. 17	<i>Handbook of Genealogy</i> , by H. R. Stiles English	
b. 10, f. 18	Huntington Library, Miscellaneous Material	
b. 10, f. 19	Masques and Play of which no Early Edition is in the Huntington Library	
b. 10, f. 20	Narratives of captivity among the Indians	
b. 10, f. 21	Note Cards (dummy folder: cards boxed separately in collection)	
b. 10, f. 21a	Notes removed from various books	
b. 10, f. 21b	Miscellaneous notes and notebooks	

b. 12	Photos
b. 10, f. 23	"Stemma of Capetian Kings of France" and "Stemma of Kings of England" (neither by Cole) English
b. 11	Notecards

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Bibliography
Librarians
Libraries
Literature -- History and criticism

Geographic Names

Europe -- Description and travel

Names

Cole, George Watson, 1850-1939

Corporate Body

Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery