

# MANUSCRIPTS ACQUISITIONS

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The Women's Caucus for Art, as its newsletter *Hue Point* states, serves as "a clearinghouse for ideas, a networking headquarters, a materials resource and a vehicle for public visibility" for and about women in the visual arts. Recently, the Caucus presented twenty cubic feet of its non-current records to the Libraries. The Caucus's founding in 1972 as an interest group within the College Art Association, its incorporation as an independent body in 1975, and its growth and continuing activities as a visual arts organization, are all documented in the gift. Most of the records, which date from 1972 to 1986, are in the form of general files reflecting the two-year terms of successive presidents. These general files typically include documentation pertaining to membership, committees, award presentations and annual conferences, although financial records and subject files on related topics (such as women architects) and other art-related organizations (such as the College Art Association) appear as well. Additional records received in the gift include newsletters, membership lists, photographs, and audio and video tape recordings of selected Caucus events.

Records of the Ludlum Steel and Spring Company of Pompton, New Jersey, and Watervliet, New York, have been donated by the ALTECH Specialty Steel Corporation. The earliest document in the gift is a mid-nineteenth century timebook of James Horner & Co. which operated a furnace, formerly owned by Martin Ryerson, on the Ramapo River at Pompton. Here the company manufactured steel in a variety of formats and types. A spring works, which manufactured springs for railroad cars, was added at the site soon after the Civil War. The corporate name, changed to Horner & Ludlum in 1864, became the Pompton Steel and Iron Company ca. 1877, which it remained until 1898 when the name Ludlum Steel and Spring Company was adopted. By 1906 a controlling interest in the company had been acquired by the Corning family of New York State and manufacturing operations were shifted to a new factory in Watervliet the next year. Among the company's records which have been received are letterbooks, ca. 1859-1915, sales books, 1886-1898 and 1900-1903, journals, 1877-1919, ledgers, 1877-1910, cash books,

1877-1880, 1883-1904 and 1907-1913, a record of promissory notes, 1878-ca. 1892, invoice books, 1864-1915 with gaps, steel production records, 1887-1897, order books for steel, 1872-1874 and 1891-1909, order books for springs, 1877-1887 and 1898-1915, scale books, 1872-1876 and 1893-1916, time books, 1851-1860, 1896-1898 and 1904-1908, and payroll books, 1878-1898. Also included are a ledger, 1877-1879, of a company store, and ledgers, 1895-1911, pertaining to company-owned housing.

Nathaniel S. Rue (1812-1902), of Upper Freehold Township, is the primary focus of a collection of Rue and Holmes family papers, 1725-1958, given by Mr. and Mrs. John R. Melton. Among his other activities, Nathaniel S. Rue was a partner during the 1840s and 1850s in a central New Jersey stagecoach line, records of which were acquired a number of years ago as part of the Rescarrick M. Smith papers. In addition to correspondence, receipts, miscellaneous records of N. S. Rue & Co., and estate administration documents, Rue's papers also include records, 1863-1873 and 1887, of the Pemberton and Hightstown Railroad Company, of which he was president. Incorporated in 1864, the company subsequently negotiated an agreement, later ratified by the state legislature, under which the "Joint Companies" (the Delaware and Raritan Canal and Camden and Amboy Railroad) would both oversee construction of the railroad and lease the line upon its completion. Sales of stock and bonds financed the railroad, which opened in February 1867 and was fully completed by 1869. Company records included with Rue's papers are primarily documents which were kept by the railroad's secretary, former New Jersey Governor George F. Fort, including letters received and articles of agreement with property owners, as well as drafts or copies of notices, letters sent, memoranda, stockholders' minutes, statements and reports, and the articles of agreement with the Joint Companies.

Holdings of primary source material documenting Jewish religious and educational life in New Jersey have been augmented by donations of records from several organizations and individuals. Records received from Atlantic City synagogues include minutes, 1957-1958 and 1967-1981, of the sisterhood of Chelsea Hebrew Congregation, minutes, 1932-1947, of the Atlantic City Free Hebrew School, and records, 1899-1973, of Congregation Rodef Sholom, including its first constitution, 1899, and congregation and board of directors' minutes, 1929-1955. The Brigantine Jewish Community Center presented minutes, 1973-1984, of its congregation and board, together with women's league minutes, 1975-1983, men's club minutes, 1976-1978, and newsletters, 1975-1985. The

records of Congregation Beth Sholom (Iselin, N.J.), given by Congregation Adath Israel (Woodbridge, N.J.), contain constitutions, minutes, newsletters, financial documents and other records created during the congregation's twenty-five year existence from 1955 to 1980. Ad journals and student newspapers of the Yeshiva of Hudson County and constitutions and by-laws, minutes and newsletters of the Yeshiva's North Hudson Women's Group form the bulk of a donation of the Yeshiva's records, 1947-1977, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Rosenbaum. Finally, the records of Temple Beth El (Rutherford, N.J.), received as the gift of the Temple, include a constitution and by-laws, 1927, trustees' minutes, 1948-1975, newsletters, 1950-1985, financial documents, 1920-1965, sisterhood records, 1959-1978, and religious school records, 1928-1970 with gaps.

An extensive assortment of family papers has been received as the bequest of Henry M. Beekman, of Somerset County, New Jersey. A central figure in the collection is the donor's father, John Bloomfield Beekman (1854-1940), a physician, of Bedminster Township. His papers include correspondence, ca. 1878-ca. 1933, ledgers, 1881-1906, daybooks, 1884-1895, physician's visiting lists, 1896-1931, copies of birth and death returns, 1881-ca. 1926, and glass plate negatives (and related photoprints), ca. 1890s, of family and local scenes. A diary, 1915-1946 with gaps, of Henry M. Beekman also is present. This diary reflects Beekman's activities as a civil engineer, including consultation and design work for water supply systems (in the United States and South America) while an employee of J. G. White Engineering Corporation in New York City. One gap in the diary is partly filled by the letters, 1917-1918, which Henry M. Beekman wrote to his parents while he attended a U.S. Army ordnance engineering school and then served as a 2nd Lieutenant at the Sandy Hook Proving Ground during World War I. Among the ancestors of the donor whose papers are in the collection: John H. Beekman (1769-1861), represented by deeds, letters received and account books, and Philip M. Doolittle (1831-1906), a Dutch Reformed minister of North Branch, N.J., whose certificates, diplomas, sermons and scrapbooks complement his extensive diary and pastoral record acquired in previous years.

Of interest to students of folk art is an illuminated manuscript which commemorates the marriage of Somerset County residents John Beekman and Eve Brewer on December 25th, 1791. Acquired as part of the Beekman family papers, this multi-colored document is typical of its genre, although not overly elaborate. Its decorative elements and text, which is

in English, are contained within a double border on a sheet of laid paper (with watermark) measuring 7 1/4 by 9 inches. The document is unsigned. Eve (Brewer) Beekman, named in the manuscript, is known to have had relatives in Pennsylvania, where the existence of illuminated manuscripts as artifacts within the Pennsylvania German culture has been extensively studied. The item acquired is probably of New Jersey origin, however: David B. McGrail, in his seminal survey of New Jersey illuminated manuscripts, notes the existence of other New Jersey examples, also pertaining to Dutch families, which share the hands and hearts motif found on this document.\* Unlike many New Jersey examples which McGrail identified, this manuscript commemorates only the couple's marriage and does not also incorporate a list of their children as a part of the design. Sometime later, however, this information was added to the back of the item, where the names and birth dates of five children appear in an early hand. Complementing the Beekman-Brewer marriage document in the Libraries' existing holdings is an elaborate fraktur-style manuscript family record of Zebulon Leigh and Hannah Savidge, of Somerset (now Mercer) County, who were married in 1792.

\* David B. McGrail, "Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Illuminated New Jersey Documents: An Introduction and a Checklist," *New Jersey History*, 105 (1987): 55-56.