

John Whorf Scrapbook of Boston History, ca. 1850-1930

Repository: Hingham Public Library

Manuscript Number: MSC # 30

Creator: John Whorf

Quantity: 1 flat box, 1 file drawer

Processed By: Stephanie McBain

Access: Open for research.

Provenance

This scrapbook was created by John Whorf during the mid-20th century

Biographical Note

John Whorf was born in New York City on September 9, 1927 to painter John Whorf (1903-1959) and Vivienne Wing Whorf (1903-1972), and was raised in Brookline and Provincetown. He graduated from Provincetown High School in 1945 and entered the army shortly afterwards, serving in Germany. He then studied art at Columbia University and the Brooklyn Museum School. He worked in commercial printing and owned a shop in Hingham named Nine Points, which sold his custom hand-carved and painted signs. John died in Hingham on November 30, 2010, leaving behind three children and six grandchildren. He is buried in Provincetown.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains one scrapbook compiled by John Whorf, mainly on the subject of Boston history. The scrapbook includes photographs, sketches, and pictorial and textual clippings from newspapers, magazines, books, and pamphlets. Also included is a full copy of the pamphlet "King's Boston Views" and three oversize pages featuring photographs of western Massachusetts. The scrapbook was not bound or organized, so its original arrangement is unknown.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. John Whorf Scrapbook, ca. 1850-1930

Series I. John Whorf Scrapbook, ca. 1850-1930

Box 1; File drawer 14

This series is comprised of one scrapbook on the subject of Boston history, which also touches on other areas of Massachusetts. The scrapbook contains photographs, sketches, and pictorial and textual clippings from newspapers, magazines, books, and pamphlets. Each page includes a handwritten note providing basic details on the materials. Clippings mainly depict important places and people in Boston history. People include abolitionist Wendell Phillips and Harvard president Samuel Eliot. Places include the Public Garden, Copp's Hill, Fort Independence, the harbor and wharves, South Station, various streets, theaters, and churches, and the homes of such well-known people as Benjamin Franklin and Harriet Beecher Stowe (in Andover). Some pictures show landmarks that no longer exist, such as the Beacon Hill Reservoir, the Liberty

Tree, Cornhill, the Exchange Coffee House, the Province House, and the City Hospital. Also included are aerial views including one showing the city after the great fire in 1872, a picture of the Franklin celebration on Court Street in 1856, firemen trying out the city's new high pressure system in 1921, and illustrations of the 1874 Fall River granite mill fire. Many of the images include textual captions. The collection also contains a copy of the pamphlet "King's Boston Views," published in 1895.

File drawer 14 contains three oversize pages featuring photographs of several towns in western Massachusetts. Many of the photographs are of Springfield, but Chicopee and Greenfield are also depicted, as well as the Girl Scout's Camp Bonnie Brae in East Otis.