

Library Company of Philadelphia

McA MSS 007

YOUNG AND WOODWARD BUSINESS PAPERS

1789-1826

.21 linear feet, 1 box

Series I. William Young Papers (1789-1817)

Series II. William W. Woodward Papers (1796-1826)

April 2005

Descriptive Summary**Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number

McA MSS 007

Title

Young and Woodward Business Papers

Inclusive Dates

1791-1826

Quantity

.21 linear feet (1 box)

Language of Materials

Materials are in English.

Abstract

The Young and Woodward Business Papers contain letters and documents relating to the printing, publishing, and bookselling efforts of both William Young, and William W. Woodward, to whom Young sold his business in 1802.

Administrative Information**Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information

The Young and Woodward Business Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically-arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2005, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Preferred Citation

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Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names

Young, William, 1755-1829
Woodward, William Wallis
Goldsborough, Charles W. (Charles Washington), 1779-1843
Fenno, John, 1751-1798
Nisbet, Charles, 1736-1804
French, Benjamin F.
Addison, Alexander, 1759-1807
Backus, Eleazer Fitch, 1770-1859
Beman, Nathan S. S. (Nathan Sidney Smith), 1785-1871
Benedict, David, 1779-1874
Boudinot, Elias, 1740-1821
Brainard, Israel, 1772-1854
Duyckinck, Evert, 1764?-1833
Meigs, Josiah, 1757-1822
Riley, Isaac, 1770-1824
Schaeffer, F. C. (Frederick Christian), 1792-1831
Scott, Thomas, 1747-1821
Smith, Samuel Stanhope, 1750-1819
Wilson, James P. (James Patriot), 1769-1830
Thackara, James, 1767-1848
Andrews, John, 1746-1813
Bradford and Inskeep
Champante and Whitrow
Mathew Carey and Company

Subject Topics

Printing--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia
Publishers and publishing--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia
Booksellers and bookselling--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia
Printers--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia

Document Types

Receipts (financial records)
Invoices
Letters

Related Collections

There are collections of William Young papers in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in the William Young Papers (Coll. 1177), McAllister Family Papers

(Coll. 2139), and the Simon Gratz Collection (Coll. 250B). The William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan also holds William Young Papers. Twenty-eight letters from Charles Nisbet to William Young are in Dickinson College library's Archives and Special Collections division, and are available through the library's website <http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/title/m002.htm> (accessed April 2005).

Biographical/Historical Notes

William Young (1755-1829), a bookseller, printer, and publisher, was born in Scotland and briefly attended a Presbyterian seminary there before deciding on a career as a bookseller. After arriving in Philadelphia in June 1784 with his wife and son, Young opened a book store and printing shop on Chestnut Street between Second and Third streets. In 1802 he sold his Philadelphia retail and publishing operations to William W. Woodward, and moved to Rockland, Delaware, where he opened a paper mill. Though that enterprise was profitable, a reversal of fortune occurred in 1814 when the plant burned. Young decided to rebuild as a woolen mill, which fared poorly, and that, combined with more than a decade of carrying Woodward's debt, resulted in reduced circumstances that forced his return to Philadelphia.

William Young was active in the Associate Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, as was his Chestnut Street neighbor and fellow Scottish immigrant John McAllister (1753-1830). McAllister's son John McAllister Jr. (1786-1877) married William Young's daughter Eliza (1790-1853) in 1811. They were the parents of the collector John A. McAllister (1822-1896).

William Wallis Woodward (1769?-1837) was listed as a bookseller in the Philadelphia city directories from 1794 through the 1830s. In the 1802 directory his description expanded to "printer, bookseller & stationer," the result of his having purchased Young's business. Woodward remained in the directories with that description for some twenty years. His main publishing interest was religious books, and he was one of the first American publishers known to have marketed his publications using a network of clergymen as sales agents.

Woodward's final entry is in the 1837 directory, where he is listed as a stationer. His obituary in the January 19, 1837, issue of *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, simply stated: "DIED, at his residence, yesterday morning, 18th inst., WILLIAM W WOODWARD, late publisher of this city, in the 68th year of his age."

Collection Overview

The Young and Woodward Business Papers spans the period from 1789-1826, and contains correspondence and financial documents relating to their publishing and retailing businesses in Philadelphia. The collection is arranged in two series: Series I, William Young Papers, and Series II, William W. Woodward Papers.

Series I, William Young Papers (1789-1817) primarily consists of single letters from noted colleagues written to Young while he was still living and working in Philadelphia. They include the editor John Fenno (1751-1798), author John Ralling, western Pennsylvania judge Alexander Addison (1759-1807), and John Andrews (1746-1813), professor (and later provost) at the University of Pennsylvania. In his letter Charles Washington Goldsborough (1779-1843) writes in December 1800 about sending Young large quantities of his "list," possibly *An Original and Correct List of the United States Navy* which was published that year. There are four lengthy letters from the Scottish Presbyterian cleric Charles Nisbet (1736-1804), the first president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.

The series ends with William Young's receipt book, which covers his expenditures in 1789 and 1790. Most of the pages simply record a transfer of funds without stating the reason, but there are a few full acknowledgments such as those for payments in 1790 to James Logan for rent of land on the corner Second and Chestnut streets (January 8), to Thomas Peters for bookbinding (February 3), and to James Thackara, who received five pounds on April 27 for "Engraving a Plate for the *Elements of Elocution*."

Series II, William W. Woodward Papers (1796-1826) is arranged in two subseries: Correspondence and Documents. The first subseries holds letters written to Woodward by printing and publishing colleagues from Massachusetts to Georgia. While Woodward employed ministers to sell his books, a letter from Rev. James P. Wilson (1769-1830) demonstrates that marketing went in both directions: Wilson described a popular British tract that he had just seen through a clergyman visiting Philadelphia and which, he stated, is "the only copy known in America." Wilson suggested that Woodward might want to examine the volume, which is "much read & is considerably worn but entire," while it was in the city, and if inclined to publish it "announce it to the publick." Woodward did publish the book, Andrew Fuller's *A Defence of a Treatise, Entitled the Gospel of Christ Worthy of All Acceptation*, in 1810. In another letter, Samuel Stanhope Smith (1750-1819), president of Princeton University, answered Woodward's query with his opinion on "[Thomas] Scott's exposition of the Bible," perhaps Woodward's largest publication venture. Most of the letters are about ordering and shipping merchandise, or book-related business such as a letter from Josiah Meigs introducing Benjamin F. French, who wanted to make arrangements for bookselling business in Washington. One letter, from Valentine Sevier (1780-1854) of Greenville, TN, thanks Woodward for sending him paper molds, and reports on the latest news of Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans.

A letter from the New York printers Van Winkle and Wiley was transferred to the library's broadside collection and cataloged separately. Written on the printed prospectus *Proposals, for Publishing by Subscription, for their Devotional Somnium; or A Collection of Prayers and Exhortations Uttered by Miss Rachel Baker* (1815), for which the firm was serving as an agent, the letter addressed the subscription terms, and promised prompt attention to any order Woodward might place.

The Documents subseries holds just a few records relating to Woodward's sales, purchases, trades, and business. The earliest document in the collection is a paid invoice from Woodward to Messrs. Cochrane & Thursby for printing and binding checks in 1796. One invoice describes merchandise at London wholesale stationers William Champante & Benjamin Whitrow shipped to Woodward, including pencils, ink powder, and sealing wax. An 1809 record of accounts with Bradford and Inskeep of New York lists books they exchanged with Woodward, and three invoices with engraved billheads, cover the religious books purchased from Mathew Carey and Company. Two promissory notes show funds owed to papermaker Samuel Merritt, and to Mathew Carey.

An insurance policy certificate was removed from the collection and cataloged in the library's Print Department. It was issued to Woodward by the American Fire Insurance Company for coverage of "books in sheets" kept on three floors of Woodward's building on South Second Street, as well as household and kitchen furniture, and wearing apparel. Inscribed on the verso are five years of invoices extending the insurance through June 1826, and adding stereotype plates to the inventory. In a January 1826 addenda, Woodward, who had declared bankruptcy in 1825, signed the insured goods over to William Young.

Box Folder

SERIES I. WILLIAM YOUNG PAPERS

1789-1817

Arranged in alphabetical order, with Young's receipt book at the end.

1	1	Addison, Alexander, Washington, PA	1793, 1796
	2	Andrews, John	1789, 1791
	3	Carey, Mathew	1817 Jan 31
	4	Currie, William	1808 Jan 26
	5	Fenno, John	1798 Mar 3
	6	Goldsborough, Charles Washington, Washington, DC	1800 Dec 10
	7	Nisbet, Charles, Carlisle, PA	1791-1796
	8	Oswald, John Holt	1798 Jan 15
	9	Ralling, John	1799 Jun 22
	10	Receipt book	1789-1790

Box Folder

Series II. WILLIAM W. WOODWARD PAPERS

1796-1826

Arranged in two subseries: Correspondence, and Documents.

Correspondence

[1]	11	Backus, Eleazer Fitch, Albany, NY	1813 Mar 10
	12	Beman, Nathan Sidney Smith, Mount Zion, GA	1817 Jun 17
	13	Benedict, David, Pawtucket, RI	1812, 1816
	14	Blunt, Sarah, Newburyport, MA	1808 Nov 22
	15	Boudinot, Elias, Burlington, NJ	1809 Jan 6
	16	Brainard, Israel, Guilford, CT	1803 Sep 20
	17	Brodhead, Jacob, Philadelphia, PA	1817 Feb 28
	18	Collins & Company, New York	1813 Nov 30
	19	Duyckinck, Evert, New York	1813 Feb 15
	20	Finley, James Edwards Burr, Charleston	1813 Apr 26
	21	Graydon, Alexander, Jr., Harrisburg	1813 Feb 2
	22	Hamilton, Talbot	undated
	23	Meigs, Josiah, Washington	1820 Sep 18
	24	Riley, Isaac, New York	1814 Oct 10
	25	Schaeffer, Frederick Christian, Harrisburg	1814 Jul 16
	26	Schawg, J. Michael, Lancaster	1813 May 24
	27	Sevier, Valentine, Greenville, TN	1815 Jan 31
	28	Smith, Samuel Stanhope, Princeton	1809, 1815
	29	Staughton, William, Philadelphia	1807, 1812
	30	White, John, Philadelphia	1814 Jul 12

Box Folder

Series II. WILLIAM W. WOODWARD PAPERS, cont.

Correspondence, cont.

[1]	31	Wilson, James P., Philadelphia	1802-1818
		Documents	
		Invoices	
	32	Bradford & Inskip, Philadelphia	1809 Sep 30
	33	Champante & Whitrow, London	1807 Jan 17
	34	Cochrane & Thursby, Philadelphia	1796 Sep 24
	35	Mathew Carey and Company, Philadelphia	1813-1815
	36	Promissory notes	1813, 1814