

**Reginald and Rachel French Collection**  
**S 745.1 F875f, Manuscript**

Reginald and Rachel French were long time residents of Amherst, MA, where he was a professor of Romance languages at Amherst College. Both were avid students and collectors of antiques, and from 1953 to 1993 they operated an antiques business from their home. Items in their collection of papers reflect their interests in the study, collecting and sale of antiques. Reginald died in 1996, and Rachel died in 2000, at the age of 94. Their collection of papers was given to Historic Deerfield Library by their children, Dick and Polly French.

The collection consists of 9 boxes, including correspondence, notes, drawings, account books, periodical articles, photographs and slides. The following is a list of folder headings and subject references:

Antiques-- Sale and purchase of

*See* Record books-- French  
Record Books-- Lawrence, L.B.  
Record Books-- Raymond, Percy

Amherst-- Architecture

Notes re Amherst houses, etc.

Amherst Historical Society

Appraisal of items belonging to the Society done by Reginald French in 1979, material relating to exhibits, and a newspaper article regarding acquisitions, including a dress of Emily Dickinson.

Antiques-- Caring for

Notes, etc. regarding the care of antiques. 6 items.

Banks

*See* Toy banks

Baskets

Publications, correspondence, etc. regarding Native American baskets, including material on baskets from the French's collection

Beadwork-- Native American

Correspondence between Rachel French and James B. Richardson of The Carnegie Museum of Natural History relating to items in her collection.

Brass

Material relating to brass items, including standishes, inkwells, bells, teapots. Includes photographic slides.

Cabinetmakers

*See* Furniture-- Cabinetmakers

Candlesticks-- Bell bases

Notes, drawings, and photographs.

Candlesticks—Covered urns

Notes and drawings.

Candlesticks—Donuts

Notes and drawings.

Candlesticks-- Drum bases

Notes and drawings.

Candlesticks—English

Notes, drawings, and illustrations from periodicals

Candlesticks—European

Lists of candlesticks, etc. purchased by Reginald French (in Italy?), drawings, photographs and slides, etc.

Candlesticks-- Federal (Classic revival)

Notes, drawings, and photographic slides.

Candlesticks-- Flat bases (trencher bases)

Notes, drawings, and illustrations

Candlesticks-- Mid-drip

Photographs, notes, and drawings

Candlesticks—Miscellaneous

Notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.

Candlesticks—Pewter

Periodical articles, notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.

Candlesticks-- Style cycles

Notes and drawings.

Ceramics-- Articles re

Ceramics-- Benjamin Leigh

Research notes re Benjamin Leigh, an 18<sup>th</sup> c. Boston merchant and possibly a manufacturer of earthenware

Ceramics-- Delftware-- Correspondence, journal articles, and photographs

Ceramics-- Delftware-- Notes and slides

Ceramics-- Inventories and newspaper references

Ceramics-- Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous notes and drawings relating to ceramics.

Ceramics-- Photographs

Church, John W. -- Appraisal

Appraisal done by Reginald French of the contents of the home of the Church's home

Communion services

*See* Pewter-- Communion services

Delftware

*See* Ceramics-- Delftware

*See* Ceramics-- Benjamin Leigh

Dolbeare family

*See* Pewter-- Dolbeare family

Exhibits-- Erastus Salisbury Field

*See* Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Exhibits

Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Articles re

Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Biographical

Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Chronology

Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Correspondence of R. F. French re, c.1949-85

Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Exhibits

Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Miscellaneous

Forbes Library-- Appraisal

Appraisal done by French in 1983 of furniture belonging to the library.

French, Reginald and Rachel-- Miscellaneous

Newspaper clippings, obituary and memorial service bulletin (for Rachel), correspondence, etc.

French, Reginald-- Record Books

Records of purchases and sales of antiques, c. 1947- c. 1953. 2 bound vols. and loose papers.

Furniture-- Cabinet makers

Brief notes on several cabinet makers

Furniture-- English exports  
Periodical article

Furniture-- Miscellaneous  
Photographs of chairs and tables. 5 items.

Furniture-- Shaker  
Periodical article.

Glass  
Periodical and photographic slides. 6 items.

Great-grandmother's portfolio  
*See* Exhibits-- "Great-grandmother's Portfolio"

Hearth equipment  
Miscellaneous notes, drawings, correspondence, photographs, and slides.

Inventory  
An inventory of household goods belonging to an unnamed individual (possibly a probate inventory). Undated.

Iron and iron foundry  
Notes on several iron foundry, their marks, etc.

Kinney, Arthur F., Jr. -- Appraisal  
Appraisal done by French of furniture, baskets, artwork, etc. Kinney was of Amherst, MA.  
Undated (late 18<sup>th</sup> c. ?).

Lawrence, L.B.-- Record Books  
Records of purchases, gifts, and sales of antiques, 1901-1950. Books were kept in Foxboro and Northboro. 3 vols.

Leigh, Benjamin  
*See* Ceramics-- Benjamin Leigh

Lighting devices  
Notes, correspondence, clippings from periodicals, photographic slides, and a paper by Garland Pass titled "American Brass Whale Oil Lamps".

Measures—Balustres  
Miscellaneous notes, photographs, and slides.

Measures-- Correspondence re

Measures-- Marks

Measures-- Miscellaneous  
Notes, photographs, and slides.

Measures-- New Hampshire

Metrology  
*See* Measures

Metrology-- Miscellaneous

Native American baskets  
*See* Baskets

Needlework  
*See* Textiles

Northampton Historical Society-- Appraisal (1983)

Peele, R.  
*See* Receipts

Pewter  
*See also* Raymond, Percy-- Record Book

*See also* Measures-- Balustres

Pewter-- Articles and clippings

Pewter-- Candlesticks  
*See* Candlesticks-- Pewter

Pewter-- Collections

Pewter-- Communion services

Pewter-- Correspondence re  
*See also* Pewter-- Dolbeare family

Pewter-- Dolbeare family

Pewter-- Miscellaneous

Pewter-- Photographs and slides

Pewter-- Porringers

Pewter-- Price lists

Pewter-- Samuel Pierce

Pewter-- "RB" marks

Pewter-- Rubbings

Pewter-- Sundials

Pewter Collectors of America-- New England Regional Group

Pewterers  
*See also* Pewter-- Dolbeare family  
Pewter-- Samuel Pierce

Pierce, Samuel  
*See* Pewter-- Samuel Pierce

Playing cards  
Article on German playing cards

Porcelain

Porringers  
*See* Pewter-- Porringers

Probate inventory  
*See* Inventory

Raymond, Percy-- Record Book  
Records of purchases of pewter items, 1925-(1938?). 1 vol.

Receipts  
Receipts for items purchased by John Waters between 1815 and 1829 (razors, penknives, iron punches and a copper boiling pan from R. Peele of Salem; B.L. pots from Revere Copper Co, Boston; 2 sets of knives and forks from R. Brookhouse in Salem). 3 items.

Record Books  
*See* Raymond, Percy-- Record Book  
French, Reginald-- Record Books  
Lawrence, L.B.-- Record Books

Revere Copper Co.  
*See* Receipts

Seals

Silver  
Miscellaneous material regarding silver and silversmiths, including a list of Pioneer Valley Silversmiths, drawings,

Silversmiths-- Deerfield

Silversmiths-- Miscellaneous

Silversmiths-- Northampton

Spoons

Sundials-- Correspondence

Sundials-- Josiah Miller

*See also* Sundials-- Miscellaneous

Sundials-- Miscellaneous

Sundials-- Pewter

*See* Pewter-- Sundials

Textiles

Tiles

Toy Banks

1 periodical article

Trenchers

1 periodical article

Waters, John

*See* Receipts