

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 children, Dick and Polly French, gave their collection of papers to Historic Deerfield Library. The collection consists of 9 boxes, including correspondence, notes, drawings, account books, periodical articles, photographs and slides.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1

1. Amherst—Architecture
Notes re Amherst houses, etc.
2. 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.
3. Antiques—Caring for
Notes, etc. regarding the care of antiques. 6 items.
4. Baskets
Publications, correspondence, etc. regarding Native American baskets, including material on baskets from the French's collection
5. Beadwork—Native American
Correspondence between Rachel French and James B. Richardson of The Carnegie Museum of Natural History relating to items in her collection.
6. Brass
Material relating to brass items, including standishes, inkwells, bells, teapots. Includes photographic slides.
7. Candlesticks—Bell bases
Notes, drawings, and photographs.
8. Candlesticks—Covered urns
Notes and drawings.
9. Candlesticks—Donuts
Notes and drawings.
10. Candlesticks—Drum bases
Notes and drawings.
11. Candlesticks—English
Notes, drawings, and illustrations from periodicals
12. Candlesticks—European
Lists of candlesticks, etc. purchased by Reginald French (in Italy?), drawings, photographs and slides, etc.
13. Candlesticks—Federal (Classic revival)
Notes, drawings, and photographic slides.
14. Candlesticks—Flat bases (trencher bases)

- Notes, drawings, and illustrations
15. Candlesticks—Mid-drip
Photographs, notes, and drawings
 16. Candlesticks—Miscellaneous
Notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.
 17. Candlesticks—Pewter
Periodical articles, notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.
 18. Candlesticks—Style cycles
Notes and drawings.

Box 2

1. Ceramics—Articles re
2. Ceramics—Benjamin Leigh
Research notes re Benjamin Leigh, an 18th c. Boston merchant and possibly a manufacturer of earthenware
3. Ceramics—Delftware-- Correspondence, journal articles, and photographs
4. Ceramics—Delftware-- Notes and slides
5. Ceramics—Inventories and newspaper references
6. Ceramics—Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous notes and drawings relating to ceramics.
7. Ceramics—Photographs
8. Church, John W.—Appraisal
Appraisal done by Reginald French of the contents of the home of the Church's home

Box 3

1. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Articles re
2. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Biographical
3. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Chronology
4. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Correspondence of R. F. French re, c.1949-85
5. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Exhibits
6. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Miscellaneous

Box 4

1. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Non-portraits
2. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Portraits, 1833-1836
3. Field, Erastus Salisbury—after 1836
4. Field, Erastus Salisbury—children
5. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Early
6. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Hubbard

Box 5

1. Forbes Library—Appraisal
Appraisal done by French in 1983 of furniture belonging to the library.
2. French, Reginald and Rachel-- Miscellaneous
Newspaper clippings, obituary and memorial service bulletin (for Rachel), correspondence, etc.
3. French, Reginald—Record Books
Records of purchases and sales of antiques, c. 1947- c. 1953. 2 bound vols. and loose papers.
4. Furniture—Cabinet makers

- Brief notes on several cabinetmakers
5. Furniture—English exports
Periodical article
 6. Furniture—Miscellaneous
Photographs of chairs and tables. 5 items.
 7. Furniture—Shaker
Periodical article.
 8. Glass
Periodical and photographic slides. 6 items.

Box 6

1. Hearth equipment
Miscellaneous notes, drawings, correspondence, photographs, and slides.
2. Inventory
An inventory of household goods belonging to an unnamed individual (possibly a probate inventory). Undated.
3. Iron and iron foundries
Notes on several iron foundries, their marks, etc.
4. Kinney, Arthur F., Jr.—Appraisal
Appraisal done by French of furniture, baskets, artwork, etc. Kinney was of Amherst, MA.
Undated (ca. late 18th c.).
- 5-6. Lawrence, L.B.—Record Books
Records of purchases, gifts, and sales of antiques, 1901-1950. Books were kept in Foxboro and Northboro. 3 vols.

Box 7

1. Lighting devices
Notes, correspondence, clippings from periodicals, photographic slides, and a paper by Garland Pass titled “American Brass Whale Oil Lamps”.
2. Measures—Balustres
Miscellaneous notes, photographs, and slides.
3. Measures—Correspondence re
4. Measures—Marks
5. Measures—New Hampshire
6. Metrology—Miscellaneous
7. Northampton Historical Society-- Appraisal (1983)
8. Pewter—Articles and clippings
9. Pewter—Collections
10. Pewter—Communion services
11. Pewter—Correspondence re

Box 8

1. Pewter—Dolbeare family
2. Pewter—Marks
3. Pewter—Miscellaneous
4. Pewter—Photographs and slides
5. Pewter—Porrings
6. Pewter—Price lists, 1946-1988

7. Pewter—Samuel Pierce
8. Pewter—"RB" marks
9. Pewter—Rubblings
10. Pewter—Sundials
11. Pewter Collectors of America-- New England Regional Group
12. Pewterers
13. Playing cards
Article on German playing cards
14. Porcelain
15. Portraits—Miscellaneous artists and unknown artists

Box 9

1. Raymond, Percy—Record Book
Records of purchases of pewter items, 1925-(1938?). 1 vol.
2. 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.
3. Seals
4. Silver
Miscellaneous material regarding silver and silversmiths, including a list of Pioneer Valley Silversmiths, drawings,
5. Silversmiths—Deerfield
6. Silversmiths—Miscellaneous
7. Silversmiths—Northampton
8. Spoons
9. Sundials—Correspondence, 1960-1975
10. Sundials—Josiah Miller
11. Sundials—Miscellaneous
12. Textiles
13. Tiles
14. Toy Banks
1 periodical article
15. Trenchers
1 periodical article