

Harry T. Peters papers, 1790 - 1988 (bulk 1900 - 1946)
91 boxes



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Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Peters, Harry Twyford, 1881-1948

Title: Harry T. Peters papers

Dates: 1800 – 1988 (bulk 1900 – 1946)

Abstract: The Harry T. Peters papers consist of manuscripts, correspondence, ephemera, publications, prints, and photographs documenting Peters's activities as a collector of American lithographs, authority on the firm Currier & Ives, published author, and avid sportsman.

Extent: 91 boxes

MCNY Numbers: Associated, Activity Numbers 14420 and 14961

Language: English

Biographical Note

Harry Twyford Peters was born in Greenwich, Connecticut in 1881, the son of Samuel T. Peters and Adeline Peters (née Mapes Elder). Peters entered the coal business after graduating from Columbia College in 1903. He worked at Williams and Peters, his father's firm, later becoming a partner and its president. Peters inherited \$500,000 dollars upon the death of his father in 1921—the equivalent of over \$6 million dollars by today's standard—making him a very wealthy man.

Peters was an avid collector of American prints and a leading authority on the firm Currier & Ives, a prolific American printmaking firm that operated out of New York City. The firm was founded in 1834 by Nathaniel Currier (1813–1888), who invited James Merritt Ives (1824–1895) to join him as partner in 1857. Currier and Ives sons took over operation of the business following their fathers' deaths, until the firm was liquidated in 1907. He is credited with recognizing the historic and artistic value of American lithographs during an era when they had fallen out of favor, and generating a new wave of interest by collectors and the public. He is the author of *Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People* (Doubleday, 1929), a "Chronicle of the Firm, and of the Artists and their Work, with Notes on Collecting," with reproductions of select works. The two volume set is the accepted catalog raisonné of the firm's work. This text was followed by *America on Stone: the Other Printmakers to the American People* (Doubleday, 1931), which is a "chronicle of American lithography other than that of Currier & Ives, from its beginning, shortly before 1820, to the years when the commercial single-stone hand-colored lithograph disappeared from the American scene." In 1935 he published *California on Stone*, detailing lithographic coverage of the Gold Rush period.

Peters was an avid sportsman, with a passion for hunting, horses, and dogs. In 1925 he became Co-Master of Foxhounds of the Meadow Brooke Hunt in Long Island, New York, a position he held into the 1940s. He was a member of the Westminster Kennel Club and often served as an exhibitor and judge at dog shows. He gave a lecture "Sport in Art through the Ages," at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in (circa 1937-1940), and began drafting a full length work on the same topic that was never published. In 1935 he authored *Just Hunting*, which provides personal and historical perspectives on the subject with illustrations by Betty Babcock.

Peters was an active member of the Grolier Club, American Antiquarian Society, and New-York Historical Society. He also participated in home defense activities, serving as a member of the Fuel Administration during World War I, and as Civilian Defense Director for Suffolk County during World War II. Peters retired from the coal business in 1945. He died in 1948 at age 66, survived by his wife Natalie (née Wells), his daughter Natalie Peters Webster, and his son Harry T. Peters, Jr.

Timeline:

1881 August 1: Born

1903: Graduated from Columbia College

1903: Entered coal business; worked for firm Williams and Peters

1925: Became Co-Master of Foxhounds of Meadow Brooke Hunt in Long Island

1929: Published *Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Company)
1930: Became a Life Member of the New-York Historical Society
1931: Published *America on Stone: The Other Printmakers to the American People* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Company)
1931: Published Volume 2 of *Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Company)
1932: Elected to the American Antiquarian Society
1935: Published *California on Stone* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran & Company)
1935: Published *Just Hunting* (New York: Scribner's)
1939-1943: Served as President of the Grolier Club
1945: Retired from coal business
1947 December 8: Received New-York Historical Society's gold medal for achievement in history (5th person awarded since the award's founding in 1925)
1948 June 1: Died

Bibliographic Note

"Harry Twyford Peters," American Antiquarian Society, October 1948.

"Harry Peters, Sportman, Dead," *The New York Times*, June 2, 1948.

Scope and Content

The Harry T. Peters papers consist of manuscripts, correspondence, ephemera, publications, prints, and photographs documenting Peters's activities as a collector, scholar of American printmaking, published author, lecturer, and avid sportsman. Multiple drafts of the manuscripts for Peters's published and unpublished works provide evidence of Peters's writing process and the evolution of the texts. The nearly 1,200 lantern slides of prints, paintings, and objects were used as visual aids by Peters in his illustrated lectures, and/or were created as part of his research. As an authority on Currier & Ives, Peters received many letters from the public requesting information about particular prints, and from dealers offering prints for purchase. Peters also corresponded with staff members of museums, libraries, and historical societies. Peters's participation in various sporting, cultural, and social activities is documented through pamphlets, invitations, and photographs. Peters also collected trade cards, British prints, books, pamphlets, catalogs, and other items related to his scholarly interests and hobbies. Small quantities of materials are more personal in nature, including photographs, letters, medical records, and items related to his father, Samuel T. Peters. Finally, some items with references to Currier & Ives and/or Harry T. Peters dating from the 1960s through the 1980s had been intermingled with Peters's papers. These items are believed to have been collected by the City Museum and added to the collection over the years. As the entire collection lacks documentation of provenance, they have been filed with Peters's documents in Series VI: Printed Collections.

Arrangement

Series I: Projects and Manuscripts, 1838-1946, bulk 1926-1941
 Sub-Series A: Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People, 1858, 1926-1931
 Sub-Series B: America on Stone, 1858, 1930-1931
 Sub-Series C: California on Stone, 1931-1936
 Sub-Series D: Just Hunting, 1932-1936
 Sub-Series E: Just Collecting, circa 1930s
 Sub-Series F: Survey of Sporting Art, 1899-1946, bulk 1937-1941
 Sub-Series G: Additional Lectures, Articles, and Projects, 1838-1945, bulk 1930-1940

Series II: Hobbies and Clubs, 1871-1945
 Sub-Series A: Printed Ephemera, 1871-1945
 Sub-Series B: Photographs, 1900-1945

Series III: Correspondence, 1896-1940, bulk 1930-1937

Series IV: Personal, 1870-1945, bulk 1914-1937
 Sub-Series A: Papers, 1870-1945, bulk 1914-1937
 Sub-Series B: Photographs, 1898-1940, undated

Series V: Graphic Collections, 1790-1945
 Sub-Series A: Advertisements, 1800-1940, undated
 Sub-Series B: Games and Objects, 1850-1940, undated
 Sub-Series C: Holiday cards, 1925-1940, undated
 Sub-Series D: Photographs, 1861-1940, bulk undated
 Sub-Series E: Postcards, circa 1900-1945
 Sub-Series F: Prints, 1790-1940, undated
 Sub-Series G: Trade Cards, 1870-1900

Series VI: Printed Collections, 1790-1988, bulk 1920-1950
 Sub-Series A: Books and Pamphlets, 1794-1939
 Sub-Series B: Catalogs, 1863-1988, bulk 1923-1949
 Sub-Series C: Clippings, 1817-1942, bulk 1930-1940
 Sub-Series D: Maps, 1829, 1926, undated
 Sub-Series E: Serials, 1790-1959, bulk 1920-1950

Portions of this collection retained a clear original order, where in other cases, it was apparent the order had been altered from when the material was maintained by Harry T. Peters. Original order was preserved whenever feasible. See "Processing Information" for more details.

Series and Sub-Series Description

Series I: Projects and Manuscripts. 1899-1941

This series consists of materials related to Peters's writing and lectures, including drafts, correspondence, notes, research, publicity materials, and photographs. Manuscript materials include handwritten drafts, typed drafts with handwritten edits, and galley proofs; providing evidence of Peters's working process and the evolution of the texts. Additionally, there are nearly 1,200 glass lantern slides used as visual aids by Peters for his lectures.

Sub-Series I.A: Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People, 1926-1931

This sub-series consists of approximately three and a half boxes of materials related to the publication of *Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People* Volumes 1 and 2. Materials include handwritten and typed drafts, mock-ups of illustrations, correspondence with the publisher, book reviews, research, and news clippings.

Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People was first published in 1929 by Doubleday, Doran & Company (Garden City, New York). The book contains a "Chronicle of the Firm, and of the Artists and their Work, with Notes on Collecting," with reproductions of select works. Its "Checklist" of all prints by Currier & Ives became the accepted catalog raisonné of the firm's work.

In 1931, Volume 2 was published, "as an answer to the great amount of correspondence received as a result of the publication of Volume 1 and the various reviews." Volume 2 contains updates to the Currier & Ives Checklist and additional reproductions of select works.

Manuscript materials in this sub-series include drafts of the "Acknowledgements" and "Preface" (Volume 1); drafts of the "Chronicle" of Currier & Ives history (Part I of Volume 1); drafts of the "Checklist" of Currier & Ives prints (Part III of Volume 1); and mock-ups of plates 143-319 (Part II of Volume 2). Additionally, there are many incomplete fragments and drafts of numbered chapters. These materials would require a closer reading to determine which parts of the texts they correspond to in Volume 1 and/or 2.

Research material includes lists of prints, photographs, and biographical information. Much of the research was carried out by Harriet Endicott Waite, an art historian and art dealer from New York City. In 1925, Waite traveled to the Copyright Office in Washington DC, where she compiled 2,612 titles of prints copyrighted by N. Currier and Currier & Ives. She also located images of people and places associated with the firm.

Processing Note

The mock-ups of plates 143-319 (Part II of Volume 2) were originally glued to black construction paper and stapled into mini-folios. The prints had become unglued from the construction paper, which was separated out for preservation purposes, with the exception of a sample folio.

Sub-Series I.B: America on Stone, 1930-1931

America on Stone: The Other Printmakers to the American People was published in 1931 by Doubleday, Doran & Company (Garden City, New York). The book served as a "chronicle of American lithography other than that of Currier & Ives, from its beginning, shortly before 1820, to the years when the commercial single-stone hand-colored lithograph disappeared from the American scene."

The manuscript materials in this sub-series (approximately two boxes) include handwritten and typed drafts of various sections of the book; lists of illustrations under consideration for inclusion in the text; a galley proof of the book's prologue; book reviews; and publicity materials. Additionally, index cards (three boxes) contain names and biographical information for the book's "Alphabetical List" of artists, lithographers, publishers, and craftsmen who played a role in the development of American lithography.

This sub-series also includes correspondence with Charles Allen Smart, the editorial assistant assigned to work with Peters on the project. Smart (1904-1967) worked for Doubleday from 1927 to 1930 and went on to author 11 books of his own.

Sub-Series I.C: California on Stone, 1931-1936

California on Stone was published in 1935 by Doubleday, Doran & Company (Garden City, New York) and details lithographic coverage of the Gold Rush period. Laura Retting White served as Peters's assistant on this project and carried out much of the research in California. Prior to moving to California, White also assisted Peters with *America on Stone*. Later she wrote *The San Francisco Quadrilles* (1959), published by the Book Club of California as part of the "California Sheet Music Covers" series.

This sub-series (two boxes) includes typed drafts with handwritten edits; a galley proof of the entire work; correspondence with White and others regarding research; publicity materials; and mock-ups of the title page.

Sub-Series I.D: Just Hunting, 1933-1936

Just Hunting was published in 1935 by Scribner's (New York), and provides personal and historical perspectives on the subject. The book was illustrated by amateur artist and Long Island resident Betty Babcock. Ernest R. Gee later published Babcock's *Illustrated Hunting Diary, Recording the Sport of the Season for the Followers of the Meadow Brook Hounds* (circa 1945).

Peters described *Just Hunting* as "the random findings of an American business man who would that he could have been born a sportsman." A major focus of the text is the comparison of American fox hunting traditions to those of the British.

Materials in this sub-series (two boxes) include manuscript drafts; a list of possible titles Peters considered before selecting *Just Hunting*; book reviews; order forms; and mock-ups of illustrations. See Series IV.C for Holiday Cards illustrated by Babcock.

Sub-Series I.E: Just Collecting, circa 1930s

This sub-series consists of approximately one box of drafts (mostly handwritten) of an unpublished work titled "Just Collecting." Similarly to *Just Hunting*, the text appears to be a combination of personal anecdotes and historical information woven together, but in this case the subject is collecting and collectors.

Sub-Series I.F: Sport In Art Through the Ages, 1899-1941 (bulk circa 1937-1941)

The Metropolitan Museum of Art sponsored an exhibition of sporting art in March 1937, with paintings and prints dating from the Middle Ages. Building on this event, Peters developed "Sport In Art Through the Ages," an illustrated lecture which he gave at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and later at the Grolier Club. He also began a full length work on the same topic that was not published.

Print materials (approximately two boxes) include the invitation to Peters's lecture at the Grolier Club; news clippings; handwritten drafts of the full length manuscript; research materials; and a handwritten prologue and text to accompany the slides for his lecture. Photographic materials consist of 86 glass lantern slides of sporting-related paintings and prints that presumably formed the basis of the lecture.

Sub-Series I.G: Additional Lectures, Articles and Projects, 1931-1941

This sub-series consists of printed materials and glass lantern slides related to Peters's lectures, articles, and smaller projects. Peters wrote articles for a number of publications, including *Bulletin of the New York Public Library*, *Print Connoisseur*, and *Prints*. He lectured widely at the Grolier Club, Museum of the City of New York, and other cultural heritage institutions and clubs. He also served on a jury that selected the "Best Fifty Currier & Ives Lithographs" and helped coordinate exhibitions of his collections.

Printed items in this sub-series include approximately two boxes of invitations, news clippings, catalogs, periodicals, and research material that could not be tied to a specific project.

Photographic material includes over 1,000 glass lantern slides of paintings, prints and other artworks that Peters used as visual aids for his lectures. Notations on the slide labels and/or sleeves usually indicate artwork titles, slide numbers, and sources. Some of the labels include lecture titles while others are uncategorized. Lecture topics included "Yesterday in New York," "Yesterday in America," "Long Island," "Trails to Trains," and Currier & Ives. The vast majority of the slides originated from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of the City of New York, or the photographer Edward Van Altena. Van Altena (1873-1968) was

the founder of a highly successful song slide production company, established in 1904 in New York City with John D. Scott.

See Appendix A for a broad survey of the subjects of the glass lantern slides. See Appendix B for an inventory of item level descriptions of five representative slides from each box.

Series II: Hobbies and Clubs, 1866-1948

This series consists of printed ephemera and photographs documenting Peters's hobbies and membership in various clubs and organizations. While Peters's hobbies overlapped significantly with his scholarly interests, the material in this series has no documented tie to a particular book, lecture, or project. The majority of the material relates to Peters's participation in cultural organizations, sporting activities, and leisure activities.

Sub-Series II.A: Printed Ephemera, 1866-1948

This sub-series consists of one box of printed material related to Peters's hobbies and activities. Items include invitations, pamphlets, programs, tickets, and news clippings. Organizations represented include the Grolier Club, American Antiquarian Society, Meadow Brooke Hounds, and Westminster Kennel Club. There is also a color poster for a Hound Show co-sponsored by the Master of Foxhounds Association of America and the National Beagle Club.

Sub-Series II.B: Photographs, circa 1900-1945

This sub-series consists of approximately two boxes of images of horses, dogs, and fox hunting, including some of Peters, presumably in his role as Master of Foxhounds of the Meadow Brooke Hunt. Six photographs document an exhibition of Peters's Currier & Ives prints at the Grolier Club in 1929.

Series III: Correspondence, 1896-1941

This series consists of six boxes of correspondence relating to Peters's scholarly interests and hobbies, including lithography, collecting, and hunting. Letters to Peters and carbon copies of his replies were filed together, with extended exchanges clipped together.

Due to Peters's status as an expert on Currier & Ives and American lithography, he received many letters from the public requesting information about particular prints, and from dealers offering prints for purchase. Peters also corresponded with staff members of museums, libraries, and historical societies regarding research, exhibitions, and lectures. Letters about hunting proliferated in 1935-1936, when his book *Just Hunting* was published.

Correspondence pertaining to Currier & Ives reflects the order and titles supplied by Peters (original folder labels have been sleeved and placed in the front of each folder). The remaining correspondence did not have a discernable meaningful order and appeared to have been tampered

with. Based on the lack of clear provenance for this portion of the correspondence, it was collated from several boxes and arranged chronologically.

See “Series I: Projects and Manuscripts” for correspondence with editors and research assistants regarding manuscripts. See “Series IV: Personal” for correspondence with family members.

Series IV: Personal, circa 1870s-1940s

This series contains papers and photographs related to Peters’s personal life, excluding his scholarly and sporting interests.

Sub-Series IV.A: Papers, 1870-1937

This sub-series (one box) contains correspondence with Peters’s mother, uncle, and other family members and friends; ephemera related to Peters’s home defense activities during World War I; tickets to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1912; medical records; news clippings; and items related to Samuel T. Peters. There is also a leather bound notebook of handwritten jokes and box of stickers embossed “HTP.” See “Series V: Graphic Collections” for holiday cards from family members and friends.

Sub-Series IV.B: Photographs, circa 1900-1945

This sub-series contains photographic prints of various sizes, including portraits of Harry T. Peters; photographs of family members and friends; and images from the “Blizzard of 1898.” Most of the photographs do not contain captions or dates.

Series V: Graphic Collections, circa 1790s-1945

This series contains prints, advertisements, trade cards, photographs, and other graphic materials collected by Peters. These items reflect his scholarly interests and fondness for popular art forms and Americana. Holiday cards are included in this series, rather than “Series IV: Personal,” due their unique graphic qualities.

Sub-Series V.A: Advertisements, circa 1800s-1930s

This sub-series consists of 11 folders of broadsheets, leaflets, and tear-sheets advertising printing companies, theatrical productions, museums, dog breeders, books, and other products and entertainments.

Sub-Series V.B: Games and Objects, circa 1850-1940

This sub-series consists of three dimensional games and objects. Items include elements of a zoetrope; a small compact mirror with a cartoon on the front; tokens inscribed with images of Tom Thumb; a card game; and a set of cardboard discs imprinted with images of figures such as dancer, violinist, and music conductor, presumably meant to be spun so that the figures appear to move.

Sub-Series V.C: Holiday and Greetings Cards, circa 1925-1940

This sub-series consists of one box of holiday and greeting cards either designed by Peters or received from friends. The cards have been arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Those designed by Peters have a reproduction of a print on the front and a holiday message on the inside. The cards received from friends often feature original illustrations or photographs. Of note, there are several cards with drawings by Betty Babcock, illustrator of *Just Hunting*.

Sub-Series V.D: Photographs, circa 1925-1945

This sub-series consists of photographs of prints, artworks, and other research materials, as well as small quantity of cabinet cards and *carte de visite*. Some of the images were provided by art dealers as potential purchases; others were likely collected by Peters as part of his research. Common subjects include the circus, maritime themes, history and war battles, hunting, horses, and horse racing. Date ranges for this sub-series are for the reproduction, photograph, or print, and not for the object or work depicted. Most of the materials are undated, but were likely collected for Peters's scholarly projects.

Sub-Sub-Series V.D.1: Currier & Ives prints, undated

This sub-sub-series contains about 300 black-and-white photographic prints of Currier & Ives prints arranged alphabetically by subject depicted. Maritime and historically themed prints are particularly numerous.

Sub-Sub-Series V.D.2: Paintings, circa 1925-1945

This sub-sub-series contains about 200 photographic prints (mostly black-and-white) of paintings arranged alphabetically by subject depicted. Some have correspondence attached from art dealers who were presenting the images as potential purchases. Many of the artworks feature maritime themes, horses, hunting, and scenes from everyday life.

Sub-Sub-Series V.D.3: Reference, undated

This sub-sub-series consists of one box of photographic reference materials, primarily reproductions of images from texts, photographs of non-Currier & Ives prints, and photographs of art objects. Of note, there are several photographs relating to Dan Rice (1823-1900), an American entertainer and clown who became famous in the years before the Civil War but later dropped into obscurity. There are also a small quantity of *carte de visite*, cabinet cards, and stereographs.

Sub-Series V.E: Postcards, circa 1900-1945

This sub-series consists of about 100 items (blank on the back) depicting tourist attractions in Britain, Austria, and South Carolina, as well as images of dogs and hunting. There are also two postcards with images of The Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay and the Victoria Memorial Hall in Calcutta, sent from G. Bingham Taylor and addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Peters.

Sub-Series V.F: Prints, 1790-1940

This sub-series consists of three boxes of lithographic prints, reproductions of prints, and drawings arranged alphabetically by subject depicted. Many of the original prints are hand colored. The bulk of the prints are by British printmakers, and include many political cartoons and satirical caricatures. The remaining prints are American, French and Spanish. The arrangement is guided by subject classifications used by Peters in *Currier & Ives: Printmakers to the American People*.

Sub-Series V.G: Trade Cards, circa 1870-1900

This sub-series consists of about 700 trade cards from the middle to late 19th century advertising apparel, accessories, pharmaceutical products, tobacco, appliances, and other products. The colorful graphics on the cards depict humorous, sweet, and sometimes peculiar imagery. The cards have been organized in sub-sub-series by product type, and then alphabetically by the name of the business or manufacturer. The collection is particularly strong in advertisements for clothiers in Connecticut.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 1: Accessories, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise milliners, furriers, hat makers, jewelers, and manufacturers and sellers of undergarments, corsets, hosiery, and umbrellas.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 2: Art and Music, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise instrument builders, artists, and photography studios.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 3: Books and Stationery, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise booksellers, stationers, lithographers, other types of printers, and serials.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 4: Clothing, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise clothiers as well as manufacturers and sellers of thread, fabric, buttons, collars, and cuffs.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 5: Dry and Fancy Goods, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise dry goods and/or fancy goods stores.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 6: Entertainment, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise museums, circus attractions, and theater productions.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 7: Farming Equipment and Supplies, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise farming related machines and products.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 8: Food and Hospitality, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise grocers, bakeries, confectioners, dairies, specialty food shops, restaurants, hotels, and liquor stores.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 9: Hardware Stores, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise hardware stores and supplies.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 10: Healthcare, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise doctors, dentists, pharmacies, apothecaries, home remedy manufacturers, and other medicine manufacturers.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 11: Home Goods and Services, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise appliances, furnishings, kitchenware, chinaware, cleaning supplies, and home décor.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 12: Horse Care, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise livery stables and horse care supplies.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 13: Personal Care, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise beauty aid manufacturers and sellers and personal care services such as hairdressing.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 14: Shoes, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise shoes, shoemakers, shoe repair, and shoe accessories such as polish.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 15: Tobacco, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise tobacco manufacturers and sellers.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 16: Transportation, circa 1870-1900

These cards advertise carriage building and repair businesses and supplies, train and boat ticket offices, and boat builders.

Sub-Sub-Series V.G 17: Unidentified, circa 1870-1900

This sub-sub-series includes cards where no business name or type is identified and cards where no business type, but a business name, is identified.

Series VI: Printed Collections, circa 1815-1986

This series consists of Peters's collection of printed items, including books, pamphlets, sales catalogs, exhibition catalogs, maps, and serials. The bulk relate to printmaking, collecting, art, hunting, and the circus. While many of the items pre-date Peters's death in 1948, others are from the 1950s through the 1980s. Items from the late 1940s through the late 1950s may have been collected by family members and donated along with Peters's materials. Items from the 1960s and beyond are

presumed to have been collected by the City Museum and intermingled with Peters's papers. The artificially collected items consist of catalogs and periodicals with references to Currier & Ives and/or to the Harry T. Peters's collection.

Sub-Series VI.A: Books and Pamphlets, 1794-1941

This sub-series consists of books and pamphlets arranged alphabetically by title on a variety of topics of interest to Peters, ranging from biographies to farmer's almanacs. A few of the books and pamphlets feature characteristics of early printed books, including catch words, lettered pages, woodcut illustrations, and uncut pages.

Sub-Series VI.B: Catalogs, 1863-1988

This sub-series contains hundreds of sales and exhibition catalogs.

Sub-Sub-Series VI.B.1: Sales Catalogs, 1888-1988

This sub-sub-series consists of seven boxes of sales catalogs arranged chronologically. The catalogs advertise sales of prints, artworks, and antiques. The vast majority advertise the sale of Currier & Ives prints. Some of the items post-date Peters's death and were likely collected either by Peters's estate or the City Museum.

Sub-Sub-Series VI.B.2: Exhibition Catalogs, 1863-1986

This sub-sub-series consists of two boxes of exhibition catalogs arranged alphabetically by the name of the exhibiting institution. Institutions include nationally renowned museums, regional museums from across the country, historical societies, libraries, clubs, and galleries. Many of the exhibitions featured Currier & Ives prints, and/or artists who were employed by Currier & Ives. Other exhibitions relate to particular interests of Peters, such as marine and sporting art. Some of the items post-date Peters's death and were likely collected either by Peters's estate or the City Museum.

Sub-Series VI.C: Clippings, circa 1815-1942

This sub-series consists of one box of clippings arranged alphabetically by subject. The clippings are primarily from New York City, Long Island, and Connecticut based news publications. Topics include Currier & Ives, hunting, collecting, horse races, dog shows, and American history.

This sub-series also contains a 1956-1957 Annual Report of the Museum of the City of New York, which mentions the Peters Currier & Ives collection several times, and the naming of the Harry T. Peters Gallery.

Sub-Series VI.D: Maps, 1829-1926

This sub-series consists of five items: Foxhunting Map of Manhattan Island 1775-1821; Fixtures of the Meadow Brooke Hounds (undated); two maps of New York state, 1829; and Ostego Country, New York, 1926.

Sub-Series VI.E: Serials, 1790-1982

This sub-series consists of two boxes of serials arranged alphabetically by title. Serials with articles about Currier & Ives have been grouped together.

Sub-Sub-Series VI.E 1: Currier & Ives Related, 1925-1982

This sub-sub-series contains periodicals with images of and/or references to Currier & Ives prints. Some of the images are credited to the Harry T. Peters collection at the Museum of the City of New York. Many of the items post-date Peters's death and are presumed to have been added to the collection by the City Museum.

Sub-Sub-Series VI.E 2: Assorted, 1790-1942

This sub-sub-series contains periodicals with articles on a variety of topics of interest to Peters. Bulletins from arts and cultural heritage institutions are well represented, such as the New-York Historical Society, Long Island Historical Society, Museum of the City of New York, New York Public Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Philadelphia Museum. A few of the serials are collectors' items from the 19th and 18th centuries, such as *Horse Talk* (1870) and *The Massachusetts* (1790).

Language of Materials: The materials are in English, with the exception of several prints that have Spanish and French captions.

Access and Use

The Museum of the City of New York collections must be examined on site. Appointments to examine materials must be made in advance by contacting the Collections Department through e-mail at research@mcny.org.

Collection use is subject to all copyright laws. Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Rights and Reproductions Office at the Museum of the City of New York. For more information please contact:

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New York, NY 10029
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Title, date]. Harry T. Peters papers, 1790-1988. Museum of the City of New York.

Custodial History

The Harry T. Peters papers were previously housed with the Museum's other manuscript collections in 30 non-archival boxes of varying sizes with limited documentation of the contents. The slides were rehoused within the last few years into 39 archival lantern slide boxes, with individual archival sleeves, but largely lacked any arrangement. We believe much of the material has been in the care of the Museum since the 1950s, as described in "Acquisition Information." As referred to throughout the finding aid, the Museum believes that previous staff may have continued to add relevant material to the collection once it was in the Museum's custody. However, it is possible that Peter's relatives continued to add to the papers following his death while it was in the possession of the estate, or they continued to donate materials to the Museum after it was in our custody and asked it be added to the original donation of papers.

Acquisition Information

During the years 1956-1960, the Harry T. Peters estate made multiple gifts to the City Museum of nearly 2300 prints, the majority of which were produced by the Currier & Ives printmaking firm, with a small number of drawings. It is assumed that the Harry T. Peters papers came into the Museum's possession around the same time (1956-1958); however, the papers are not listed on the gift receipts. Activity numbers associated with the donation of Peters's prints include 14420 and 14961.

Processing Information

The processing of the Harry T. Peters papers was made possible by the generous support of the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. The collection was processed by Project Archivist Annie Tummino between December 2014 and May 2015. Emily Chapin replaced Annie Tummino as Project Archivist for the last 15% of the project. Lindsay Turley, Associate Director of Collections and Manuscripts Archivist, oversaw the project.

Prior to processing, the manuscript material was held in 13 "letter boxes" that were most likely original to the days in which the material was in Peters's possession, three 1.2 linear foot records boxes, fourteen horizontal document boxes, and 39 lantern slide boxes. A very rudimentary inventory described the contents of the 13 letter boxes, but the remaining 17 were largely unsorted, and no documentation existed to describe their contents. Due to the efforts of a prior museum staff member who had begun to inventory and arrange portions of the materials, it was difficult to ascertain much of the collection's original order. Additionally, some items dated from the 1960s through the 1980s had been intermingled with Peters's papers. Whenever possible, the portions of the papers that appeared to reflect Peters's filing system were maintained, including the arrangement of the manuscript materials in "Series I: Projects and Manuscripts" and the correspondence pertaining to Currier & Ives in "Series III: Correspondence." However, since there wasn't a clear original order for the remainder of the collection, an arrangement was developed by the project

archivist to facilitate ease of access, and applied to the remaining portions. The original 13 “letter boxes” were not suited for storing archival documents; however, one has been retained as a sample of the original housing, as part of “Series III: Correspondence.”

Related Material

Museum of the City of New York

Currier & Ives prints donated by Harry T. Peters have been digitized and catalogued at the item level. They are available through the Collections Portal <http://collections.mcny.org/> and can be searched by accession number runs, 56.300 and 57.300.

Grace M. Mayer papers (see correspondence in Series I and Series III)

<http://mcnycatablog.org/>

The Museum also holds a collection of steel printing plates. These were housed in close proximity to the Peters Papers, but collections staff was unable to confirm a direct connection to Peters. The Museum received the plates circa 1969.

Collections in Other Repositories

National Museum of American History

Harry T. Peters 'America on Stone' lithograph collection

<http://amhistory.si.edu/petersprints/index.cfm>

Archives of American Art

Harriet Endicott Waite research material concerning Currier & Ives, 1923-1956

<http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/harriet-endicott-waite-research-material-concerning-currier--ives-9259>

Access Points

Personal names

Currier, Nathaniel, 1813-1888

Ives, James Merritt, 1824-1895

Peters, Harry Twyford, 1881-1948

Rice, Dan, 1823-1900

Smart, Charles Allen, 1904-1967

Van Altena, Edward, 1873-1968

Corporate names

Currier & Ives

Grolier Club

Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)

Museum of the City of New York

New-York Historical Society

Westminster Kennel Club

Topical subjects

Americana
Chromolithography
Collectors and collecting
Color prints
Gold mines and mining
Horse racing
Horsemanship
Hunting
Hunting dogs
Sports

Geographic subjects

California
Connecticut
Great Britain
New York (State)
United States

Container List

See excel spreadsheet