

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**Name of collection:**

Cole, George Watson, Papers, 1851-1939

**Location:**

Manuscript boxes "C"  
Special Stacks  
Octavo volumes "C"

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**Size of collection:**

66 manuscript boxes  
92 octavo volumes

**N.U.C.M.C. number:**

62-3181

**RLIN id:**

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**Sources of information on collection:**

In Box 1 of "Papers and Addresses" there is an Index to the locations of the Cole manuscripts in Boxes 1 through 36. For a biography of Charles Beebe Turrill, see *California Historical Society Quarterly*, v. 6, no. 2 (June 1927), p. 202. For a biography of Cole, see Donald C. Dickinson, *George Watson Cole, 1850-1939*, The Great Bibliographers Series, No. 8 (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1990), p. 3-20.

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**Source of collection:**

Gifts of George Watson Cole, 1930s

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**Collection description:**

George Watson Cole (1850-1939), librarian and bibliographer, titled the draft of his autobiography "Recollections of a Hillside Country Boy who Made Good" and headed the second chapter "Wasted Opportunities: schools, teaching, and law--1850-1885." These appellations are accurate because it was not until Cole was 35 years old that, encouraged by his mother-in-law, he began the library work which was to occasion the autobiographical chapter he entitled "success." He entered the first class of Melvil Dewey's library school at Columbia College and graduated in 1888. For the next two years he worked as an assistant at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Ill., and from 1891 to 1895 he was librarian of the Free Public Library of Jersey City, N.J. Marriage in 1894 to a wealthy third wife allowed him to retire from that job and devote the rest of his life to travel and bibliographic research.

Shortly after leaving Jersey City, Cole and his wife spent three months in Bermuda--long enough for him to be spurred by an interest in its history and to begin the research which culminated in the 1907 publication, Bermuda in Periodical Literature; with Occasional Reference to Other Works, A

Bibliography. His most outstanding bibliographical work was the series of annotated catalogs of the private library of E. Dwight Church. Cole achieved fame with this series for they were considered to be the best analytical descriptions of books published up to that time in both America and Europe. Dr. Cole (he received an honorary degree from Trinity College in Connecticut) was recruited by Henry E. Huntington to be librarian of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, a position he held from 1915 to 1924. He organized the staff and established the principles and methodology for cataloging and administering the library.

(cont.)

### American Antiquarian Society

#### Manuscript Collections

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**Name of collection:**

Cole, George Watson, Papers, 1851-1939

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**Collection description (continued):**

An enthusiastic transplant from the East Coast to California, Cole early became interested in the Spanish missions, and after much visiting, gathering notes, and assembling photographs, he published in 1910 "Missions and Mission Pictures; A Contribution towards an Iconography of the Franciscan Missions of California." This interest also introduced him to Charles Beebe Turrill, a San Francisco photographer whose life-long enthusiasm was preservation and collection of Californiana.

Cole, and his wife, Laura Ward Roys (translator of Dr. Frederic van Eeden's The Quest) were fond of European travel and Cole, who was a meticulous record keeper, tabulated that his nine trips to Europe from 1895 to 1929 totalled 3 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Sturdy and inexhaustible in interests, Cole filled the years after 1924 with lecturing, writing, and a trip in 1929 to Europe as the U.S. delegate from the Bibliographical Society of America to that group's World Congress. He died at the age of 89, and his wife, whom he described as "frail from childhood," survived him by several months, dying at the age of 92.

This voluminous collection was generated by Cole's myriad interests. Virtually every facet of his career and travels is covered by notes, correspondence, diary entries, addresses, and essays. Much of the correspondence is with librarians and bibliographers and deals with bibliographic problems. There are letters with his publisher. Cole frequently sent copies of his articles to friends and libraries, requesting letters of acknowledgement, and the collection contains many of these letters, excerpts from some of which he included in his 1936 "List of Printed Productions of George Watson Cole, 1870-1936, with Comments by Friends." There is one box of correspondence from

Charles B. Turrill, 1910-1927. There is also personal correspondence with his mother, his wife, friends from his school days at Phillips Andover Academy (he left before he was expelled), and people he met in Europe.

The collection includes 36 boxes of papers, addresses, notes, essays, catalogs, indexes, newspaper clippings, reminiscences of his trips, poetry, photographs, etc. Cole prepared a "File Key" to these manuscripts. There are 9 boxes of notes for his bibliography on Bermuda and 9 boxes of photographs of Spanish missions in California (including notes by Cole and some materials on portraits of Junipero Serra).

Cole's precise record keeping is evidenced by his diaries--51 volumes covering the years 1874-1936. Unfortunately for the researcher, all but the first four are written in Takigraphy. Cole was enthusiastic about the time and space this system saved and included in the collection several articles he wrote extolling its virtues. He also included guides and manuals to enable the researcher to learn the system.

There are 35 volumes recording his cash disbursements (illustrating his attention to his appearance and his fondness for sweets) and 5 volumes recording his correspondence from 1913 to 1917.

10 June 1975

25 October 1990

revised 16 February 2010

**American Antiquarian Society**

**Manuscript Collections**

George Watson Cole, Papers, 1851-1939

Contents List

**Green Manuscript Boxes** (filed in Manuscripts Room)

Box 1 Correspondence, 1851-1876

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Folder 2: 1866  
Folder 3: 1867  
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Folder 5: 1869  
Folder 6: 1870  
Folder 7: 1871  
Folder 8: 1872  
Folder 9: 1873  
Folder 10: 1874  
Folder 11: 1875  
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Box 2 Correspondence, 1877-1889; Letters of Israel Coe, 1879-1891

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Folder 3: Letters of Israel Coe, 1879-1891  
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Box 3 Correspondence, 1890-1899

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Box 4 Correspondence, 1900-1905

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Box 5 Correspondence, 1906-1908

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Box 6 Correspondence, 1909-1912

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Box 7 Correspondence, 1913-1917

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Folder 2: 1914  
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(cont.)

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Box 8 Correspondence, 1918-1922

Folder 1: 1918  
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Box 10 Correspondence, 1927-1931

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Folder 3: 1929, January - June  
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Box 11 Correspondence, 1932-1940; Sundry Materials

Folder 1: 1932-1934  
Folder 2: 1935  
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Folder 4: Notes of the Holley Family, Biographical and Family Notes  
Folder 5: Size Card for measuring books; Lindsley's phonetic writing  
Folder 6: Letters from Cole's second wife, Louise Warner Cole, and those concerning her death in Chicago in January 1891  
Folder 7: Letters from Cole's mother, Mrs. Levi Thrall, 1878-1909  
Folder 8: Thrall Estate Insurance Controversy, 1904-1905  
Folder 9: Letters from various Thrall children; letters from Levi W. Thrall  
Folder 10: Letters concerning mill, property and house inherited from Cole's father, Munson Cole  
Folder 11: Material concerning Woodcock Family  
Folder 12: Material concerning St. Cloud, Minn., land matters  
Folder 13: Volume: "The First English Bible Printed in America, and Its Faked Copy," by G.W. Cole and W. Eames, 1932

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Box 12 Newspaper Clippings; Letters from Charles B. Turrill, 1910-1927

- Folder 1: G.W. Cole newspaper clippings
- Folder 2: Letters from Charles B. Turrill, 1910-1912
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- Folder 4: same, 1914
- Folder 5: same, 1915
- Folder 6: same, 1916-1918
- Folder 7: same, 1919-1927

**Red Manuscript Boxes** (filed in Special Stacks)

Box 1

- Folder 1: Miscellaneous Cole Family photographs
- Folder 2: File Key to the Cole manuscripts filed in these boxes
- Folder 3: Disposition of the Cole manuscripts and their duplicate copies
- Folder 4: Alphabetical Index to places visited in Europe. This is an index to his travel journals
- Folder 5: (Addresses) "Academic Recognition of Talent"
- Folder 6: "Evolution of the Alphabet and of Recorded Thought"
- Folder 7: "American Book Collectors"
- Folder 8: "The Library Movement of 1876, the Founding of the American Library Movement"
- Folder 9: "Some Thoughts on the Origin and Development of Amusements"
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- Folder 11: "Belgium's Famous Cities: Bruges, Ghent, Brussels and Antwerp"
- Folder 12: "Lists of Best Books"

Box 2

- Folder 1: "Individual Translations of the Bible"
- Folder 2: "Bibliographical Bypaths--A Pitfall, An Interesting Discovery"
- Folder 3: "The Principals of Bibliographical Description"
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- Folder 6: "Bibliographical Matters of Passing Interest"
- Folder 7: "Bibliographical Method"
- Folder 8: Index to the Bibliographical Papers of the Bibliographical Society of London
- Folder 9: "Bibliographical Pitfalls--Linked Books"
- Folder 10: "Bibliographical Problems with a Few Solutions"
- Folder 11: "President's Address of the Bibliographical Society of America," 1917
- Folder 12: Bibliographical Society of America, list of members, 1933
- Folder 13: Some Bibliographies of English Literature Prior to the Revolution
- Folder 14: "What Should be Found in Bibliographies"
- Folder 15: Bibliography--A Forecast

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Box 3

- Folder 1: "Bibliography--Why Bibliography?"
- Folder 2: "Scheme of Bibliography: shelf-list"
- Folder 3: "Compiling a Bibliography"
- Folder 4: "Bibliography--Curios of Curiosities of Elizabethan Book-Making, Part I"
- Folder 5: "Bibliophile Society--List of Publications, with Prices"
- Folder 6: "Book Collectors and their Hobbies"
- Folder 7: "Some American Book Collectors"
- Folder 8: "Books, Bibliography and Bibliophiles"
- Folder 9: "Why Some Books Bring Fabulous Prices"
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- Folder 1: "Wanted, A Second Cadmus"
- Folder 2: Californiana
- Folder 3: On Cataloguing Married Women's Names
- Folder 4: Bibliographical Descriptions in the Elihu Dwight Church Catalogue
- Folder 5: Check-list of Some Rarities in the Library of E. Dwight Church
- Folder 6: E. Dwight Church Catalogue--List of Contents of Boxes 32-52
- Folder 7: E. Dwight Church Catalogue of English Literature and Miscellanea
- Folder 8: Bibliographies, Catalogues, etc. consulted in Compiling the E. Dwight Church Catalogue
- Folder 9: "The Clergyman, the Businessman, and the Telephone." An Anecdote
- Folder 10: The Cox Macro (1683-1767) Volume: A Bibliographical Discovery
- Folder 11: "The Cries of London, with a Bibliography"
- Folder 12: Review of a Book on Oliver Cromwell
- Folder 13: Curiosities of "American" Literature: Smith's General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles

Box 5

- Folder 1: Americana in the Library of E. Dwight Church
- Folder 2: Early English Literature in the Library of E. Dwight Church
- Folder 3: Books of English and Miscellanea in the Library of E. Dwight Church
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- Folder 5: Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies, First Folio: A Census of American Copies
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- Folder 1: Alphabetical Subject Catalogue of the Library of G.W. Cole
- Folder 2: Books in the Library of G.W. Cole
- Folder 3: Appreciations from various sources, especially from those to whom copies of Cole's printed productions were presented
- Folder 4: "A Toiler in the Vineyard of Books: George Watson Cole," by Harold D.

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- Folder 5: "How I Came to be a Librarian," by G.W. Cole
- Folder 6: Travel Record of G.W. Cole: Indian Ocean voyages and Foreign Travel, 1895-1929
- Folder 7: Cole's Cataloguer's Size Card. Press Comments
- Folder 8: Louise W. Cole's Notes of Samuel Swett Green's Lecture, March 5-7, 1888

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- Folder 1: Catalogue of Cole's Books, 1 January 1891, while in Chicago
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- Folder 3: Catalogue of Cole's Books, 1898-1900
- Folder 4: Catalogue of Cole's Books, 1909
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- Folder 1: Autobiographical Notes: "Sixty Busy Years in Law, Libraries and Bibliography"
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- Folder 4: Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, and notes on the Taylor and Ward Families; also, the Rev. Wyllys Warner (1800-1869): Biographical and Obituary Notices from biographies, Yale Class of 1826; obituary record of Graduates of Yale College, 1866-1876
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- Folder 6: Miscellaneous entries of genealogies begun in 1871

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- Folder 1: Cole Genealogy
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- Folder 1: Photostats of Shorthand Characters used in Lindsley's Elements of Tachygraphy
- Folder 2: Shorthand notes, 1888
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- Folder 7: Famous Printers of the 15th and 16th Centuries, part I
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- Folder 1: "Federigo," a translation from Prosper Merimee
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- Folder 5: Howard (sic) Edwards Huntington--Remarks made at his Funeral
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- Folder 7: Address at the Eighth Annual Staff Luncheon, Huntington Library, 1924
- Folder 8: Author Club's Visit to Mr. Huntington's Library
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- Folder 8: Remarks on year's work made by the Huntington Library Staff, 1922
- Folder 9: 1640 English Books in other Libraries and Private Collections
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- Folder 2: Ben Johnson's Masque of the Gypsies or the Gypsies Metamorphosed: list of the contents of Boxes 68-73
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- Folder 13: Library Routine (written for the Trustees of the Newberry Library, 1890)
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Folder 1: Notable Editions of the Scriptures--working copy, 1931-1932

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Folder 11: Review of Special Collections in Libraries in the U.S.

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Folder 13: The Examinations, Arraignment and Conviction of George Sprot, by Sir William Hart, 1609

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- into English (Manchester, England: University Press, 1925)  
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Box 33

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 Indices: Alphabetical Index to G.W. Cole's Manuscripts:  
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           Gabella M. Cooper  
           Notes for a Survey of the Bibliography of English Literature from  
           1548 to the present day  
           American Book Prices Current, 1895-1929

(cont.)

Obituaries

Box 34 Dictionary of David Philip Lindsley's Tachygraphy, A-G, simple style  
in shorthand characters

Box 35 Dictionary of David Philip Lindsley's Tachygraphy, H-Z

Box 36 Photographs

Box 37

Folder 1: Subject index to Bermuda Literature arranged systematically by the Dewey  
Decimal Classification

Folder 2: Manuscript on Bermudiana

Box 38

Folder 1: Subject Index to Bermuda Literature

Folder 2: Bermuda--List of contents of remaining boxes

Folder 3: Manuscript on Bermudiana

Box 39 Manuscript on Bermudiana

Box 40

Folder 1: Newspaper articles on Bermudiana

Folder 2: Bermuda material for a comprehensive bibliography--list of contents in  
Bermuda-related boxes

Folder 3: Bermuda--list of contents in Bermuda-related boxes

Folder 4: Philip Freneau's poems relating to Bermuda

Folder 5: Manuscript on Bermudiana

Box 41

Folder 1: Alphabetical, chronological, and subject indexes to Bermuda literature

Folder 2: Bermuda in the Blue-books--Great Britain Parliamentary Papers

Folder 3: Bermuda--list of books, pamphlets, etc.

Box 42 Maps of North Atlantic Ocean, 1511-1630

Box 43

Folder 1: Early Maps of Bermuda

Folder 2: Maps of the Bermuda Islands, 1622-1901

Box 44

Folder 1: Bermuda and the Challenger Expedition (Boston, 1901, by G.W. Cole)

Folder 2: Bermudiana Serial and Analytical List

Folder 3: Index to Maps of the North Atlantic and Eastern North America, 1511-1630,

(cont.)

showing the Bermudas

- Folder 4: Bermuda, miscellaneous fragments
- Folder 5: Index to Bermuda literature

Box 45

- Folder 1: Professor Verrill's letter giving a list of additions to the Fauna of Bermuda in his The Bermudas
- Folder 2: Newspaper article: "Bermuda owes James Richardson a monument as the first person to grow Easter lilies in Bermuda," N.Y. Herald, 1901
- Folder 3: Easter Lilies and their History--newspaper article, 1898
- Folder 4: A Bermuda Fisherman's Daughter--newsclipping
- Folder 5: Newsclipping on Prince Henry's Bermuda diary, 1902
- Folder 6: Article on Bermuda from Harper's New Monthly Magazine, March 1874
- Folder 7: The Sudden Appearance of Butterflies in Bermuda in 1847 and 1875
- Folder 8: Book Catalogs relating to the Bermudas
- Folder 9: "The Boers in Bermuda," magazine article in the ERA, May 1902
- Folder 10: American Journal of Science: "Remarks on the Chemical analyses of samples of soil from Bermuda," 1873
- Folder 11: American Journal of Science: "Species of Grapsoid Crustacean," 1908
- Folder 12: Everybody's Magazine: "The Vast Business of Flower Growing," 1901
- Folder 13: New York Times, December 1929: "The Life of the Ocean Depths as recorded by the members of the Beebe Expedition in Bermuda," 1929
- Folder 14: Bermuda Maps in Atlases--Reports from various libraries
- Folder 15: Miscellaneous Bermudiana Notes
- Folder 16: Thirteen envelopes of newspaper clippings relating to Bermuda, early twentieth century

Box 46

- Folder 1: Jesuit and Franciscan Missions of Lower California; also, Dominican Missions
- Folder 2: Building Records of the Franciscan Missions of California
- Folder 3: The Portraits of Fray Junipero Serra
- Folder 4: Books containing material on the California Missions, arranged chronologically, 1757-date
- Folder 5: Missions of California and Mission pictures--contents of boxes remaining in this collection
- Folder 6: Edward Vischer and his Drawings of the California Missions

Box 47

- Folder 1: California Missions--miscellaneous sheets
- Folder 2: Postcards of the California Missions: various lists
- Folder 3: Notes on Postcards of the California Missions
- Folder 4: Notes on the Oriana Day Paintings of the California Missions made about 1884
- Folder 5: Etchings of the Franciscan Missions by Henry Chapman Ford
- Folder 6: Films of the Oriana Day Paintings in the DeYoung Museum in the Golden Gate State Park, San Francisco, Cal.

(cont.)



Folder 7: Prints of the Oriana Day Paintings of the Missions

Folder 8: Films of Surveys of the California Missions, 1854

Box 48Mission Photographs

One folder concerning Missions of California and Mission Pictures, and twenty-four folders of photographs of: San Diego; San Luis Rey; Pala; Santa Isabel

Box 49Mission Photographs

Nineteen folders of photographs of: San Juan Capistrano; San Gabriel; San Bernardino- Agua Mansa; Los Angeles

Box 50Mission Photographs

Eighteen folders of photographs of: San Fernando; San Beunaventura; Santa Barbara

Box 51Mission Photographs

Sixteen folders of photographs of: Santa Ynes; San Luis Obispo; Santa Margarita; San Miguel; La Purissima; San Antonio de Padua

Box 52Mission Photographs

Thirteen folders of photographs of: Soledad; San Carols Carmelo; San Juan Bautisa; Santa Cruz; Santa Clara; San Jose; San Carlos-Monterey

Box 53Mission Photographs

One folder containing Henry Chapman Ford's "Etchings and Franciscans in California," and five folders of photographs of: San Rafael; San Francisco Solano; Sonoma; San Francisco de Asisi-Delores

Box 54

Folder 1: Henry Chapman Ford's Watercolor Sketches of the California Missions in Stanford University Museum

Folder 2: Lists of California postcards and mission pictures

Folder 3: Ground Plans of California Missions

Folder 4: Photostats of papers dealing with California court proceedings on Catholic Church lands and property, 1850s-1860s

Folder 5: Junipero Serra Portraits--copies

Folder 6: Photostats and photographs of Missions

Folder 7: Correspondence concerning Missions, 1930s

**Octavo Volumes** (filed in Manuscripts Room)

(cont.)

Diaries, 1874-1885; 1891-1894; 1902-1936 (octavo volumes 1-51)

v. 1, 1874; v. 2, 1875; v. 3, 1876; v. 4, 1877; v. 5, 1878; v. 6, 1879; v. 7, 1880;  
v. 8, 1881; v. 9, 1882; v. 10, 1883; v. 11, 1884; v. 12, 1885; v. 13, 1891; v. 14, 1892;  
v. 15, 1893; v. 16, 1894; v. 17, 1902; v. 18, 1903; v. 19, 1904; v. 20, 1905; v. 21,  
1906; v. 22, 1907; v. 23, 1908; v. 24, 1909; v. 25, 1910; v. 26, 1911; v. 27, 1912;  
v. 28, 1913; v. 29, 1914; v. 30, 1915; v. 31, 1916; v. 32, 1917; v. 33, 1918; v. 34,  
1919; v. 35, 1920; v. 36, 1921; v. 37, 1922; v. 38, 1923; v. 39, 1924; v. 40, 1925; v. 41,  
1926; v. 42, 1927; v. 43, 1928; v. 44, 1929; v. 45, 1930; v. 46, 1931; v. 47, 1932;  
v. 48, 1933; v. 49, 1934; v. 50, 1935; v. 51, 1936

Cash Account Books, 1923-1934 (octavo volumes 52-63)

v. 52, 1923; v. 53, 1924; v. 54, 1925; v. 55, 1926; v. 56, 1927; v. 57, 1928; v. 58,  
1929; v. 59, 1930; v. 60, 1931; v. 61, 1932; v. 62, 1933; v. 63, 1934

Appointment Book, undated (octavo volume 64)

Cash Journals, undated; 1915-1936 (octavo volumes 65-87)

v. 65, undated; v. 66, 1915; v. 67, 1916; v. 68, 1917; v. 69, 1918; v. 70, 1919; v.  
71, 1920; v. 72, 1921; v. 73, 1922; v. 74, 1923; v. 75, 1924; v. 76, 1925; v. 77, 1926;  
v. 78, 1927; v. 79, 1928; v. 80, 1929; v. 81, 1930; v. 82, 1931; v. 83, 1932; v. 84,  
1933; v. 85, 1934; v. 86, 1935; v. 87, 1936

Correspondence Records, 1913-1917 (octavo volumes 88-92)

v. 88, 1913; v. 89, 1914; v. 90, 1915; v. 91, 1916; v. 92, 1917

(cont.)