

# Ernest E. Simmons Papers, circa 1894-1966, undated

## Administration Information

### Creator

Simmons, Ernest E., 1884-1966

### Call Number

RBR Roycroft 1894 .S56

### Extent

6 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 6 oversize folders (3.42 linear feet)

### Abstract

The papers of Ernest E. Simmons, employee of the Roycroft organization. Collection consists mainly of correspondence, advertisements, newspaper clippings and photographs.

### Terms of Use

The *Ernest E. Simmons Papers* are open for research.

### Reproduction of Materials

See librarian for information on reproducing materials from this collection, including photocopies, digital camera images, or digital scans, as well as copyright restrictions that may pertain to these materials.

### Acquisition

The *Ernest E. Simmons Papers* were purchased by the Grosvenor Society, date undetermined. See Rare Book Librarian for more information.

### Biographical Note

Ernest E. Simmons was born in 1884 in East Elma, New York. Simmons first worked as an assistant in the home of Dr. Arthur L. Mitchell in East Aurora, New York at the age of 16. Through his association with Dr. Mitchell, Simmons became acquainted with Elbert Hubbard and began his career at the Roycroft organization in 1907.

Simmons' duties at Roycroft included typing Hubbard's handwritten manuscripts and notary public work. Throughout his career, Simmons was also in charge of various departments at the organization including shipping, purchasing and inventories. Following the death of Elbert Hubbard in the 1915 sinking of the *Lusitania*, Simmons remained at Roycroft, serving as the corporation secretary and later as a sales representative. His career at Roycroft ended in 1929 when he left to pursue another position.

In 1965 Ernest E. Simmons co-authored a book about the Roycrofters, entitled *Sinners, This Is East Aurora*. He was also instrumental in the opening of the Elbert Hubbard Library and Museum in East Aurora. Simmons died in East Aurora in August of 1966.

## Scope and Content

Although not comprehensive, this collection offers important documentation of the personal life and professional career of Ernest E. Simmons, and is comprised of two series: Personal and Roycroft.

Series I. Personal, circa 1912-1965, undated

Personal records include correspondence, photographs, a book that belonged to Simmons, other collected publications (some inspired by or in the style of Roycroft) and 2 scrapbooks.

Series II. Roycroft, circa 1894-1964, undated

Roycroft records include business records, photographs, publications, correspondence and clippings about Roycrofters and affiliated persons.

## Arrangement

Series I. Personal, circa 1912-1965, undated

Series II. Roycroft, circa 1894-1964, undated

Subseries A. Business records, 1894-1964, undated

Subseries B. Photographs and artwork, 1922, undated

Subseries C. Publications, 1896-1963, undated

Subseries D. Roycrofters & affiliated persons, 1898-1930, undated

## Container List

### Series I. Personal, circa 1912-1965, undated

*Scope and content: Contains personal correspondence, photographs, book and Simmons' scrapbooks. Some items in "Publications" were inspired by and are in the style of Roycroft.*

*Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.*

- 1.1 Artwork, undated; includes caricatures: Clark Gable, Victor Mature, Bing Crosby, Bette Davis; drawing: "Missing Comrade," landscapes, train. [3 pencil drawings, 2 watercolor]
- 1.2-1.3 Correspondence, circa 1912-1965; includes Christmas cards; letters from Fred Andrews; inquiries for Roycroft information.
- 1.4 *John Chapman by Occupation a Gatherer and Planter of Apple Seeds*: book, circa 1935
- 1.5 Photographs, undated; images of Simmons, post card images.

- 1.6 Publications, 1895, 1916, 1917, 1926, undated; *McClure's Magazine* vol. 4, no. 3; "The Art of Making Money Plenty; *The Missouri Mule*, vol. 10, no. 8 (September/October, 1917); *Johnny Appleseed*.
- 1.7 Scrapbook 1, circa 1907-1912; features a subject index, pamphlets and clippings including George Washington, Mark Twain, John Brown.
- 1.8-2.1 Scrapbook 2, circa 1915-1931; includes clippings on Lusitania; photograph, program of Hubbard memorial; correspondence; *New York Times* on sinking of Titanic [original located in Map 8.3.2+]; Saloon rates and plan for Lusitania [original located in Map 8.3.5+]. [2 folders]

## **Series II. Roycroft, circa 1894-1964, undated**

### **Subseries A. Business records, 1894-1964, undated**

*Scope and content: Contains bulletins/memos, correspondence, financial records, forms/stationery, minutes, notes.*

*Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.*

- 2.2 Bulletins/memos, 1894-1926
- 2.3-2.4 Correspondence, circa 1895-1964; includes copy of agreement between Hubbard and Taber, letters from Edward Shay Advertising Agency.
- 2.5-2.6 Financial records, 1909-1921; includes bank book, employee time book, checks, School of Life ledgers.
- 2.7 Forms/stationery, undated; includes envelopes, order forms, fellowship cards.
- 2.8 Minutes, 1902-1924; includes meeting minutes.
- 2.9 Notes, 1894-1934; biographical notes, bibliographies.

### **Subseries B. Photographs and artwork, 1922, undated**

*Scope and content: Contains images of the Hubbards, various Roycrofters, Roycroft campus, East Aurora, and travels. Caution: Use gloves when handling.*

*Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.*

- 3.1 Drawings, undated; includes caricatures of Elbert Hubbard. [6: ink, pencil]
- 3.2 East Aurora, undated; includes Cazenovia Creek, C.E. Gleed Horseshoeing, Erie County Fair, Fred Green home, Pfifferling Block, street views. [12 photos]
- 3.3 Hubbard, Alice, undated; portraits, Alice and Elbert. [5 photos, 6 prints]
- 3.4-3.5 Hubbard, Elbert, undated; includes portraits, Elbert with “Old Ted Darling,” unknown man. [20 photos, 11 prints]
- 3.6 Hubbard family, 1928, undated; includes Alta, Elbert II, Elbert III, Julia Frances, Ralph, Sanford (Sandy), and Silas Hubbard. [9 photos, 3 prints]
- 3.7 Individuals, undated; includes Anson Blackman (Ali Baba), Jerome Connors, Dr. Algernon Crapsey, Alexis Fournier, Margie and Walter Jennings, Victor Robinson, Victor Wade Toothaker, Fred Welsh. [8 photos, 4 postcards, 1 print]
- 3.8-3.10 Roycroft Campus, undated; includes bank, blacksmith shop, chapel/library, dining room, farm, “first shop,” fountain, Hubbard home, inn, print shop, Roycroft shop, salon, well. [47 photos, 4 postcards, 24 prints]
- 3.11 Roycroft Convention, 1922, 1924; group views. [1922 convention: copy; original located in 8.3.6+] [1 photo]
- 3.12 Roycroft events, 1930, undated; includes Elbert Hubbard birthday, memorial tree planting for Hubbard, Hubbard statue dedication. [3 photos]
- 3.13 Roycrofters, 1910, undated; includes group views. [19 photos, 2 prints]
- 8.3.6+ Roycrofters, undated; includes Elbert and Alice Hubbard; Roycroft Band; School of Life; 1922 Roycroft Convention. [4 photos]
- 3.14 Roycrofters at work, circa 1910-1930, undated; includes artisans, baseball team, bindery, “first shop,” printing department, School of Life, shipping, ten-mile camp, three-mile camp. [25 photos, 1 print]
- 3.15 Travels, 1898, 1914, undated; includes Hubbard’s trips to Boston, Cologne, Venice, Yellowstone. [10 photos]
- 3.16 Warner, Samuel: artwork, undated; 5 landscapes. [5: watercolor? ink?]

**Subseries C. Publications, 1896-1963, undated**

*Scope and content: Consists of advertisements, books, catalogs, clippings, epigrams, journals, labels, manuscripts and programs.*

*Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.*

- 3.17 Advertisements, undated; regarding complete writings of Hubbard, life membership.
- 8.3.1+ Advertisements, 1913, undated; includes “A Love Letter to the Elect,” “A Suggestion,” “Goodie Box.”
- 4.1-4.2 Catalogs, undated; booklet and cataloging index, copper products.
- 4.3 Clippings, circa 1896-1963; regarding Elbert Hubbard; Juliana Hubbard; Roycroft activities; Woodrow Wilson; Lusitania; *Buffalo Evening News Magazine*, June 2, 1945 [original located in Map 8.3.3+]; “Philosophy for Farmers” by Elbert Hubbard [original located in Map 8.3.3+].
- 8.3.4+ East Aurora Ad Club, 1913; signed constitution including John Thomas Hoyle, Fred Bann.
- 4.4-4.6 Epigrams, 1911, undated; *1,001 Epigrams*, loose epigrams.
- 7.5+ Epigrams, undated [2 broadsides]
- 4.7 *The Feather Duster*, circa 1907; vol. 1, no 4-7.
- 4.8 “The Fra,” undated; subscription cards.
- 4.9 “Goodie Box,” undated; list of contents, recipe. [see also 8.3.1+]
- 5.1 Labels, 1905, undated; Roycroft library book labels.
- 5.2 Lectures, undated; includes Alice and Elbert Hubbard, Stephen Marion Reynolds.
- 5.3-5.4 *The Liberators*, 1915 [unbound signatures]

- 5.5 *Little Journeys*, 1894, 1922, undated; includes George Eliot, Jesus of Nazareth, brochures, clippings regarding “Little Journeys.”
- 5.6 Manuscripts, undated; Alice Hubbard: “Her Eighteenth June,” “Linens – The Fabric of Romance,” “Work;” Elbert Hubbard: “War and Work;” Richard Le Gallienne: “Leave Us the Stars,” “Ballade of the Poet and the Moon,” “The Human Sacrifice: A New York Picture,” “Art a Necessity Not a Luxury;” unknowns. [typescripts, manuscripts]
- 5.7-5.8 Pamphlets, undated; regarding arts and crafts, Roycroft Inn, writings, others.
- 5.9 “The Philistine,” undated; clippings, handwritten notes, affidavit, advertisements.
- 5.10 *Photogravures from the Roycrofters, East Aurora, N.Y.*, undated
- 6.1-6.2 Programs, circa 1904-1924; Hubbard memorials, tickets, dance cards, conventions, concerts.
- 7.1-7.4+ Research, undated; includes prints relating to Roycroft publications, mainly *Little Journeys*.
- 6.3 *Roycroft Inn*, undated [2 copies]
- 6.4 *Roycroft Reminder*, 1907
- 6.5 *Some Oxaline*, 1910 [2 copies: 1 incomplete]
- 6.6 Others, 1899, 1913, undated; includes *An Appreciation of Minnie Maddern Fiske; Contemplations; The Emersonian* vol. 1 no. 1 (March 2, 1913); *Roycroft Business Printing; The Roycroft Inn; Some Books for Sale at Our Shop*.

**Subseries D. Roycrofters & affiliated persons, 1898-1930, undated**

*Scope and content:* Consists mostly of correspondence with Roycrofters and persons affiliated with the organization including Percy A. Beach, Harry Esty Dounce, Alice Hubbard, Karl Kipp, M.M. Mangasarin, A.L. Mitchell and Marilla Ricker.

*Arrangement:* Alphabetical by subject.

- 6.7 Beach, Percy A., 1915, 1923; includes pamphlet: “Book Notes from Beach’s Bookshop.”

- 6.8 Dounce, Harry Esty, 1930; includes questionnaire/history of Roycrofters.
- 6.9 Hubbard, Alice, circa 1899-1915; includes household expenses, notes, letters of recommendation for Alice Moore.
- 6.10 Kipp, Karl, 1906, 1911, undated; includes wedding invitation, pamphlet.
- 6.11 Mangasarin, M.M., 1909, 1910, undated; includes *The Kingdom of God in Geneva Under Calvin*; lecture; *The Rationalist Bulletin* (January 1910).
- 6.12 Mitchell, Arthur L., 1898, 1908, 1912; includes “Dr. & Mrs. Mitchell Withdraw Permanently from the Practice of Medicine,” clippings.
- 6.13 Ricker, Marilla, circa 1907-1913; includes “Anti-Woman Suffragists,” “Marilla Ricker’s Reply to Elder A.E. Kenyon,” clippings.

### Separated Materials

The following books have been removed from the Simmons Papers and accessioned into our general rare book collection:

Bellew, Kyrle. *Short Stories*. New York: Shakespeare Press, 1912. [inscribed to Elbert Hubbard by Frank A. Connor]  
RBR PZ 3 .B4191 SH

Clement B. Shaw (translator). *Tegner’s Frithiof’s Saga*. Chicago, IL: Engberg-Holmberg Publishing, 1911. [inscribed to Elbert Hubbard by J.G.R. Baner]  
RBR PT 9831 .E5 S5 1911

### Related Materials

For more Rare Book Room collections regarding the Roycroft organization, see:

[\*Harry Persons Taber Papers, 1881-1945\*](#)

**RBR Roycroft 1881 .T33**

Abstract: Collection of materials from Harry Persons Taber, a founding member of the Roycroft Shop and editor of the *Philistine* journal. Includes correspondence, writings, biographical records, and Roycroft publications.

[\*History and Bibliography of the Roycroft Printing Shop: Papers of Paul McKenna, circa 1899, 1927-1983, undated\*](#)

Abstract: Contains research materials of author Paul McKenna used in the creation of his book, *History and Bibliography of the Roycroft Printing Shop*. Includes

photographs, audio materials, correspondence, printed publications, and photocopies of journal articles.

***In Memorium, Elbert and Alice Hubbard* [scrapbook]**

**RBR Roycroft 1915 .S515**

Abstract: Contains mounted photos, clippings, and programs. Compiled by Ernest Simmons.

**Search Terms**

**Authors**

600 Simmons, Ernest E.

600 Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915

**Subject terms**

610 Roycroft Shop—History

610 Lusitania (Steamship)

650 Publishers and publishing—New York (State)—East Aurora—History

650 Arts and crafts movement—New York (State)—East Aurora

651 Roycroft Campus (East Aurora, N.Y.)

**Genre terms**

655 articles

655 books

655 correspondence

655 magazines (periodicals)

655 manuscripts

655 notes

655 photographs