

(WILLIAM) SHELDEN COLLECTION

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Shelden's correspondence with book dealer's and notes about his collection; several documents of particular interest including an A.L.S. from Sir Joseph Banks and a photograph of Robert Louis Stevenson; a volume of original drawings used to illustrate one of Dumont d'Urville's voyages.

Extent: 2 boxes and 1 vol.: 2 feet.

Acquired from William Shelden in 1982.

Biographical note:

A native of Melbourne, Australia, where he was born in 1898, William Shelden received his early education there. He served as a signaller in the first World War. Returning to Australia, he studied engineering, moving to the U.S. in 1923, and thence to Canada in 1926. Since that time he has lived in Canada, holding various engineering jobs and taking part in amateur theatricals. He also sang with the Toronto Grand Opera Association and the Opera Guild of Toronto.

In 1940 Shelden received a commission in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, and became an inspector of small arms ammunition plants for the duration of the war. After the war, he returned to engineering.

Besides continuing in amateur theatricals, William Shelden has been much in demand in film and television drama. He has appeared in more than 25 TV dramas and has done many TV commercials.

He is a collector of antique glass, but is best known as a collector of Australian books. In 1982 his extensive collection of Australiana was acquired by the Library. It consists of over 1500 volumes and pamphlets, as well as maps, posters, ephemera and a small manuscript collection.

Rachel Grover
August 1986

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CONTAINER LISTING

BOX 1

Banks, Sir Joseph (1743-1820) to Mr. Nicol. London, after 1794. A.N.S. Folder 1 leaf. Invites addressee to breakfast to discuss the printing of the letter press to accompany the plates which sender has prepared.

Certificat créant Louis Piat "capable de servir sur les vaisseaux tant en guerre qu'en marchandise en qualité de maitre chirurgien". 1772. (Fully catalogued)

Collins, David (1754-1810) to Philip Gidley King, Sydney. Port Phillip, 1803-1804. 5 A.L.S. (xerox copies). Announces his arrival, and reports on various aspects of the settlement. (Original letters in Public Record Office).

King, Philip Gidley (1758-1808) to Lord Hobart, London. Sydney, Australia, March 1, 1804. A.L.S. (xerox copy) 6 leaves. Reports on the situation at Port Phillip and King's Island, and refers to previous correspondence and to detailed reports and surveys of the area. With a copy of the Surveyor's Report. (Original letter and report in Public Record Office).

La Pérouse, Jean Francois de Galaup, comte de (1741-1788). Brest, Feb. 11, 1775. D.S., 1 leaf. Receipt for twelve "pièces de quatre" for the armament of Sérin. Counter-signed by Admiral Thévenard.

Mackness, George, 1882- To William L. Shelden, Toronto. Sydney, Australia, 1955-63. 6 A.L.S. Exchanges anecdotes and information with addressee relating to collecting Australiana.

Photograph of Robert Louis Stevenson, his wife Fanny and the King and Queen of Butaritari. The Gilbert Islands, 1890. Another copy in the City Museum, Edinburgh. Published in The Cruise of "The Janet Nichol": A Diary of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson. New York, Scribner's, 1914.

Shelden, William Leslie, 1898- Some connections between Canada and Australia: luncheon talk, Toronto Round Table, Hart House, 1969. 18 leaves. Holograph (xerox copy).

Southwell, Robert. Order in council from the King in Council at Whitehall that the practice of pressing men for the fleet be stopped. London, May 31, 1670. D.S. 1 leaf.

Symons, R [purser?] Receipt for payment to Samuel Paget, contractor, for victualling His Majesty's navy, Yarmouth. D.S. 1 leaf. Counter-signed: William Bligh.

Collection of letters and bills from book-sellers addressed to William Shelden. Book-sellers include Francis Edwards, James Thin, Bernard Amtmann, W.B. Thoresen and many others.

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CONTAINER LISTING

Manuscript
Collection

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BOX 2

William Shelden's notes on his collection of Australiana.
Autobiographical notes. Photograph of William Shelden.

Shelden
Australian
Collection

ITEM 3

Original pencil drawings of islands in the Pacific Ocean,
made on the ship Astrolabe, under the command of Dumont
d'Urville, 1837-38. 46 leaves.

can in pictorial

Some of the drawings were used to illustrate Le Guillou,
Elie Jean François. Complément aux Souvenirs d'un aveugle.
Voyage autour der monde de l'Astrolabe ... sous les ordres
du contre-amiral Dumont d'Urville, pendant les années 1837-
38, 39 et 40. Paris, 1842.

MAPCASE

- 1) Bail de maison, offices et terres par le procureur de Mons^r
Philippe Du Pont à M^r Eli Starck fils Jean. 1800. (Fully
catalogued)
- 2) England and Wales. Sovereign (1485-1509: Henry VII)
Priuileges du roy Henry 7^{me} touchant le different entre
Baker, Capit^{ne} ou Gōur. et le Baillif, 1494. 1708. (Fully
catalogued)
- 3) Partage des heritages de M^{de} Catherine Arthur a D^{lle} Elizth De
Quetteville. 1768. (Fully catalogued).
- 4) Photograph of charcoal drawing of W.L. Shelden at the
Arts and Letters Club, 1984
- 5) Photograph (colour) of painting of W.L. Shelden

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Additional Accession, 1988, Gift of Mrs. Frank Winter

Accession number 88.027

Box 4 Correspondence with book dealers; invoices for books; notes about books and his library.

Box 5 Cards with bibliographical information about books in his library.