

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The William R. Oliver Special Collections Room

Andrew Carnegie Correspondence Collection, the William R. Oliver Special Collections Room, Carnegie Library

An Inventory of Documents and Materials of Correspondence Concerning Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Library, Carnegie Technical School (later known as Carnegie Mellon University), and the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh.

PREFACE

The William R. Oliver Special Collections Room houses Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's collection of rare and unique materials including books, manuscripts, personal papers and historic photographs. In addition, the archives of the Carnegie Museums and Library of Pittsburgh are maintained and preserved because of their continuing legal, fiscal and historical value to the institution.

This department is named in honor of lifetime trustee and long time supporter William R. Oliver in recognition of his dedication to and support of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and of his interest in its special collections.

The Oliver Room's holdings of over 25,000 unique items are heavily used by the researcher, scholar, and general public. The collections are important to the local community, the region, the state and the nation. This unique resource serves as a source for archival material that cannot be found elsewhere in the United States.

(Taken from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Website:
<http://www.clpgh.org/locations/oliver/about.html>)

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Creator: Unknown: possibly came from Library President's office

Title: The Andrew Carnegie Correspondence Collection, the William R. Oliver Special Collections Room, Carnegie Library

Date: 1890-1920

Quantity: 10 boxes, 10 cubic feet

Acquisition Date: ca. 1930

Location: the William R. Oliver Special Collections Room

HISTORY

Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland on November 28, 1835. Carnegie immigrated to America in 1848 at the age of 13. In America, Carnegie worked as a

telegraph operator and, in 1853, was employed by Thomas A. Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Scott took Carnegie under his wing and Carnegie rose quickly through the ranks of the company. After the Civil War, Carnegie became involved, and invested, in the Steel industry. Keeping close associations with the Railroad, Carnegie's iron and Steel industries flourished. In the 1870's, Carnegie founded Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Company which, by the 1890's, became the largest and most profitable industrial business in the world. Needless to say, Carnegie amassed a large amount of wealth and in the later years of his life he used this wealth philanthropically.

In 1895, Carnegie opened a public library in Pittsburgh. The functions of the Library, which not only included books but concerts and art exhibits, quickly expanded beyond the means and the size of the building itself. In 1907, Carnegie expanded the Library and the Carnegie Institute was opened. The Institute grew to include a museum and art gallery. In 1900, Carnegie established the Carnegie Technical School which later became Carnegie Mellon University. Carnegie's philanthropy continued until his death on August 11, 1919. The libraries, museums, and colleges that he founded have continued to expand and they remain vibrant and active institutions in the communities in which they reside.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of three series: **the Library Series, the Institute Series and the Miscellaneous Series.**

The strength of the collection is its research value. This collection would be extremely useful for anyone seeking research material pertaining to Andrew Carnegie, his philanthropy, or the founding of his Pittsburgh institutions. The weaknesses of the collection are that several of the documents are undated, the creator of the collection is unknown, and the original order of the material was compromised by archivists in the past.

The collection consists entirely of correspondence with the exception of a few newspaper clippings that were attached to letters of correspondence. The documents and materials are contained in twelve five -inch thick acid free boxes and take up approximately twelve cubic feet. The documents were created between the years 1890 and 1920. The bulk of the materials were created between 1890 and 1911. There are no file restrictions.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Carnegie Library Series

The Carnegie Library series contains correspondence pertaining to the establishment of the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. The correspondence is largely between Carnegie and Library officials, although personal letters and inter-office correspondence are present to some degree. Key characters in the correspondence are James B. Scott, William N. Frew, Edwin H. Anderson, and Andrew Carnegie himself.

Carnegie Institute Series

The Carnegie Institute Series includes correspondence pertaining to the establishment of the Carnegie Institute, including the museum and art departments and related programs, and the Carnegie Technical Institute. Key Characters in the correspondence include: John Beatty, Samuel Haden Church, William J. Holland, William N. Frew, Arthur A. Hamerschlag and Andrew Carnegie himself. Other notable characters are Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

Miscellaneous Series

The Miscellaneous series is split into two sub-series: "General" and "Copies." The "General" files are copies of Carnegie correspondence that are unrelated to the Pittsburgh institutions. They are type written copies probably taken from the Library of Congress, (the exact origins of all the documents are unknown, but some are marked "Library of Congress"). The "Copies" files include type-written copies of documents that are included in the first two series--their origins are also unknown.

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RELATED MATERIALS

Munn, Ralph. *Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh History 1895-1969*, Pittsburgh: Carnegie Library, 1970.

Van Trump, James D., *An American Palace of Culture*, Pittsburgh: Carnegie Institute, 1970.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Information

Little is known about this collection in terms of accession information. The collection appears to have been accumulated by institute executives, possibly the President, during the years that the collection spans. The collection found its way to the archives some time in the 1930s.

Processing Information

Processed by Maroon David and Greg Priore November, 2007.

Preferred Citation

The Andrew Carnegie Correspondence Collection, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the William R. Oliver Special Collections Room

Restrictions

No materials are restricted from research.

The Andrew Carnegie Correspondence Collection, Carnegie Library of
Pittsburgh

SERIES 1: Carnegie Library

BOX -A

1. Library -- Correspondence -- 1889
2. Library -- Correspondence -- 1890
3. Library -- Correspondence -- 1891
4. Library -- Correspondence -- 1892
5. Library -- Correspondence -- 1893
6. Library -- Correspondence -- 1894
7. Library -- Correspondence -- 1895
8. Library -- Correspondence -- 1897
9. Library -- Correspondence -- 1898
10. Library -- Correspondence -- 1899
11. Library -- Correspondence -- 1901
12. Library -- Correspondence -- 1902

BOX -B

13. Library -- Correspondence -- 1903
14. Library -- Correspondence -- 1904
15. Library -- Correspondence -- 1905
16. Library -- Correspondence -- 1906
17. Library -- Correspondence -- 1907
18. Library -- Correspondence -- 1908
19. Library -- Correspondence -- 1909
20. Library -- Correspondence -- 1910
21. Library -- Correspondence -- 1911
22. Library -- Correspondence -- 1914
23. Library -- Correspondence -- 1915
24. Library -- Correspondence -- 1916
25. Library -- Correspondence -- No Date
26. Library -- Correspondence -- Branch -- Post Carnegie

SERIES 2: Carnegie Institute

BOX –C

1. Institute – Correspondence – 1891
2. Institute – Correspondence – 1894
3. Institute – Correspondence – 1895
4. Institute – Correspondence – 1896
5. Institute – Correspondence – 1897
6. Institute – Correspondence – 1898
7. Institute – Correspondence – 1899

BOX –D

8. Institute – Correspondence – 1900
9. Institute – Correspondence – 1901
10. Institute – Correspondence – 1902
11. Institute – Correspondence – 1903
12. Institute – Correspondence – 1904

BOX –E

13. Institute – Correspondence – 1905
14. Institute – Correspondence – 1906
15. Institute – Correspondence – 1907 -- Part I
16. Institute – Correspondence – 1907 – Part II
17. Institute – Correspondence – 1908

BOX –F

18. Institute – Correspondence – 1909
19. Institute – Correspondence – 1910
20. Institute – Correspondence – 1911
21. Institute – Correspondence – 1912

BOX –G

22. Institute – Correspondence – 1913
23. Institute – Correspondence – 1914 –Part I
24. Institute – Correspondence – 1914 –Part II
25. Institute – Correspondence – 1915
26. Institute – Correspondence – 1916
27. Institute – Correspondence – 1917

28. Institute – Correspondence – 1918
29. Institute – Correspondence – 1919
30. Institute – Correspondence – 1920
31. Institute – Correspondence – No Date
32. Institute – Correspondence – 1960

SERIES 3: Miscellaneous Correspondence

BOX –H

1. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1837-1952
2. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General – 1853-1884
3. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General – 1885-1891
4. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1892-1895
5. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General – 1896-1897
6. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General – 1898
7. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1899
8. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1900
9. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1901
10. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1902
11. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1903
12. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1904

BOX –I

13. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1904
14. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1905
15. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1906
16. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1907
17. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1908
18. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1909
19. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1910
20. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1911
21. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1912
22. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1913
23. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1914
24. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – General –1915

BOX –J

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, William R. Oliver Special Collections Room

25. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1890-1892
26. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1893-1895
27. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1896-1898
28. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1899-1900
29. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1901-1903
30. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1904-1905
31. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1906-1907
32. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1908-1911
33. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1912-1914
34. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – 1915-1919
35. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – No Dates
36. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – Institute No Carnegie
37. Miscellaneous – Correspondence – Copies – Institute Related 1909-1921