Summary

Creator: New York Public Library. Central Administration. Director's Office

Title: Edwin Hatfield Anderson records

Date: 1913-1934


Physical Location: RG 6

Conditions Governing Access:

Library personnel records are closed for 75 years from time of creation.

Conditions Governing Use: All rights reserved. Permission to quote must be obtained in writing from the New York Public Library


Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Compiled by Mark MacMurray; revised by Richard Hollinger; machine-readable finding aid created by Jim Moske.

Related Materials:

Creator History
Edwin Hatfield Anderson (1861-1947) served as Director of the New York Public Library from 1913-1934.

Anderson graduated from Wabash College in 1883 and received a master's degree from the same institution in 1887. In 1890 he entered the New York State Library School in Albany although he did not finish his studies. Instead he returned to his family and in 1891 was hired as a cataloger for the Newberry Library. After that he served as a librarian in Braddock (Pa.) and then the new Carnegie branch library in Pittsburg. In 1904 Anderson quit librarianship to work with a zinc and lead mining company. In January 1906 he returned to librarianship as Director of the New York State Library as successor to Melvil Dewey.

In June 1908, Anderson became Assistant Director of the New York Public Library where he served under Dr. John Shaw Billings. In this position he had special responsibility for developing the Circulation Department and the NYPL Library School. After the death of Billings, Anderson became Director of The Library in May 1913 and served in that post until his retirement in November 1934. As Director, he had responsibility for overseeing both the Reference and Circulation departments.

Anderson was noted for his ability to select staff members and especially sought out librarians who were also scholars. His creation of the NYPL Library School also helped strengthen the staffing of The Library. During his tenure at NYPL the number of branches increased as did the size of The Library's holdings and numbers of users.

Scope and Content Note

The Edwin Hatfield Anderson Records contain correspondence, personnel records and related materials dealing with Library matters. Also included are American Library Association (ALA) files from the office of Harry Miller Lydenberg, Assistant Director under Anderson.

General correspondence consists of letters to and from Anderson, Lydenberg, and Paul North Rice, Chief of the Reference Department. Correspondence focuses on the acquisition of materials for The Library, program proposals, reference queries, complaints, and interaction with other libraries and agencies. Personnel records consist of files on hiring staff and on employee accidents. ALA files of Lydenberg include correspondence, invoices, and other materials relating to projects with which Lydenberg was involved for the professional organization.

Arrangement: Six series: General Correspondence, 1915-1933; Personnel, 1915-1929; Library Matters, 1929-1934; American Library Association Files, 1925-1933; Retirement Letters, 1934; New York Public Library Bulletin, 1913

Key Terms

Occupations
Librarians

Subjects
Libraries -- New York (State) -- New York
Library employees -- New York (State) -- New York
Public libraries -- Administration -- New York (State) -- New York
Research libraries -- New York (State) -- New York

Names
New York Public Library. Central Administration. Director's Office
Anderson, Edwin Hatfield, 1861-1947
Lydenberg, Harry Miller, 1874-1960
Rice, Paul North
American Library Association
Container List

Series I. Correspondence 1915-1933 (20 boxes)

General Correspondence consists of letters to and from Anderson, Harry Miller Lydenberg (Assistant Director), and Paul North Rice (Chief of the Reference Department). The correspondence focuses on the acquisition of materials for The Library, program proposals, reference queries, complaints, and interaction with other agencies and libraries.

Arranged in two subseries: A. General Correspondence, 1915-1928, B. General Correspondence, 1929-1933.

A. General Correspondence 1915-1928 (19 boxes)

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b. 19 f. 9   Babcock, Laura E. May 1916
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b. 19 f. 11  Bauman, Marjorie November 1927
b. 19 f. 12  Beck, Israel September 1920
b. 19 f. 13  Becker, Jennie September 1918
b. 19 f. 14  Bennett, Dorothy Dean October 1919
Series II. Personnel Records (cont.)

b. 19 f. 15  Berger, Marion March 1915
b. 19 f. 16  Berton, Cornelius June 1921
b. 19 f. 17  Betz, Frederick February 1924
b. 19 f. 18  Bilder, Ruediger September 1920
b. 19 f. 19  Binsse, Harry Lorin ca. 1927
b. 19 f. 20  Bolton, Theodore June 1921
b. 19 f. 21  Bonitz, Elsie January 1924
b. 19 f. 22  Boyer, Kenneth J. April 1927
b. 19 f. 23  Cavey, Ruth Elizabeth December 1919
b. 19 f. 24  Chirico, Mario February 1929
b. 19 f. 25  Cole, Frances October 1926
b. 19 f. 26  Coney, Donald June 1928
b. 19 f. 27  Connolly, Mary Agnes January 1928
b. 19 f. 28  Cowles, Thomas October 1920
b. 19 f. 29  Crommelin, Bertha 1928
b. 19 f. 30  Daniels, William N. July 1915
b. 19 f. 31  Decker, Mack Grove February 1919
b. 19 f. 32  de Freitas, Glafira May 1920
b. 19 f. 33  Derby, Claire Louise June 1924
b. 19 f. 34  Devene, Esme May 1919
b. 19 f. 35  Diephuis, Albert September 1918
b. 19 f. 36  Dougall, Morna Jean September 1922
b. 19 f. 37  Finneran, John November 1916
b. 19 f. 38  Gough, William Aubrey March 1915
b. 19 f. 39  Greenberg, Philip January 1923
b. 19 f. 40  Heinle, C. Alma May 1916
b. 19 f. 41  Jackson, Margaret July 1915
b. 19 f. 42  Jahn, William R. August 1923
b. 19 f. 43  Kahn, Lina July 1918
b. 19 f. 44  Knigoff, Morris September 1927
b. 19 f. 45  Kreider, Nancy M. July 1924
b. 19 f. 46  Lemos, Sydney April 1922
b. 19 f. 47  Loomis, Kenneth Bradley July 1928
b. 19 f. 48  Loughran, William Henry March 1917
b. 19 f. 49  Lounsbury, Edith May 1922
b. 19 f. 50  McIlrevey, Henry L. May 1922
b. 19 f. 51  Mark, Jeffrey January 1927
b. 19 f. 52  Miller, Robert S. May 1925
b. 19 f. 53  Nave, Eleanor H. May 1922
b. 19 f. 54  Nyquist, Fredrik (Carl Oscar) March 1921
b. 19 f. 55  Petrovitch, Wolslaw M. March 1917
Series II. Personnel Records (cont.)
b. 19 f. 56 Renk, Anna September 1918
b. 19 f. 57 Circulation Department - Employee Accidents
b. 19 f. 58 Reference Department - Accident Cases
b. 19 f. 59 Reference Department - Boys Working Papers

Series III. Library Matters 1929-1934 (1 box)
Library Matters contains 15 folders of material from the last 5 years of Anderson's work as Director. It is believed that the balance of Anderson's files from this period were inadvertently discarded during the 1970s.
b. 20 f. 1 Circulation Department - Financial Matters 1930-1934
b. 20 f. 2 Reference Department - Book Conveyor 1929-1931
b. 20 f. 3 Reference Department - Financial Matters 1929-1930
b. 20 f. 4 Reference Department - Library School Alumni Association 1929
b. 20 f. 5 Reference Department - Music Division 1930-1931
b. 20 f. 6 Reference Department - Prints Division, Friends of the Print Room 1929-1934
b. 20 f. 7 Reference Department - Publications - Annual Report 1929
b. 20 f. 8 Reference Department - Publications - Annual Report 1930
b. 20 f. 9 Reference Department - Publications - Annual Report 1931
b. 20 f. 10 Reference Department - Publications - Annual Report 1932
b. 20 f. 11 Reference Department - Publications Annual Report 1933
b. 20 f. 12 Reference Department - Publications - Annual Report 1934
b. 20 f. 13 Reference Department - Special Investigator 1931
b. 20 f. 14 New York City, Department of Public Welfare - Six Months Report 1934

Series IV. American Library Association Files 1925-1933 (4 boxes)
Series contains the ALA-related files of NYPL Assistant Director Harry Miller Lydenberg. Files include correspondence, invoices, and other materials relating to ALA projects in which Lydenberg was involved; the purchase of books for libraries in Europe; the use of monies provided by the Laura Rockefeller Memorial Fund; and the development of a Union List of Foreign Government Serial Publications.
b. 21 f. 1 Administration 1924-1925
b. 21 f. 2 Russia 1925
b. 21 f. 3 Austria 1925
b. 21 f. 4 Belgium 1925
b. 21 f. 5 France 1925
b. 21 f. 6 Germany 1925
b. 21 f. 7 Hungary 1925
b. 21 f. 8 Bulgaria 1925
b. 21 f. 9 Czechoslovakia 1925
b. 21 f. 10 Finland 1925
b. 21 f. 11 Greece 1925
b. 21 f. 12 Italy 1925
b. 21 f. 13 Yugoslavia 1925
b. 21 f. 14 Latvia, Lithuania 1925
b. 21 f. 15 Poland 1925
Series IV. American Library Association Files (cont.)

b. 21 f. 16  Administration 1926
b. 21 f. 17  Austria 1926
b. 21 f. 18  Belgium 1926
b. 21 f. 19  France 1926
b. 21 f. 20  Germany 1926
b. 21 f. 21  Hungary 1926
b. 21 f. 22  Russia 1926
b. 21 f. 23  Bulgaria 1926
b. 21 f. 24  Czechoslovakia 1926
b. 21 f. 25  Latvia 1926
b. 21 f. 26  Estonia and Lithuania 1926
b. 21 f. 27  Finland 1926
b. 21 f. 28  Italy 1926
b. 21 f. 29  Jugoslavia 1926
b. 21 f. 30  Poland 1926
b. 21 f. 31  Roumania 1926
b. 22 f. 1   Administration 1927
b. 22 f. 2   Austria 1927
b. 22 f. 3   Belgium 1927
b. 22 f. 4   France 1927
b. 22 f. 5   Germany 1927
b. 22 f. 6   Hungary 1927
b. 22 f. 7   Russia 1927
b. 22 f. 8   Czechoslovakia 1927
b. 22 f. 9   Estonia 1927
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b. 22 f. 14  Lithuania 1927
b. 22 f. 15  Poland 1927
b. 22 f. 16  Roumania 1927
b. 22 f. 17  Administration 1928
b. 22 f. 18  Bulgaria 1928
b. 22 f. 19  Czechoslovakia 1928
b. 22 f. 20  Estonia 1928
b. 22 f. 21  Finland 1928
b. 22 f. 22  Italy 1928
b. 22 f. 23  Jugoslavia 1928
b. 22 f. 24  Lithuania 1928
b. 22 f. 25  Poland 1928
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Edwin Hatfield Anderson records

Series IV. American Library Association Files (cont.)

b. 22 f. 26 Roumania 1928
b. 22 f. 27 Austria 1928
b. 22 f. 28 Belgium
b. 22 f. 29 France 1928
b. 22 f. 30 Germany 1928
b. 22 f. 31 Hungary 1928
b. 22 f. 32 Latvia 1928
b. 22 f. 33 Russia 1928
b. 22 f. 34 American Library Association 1929
b. 22 f. 35 American Library Association 1932
b. 22 f. 36 American Library Association 1933
b. 23 f. 1 American Library Association - Government Serials 1929-1932
b. 24 f. 1 American Library Association Union List of Serials - Form Letters 1929-1931

Series V. Retirement Letters 1934 (1 box)

Letters to Anderson commenting on his announced retirement and Anderson's own replies. The letters come from NYPL staff members, other librarians, users of The Library and family friends.

b. 26 f. 1 Aldrich, Richard
b. 26 f. 2 Bailey, Arthur (Wilmington Institute)
b. 26 f. 3 Bartlett, Henrietta C.

b. 26 f. 4 Bidwell, Frederick (New York State Tax Department)
b. 26 f. 5 Bishop, William (University of Michigan)
b. 26 f. 6 Butler, William M.
b. 26 f. 7 Capocelli, Ginevra
b. 26 f. 8 Carson, Jessie (Frontier Information Service)
b. 26 f. 9 Cartwright, Morse A. (American Association for Adult Education)
b. 26 f. 10 Clark, Mrs. Dwight
b. 26 f. 11 Cobb, Dorothy (New York Public Library Staff Association)
b. 26 f. 12 Compton, Charles (American Library Association)
b. 26 f. 13 Davis, Mary Gould (New York Public Library)
b. 26 f. 14 Eastman, Linda A. (Cleveland Public Library)
b. 26 f. 15 Eder, Ernest (New York Public Library Stamp Club)
b. 26 f. 16 Ferguson, Milton (Brooklyn Public Library)
b. 26 f. 17 Fletcher, Angus
b. 26 f. 18 Flexner, Jennie (New York Public Library)
b. 26 f. 19 gager, A. Stuart (Brooklyn Botanical Garden)
b. 26 f. 20 Gavit, Joseph
b. 26 f. 21 Goodrich, Dorothy A. (New York Public Library)
b. 26 f. 22 Gottheil, Richard
b. 26 f. 23 Grannis, Helen W. (New York Public Library)
b. 26 f. 24 Grannis, Ruth S. (New York Public Library)
b. 26 f. 25 Hazeltine, Mary Emogene (Wisconsin Free Library Commission)
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b. 26 f. 69  Wroth, Lawrence C. (John Carter Brown Library)

b. 26 f. 70  Wyer, J.I. (New York State Library)

*Series VI. New York Public Library Bulletin* 1913 (1 box)

Questionnaires sent out to several hundred recipients of the *Bulletin* asking if they retain the copies, want to continue receiving copies, and want to receive other NYPL publications.

b. 27  Questionnaires 1913