

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 41 M 116

Location 12 - k - 2/3 (R)

Title BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, SABIN COMMITTEE. RECORDS

Approximate inclusive dates 1923-1948; bulk, 1929-1936

Date of receipt 1941, additions after 1948 Received from Harry Miller Lydenberg

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 10½ AB (4.5 l.f.)

Condition Fair. Some brittle paper.

Restrictions

Description

Historical Note

The Bibliographical Society of America's Sabin Committee was formed in 1925 to ensure the completion of A Dictionary of Books Relating to America. The first part of this reference work had appeared in 1867 and was compiled and published by the bookseller Joseph Sabin. Sabin continued issuing parts up until his death in 1881, after which Wilberforce Eames carried on the work as editor, the publisher remaining the Sabin firm of booksellers. However, when Eames assumed his duties with the New York Public Library in 1895, he had less time for editing the dictionary. After the publication of part 116 in 1892, no more parts were issued until 1927.

On April 16, 1924, the American Library Association formed a Sabin Committee to continue publication of the dictionary. Members of the ALA Committee were chairman Edwin H. Anderson, R. R. Bowker, Worthington C. Ford, Andrew Keogh, Victor H. Paltsits, Azariah S. Root, and James I. Wyer. On January 17, 1925, the Bibliographical Society of America organized its own Sabin Committee to take over work from the ALA. The BSA Sabin Committee members were chairman Harry M. Lydenberg, Andrew Keogh, Isadore G. Mudge, Victor H. Paltsits, and James I. Wyer.

From 1930 to 1936, R. W. G. Vail, librarian at the American Antiquarian Society, was the the editor responsible for the dictionary. He was ably assisted by Elizabeth G. Greene, Marjorie Watkins, and other staff. A Carnegie grant helped finance the completion of the dictionary, beginning with part 117 in August 1927 and ending with part 172 in 1936.

For further information see Sabin, A Dictionary of Books Relating to America XX:[1-3], XXIX:iii-vi.

[see attached sheet for collection description]

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

x Greene, Elizabeth G.

x Lydenberg, Harry Miller, 1874-1960

x Koeker, Dorothy W.

Vail, R. W. G. (Robert William Glenroie), 1890-1966

x Watkins, D. Marjorie

American Library Association

Bibliography - United States

Dictionary of Books Relating to America

Accessioned by CF

x = not found in RLIN NAF

Date September 22, 1988

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, SABIN COMMITTEE. RECORDS.

### Description

The records of the Bibliographical Society of America's Sabin Committee document the completion of an important reference book and provide a view of bibliographers at work. They span the years 1923 to 1948, with the bulk falling in the years 1929 to 1936, and include the records of the ALA Sabin Committee, active in 1924.

The records are organized into eight series: I. ALA Sabin Committee - Correspondence & Reports, 1923-1924; II. ALA & BSA Sabin Committees - Correspondence with Subscribers, 1924-1925; III. BSA Sabin Committee - Correspondence, 1925; IV. BSA Sabin Committee - Production Bids & Paper Samples, 1925; V. Harry M. Lydenberg - Correspondence, 1924-1937: a) Correspondence with Subscribers, 1924-1929, b) Correspondence & Reports, 1925-1937; VI. Harry M. Lydenberg & Dorothy W. Koeker - Correspondence Regarding Sales, 1938-1948; VII. R. W. G. Vail - Correspondence, 1929-1938; VIII. Elizabeth G. Greene - Correspondence, 1931-1936.

The largest series is Harry M. Lydenberg - Correspondence, which details efforts to staff, finance, complete, and sell the project. Sales of the dictionary are also discussed in series II and VI. R. W. G. Vail's and Elizabeth G. Greene's correspondence deals mainly with bibliographical points considered in the compilation of entries. Greene's correspondence is chiefly addressed to assistant Marjorie Watkins and librarians at various institutions, seeking confirmation of entries against books in their collections.

### Related Collections

NYPL Manuscripts & Archives Section

Wilberforce Eames. Papers.

Harry Miller Lydenberg. Papers.

Sabin Family. Papers.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, SABIN COMMITTEE. RECORDS.

Container List

- Box 1    I. ALA Sabin Committee - Correspondence & Reports, 1923-1924  
          II. ALA & BSA Sabin Committees - Correspondence with Subscribers, 1924-1925  
          III. BSA Sabin Committee - Correspondence, 1925  
          IV. BSA Sabin Committee - Production Bids & Paper Samples, 1925  
          V. Harry M. Lydenberg - Correspondence, 1924-1937  
2            a) Correspondence with Subscribers, 1924-1929  
              b) Correspondence & Reports, 1925-1937  
3            1926-1928  
4            1929-July 1932, including "A Brief Outline of Sabin Practice"  
5            August 1932-1934  
6            1935-1936  
7            1937  
7            VI. Harry M. Lydenberg & Dorothy W. Koeker - Correspondence Regarding  
              Sales, 1938-1948  
8            VII. R. W. G. Vail - Correspondence, 1929-1938  
              VIII. Elizabeth G. Greene - Correspondence, 1931-1936  
9            1931-1934  
10           1934-1936  
11           with R. W. G. Vail and Marjorie Watkins, 1935-1936