

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

Accession # *86 M 27

Location Annex 8-d-3/5

Title Phelps, Dodge & Co. Records.

Approximate inclusive dates 1818-1883

Bulk dates 1834-1860

Date of receipt unknown

Received from unknown. Account books from David S. Dodge, (190 ?)

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 25 AB; 2 FB

Condition good

Restrictions n.a.

Description Phelps, Dodge & Co. was founded in 1834 as the successor to the firm of Phelps and Peck, the leading importer of metals in the United States. With the dissolution of his partnership with Elisha Peck, Anson Green Phelps formed the new company in partnership with two of his sons-in-law, William E. Dodge and Daniel James. Phelps and Dodge remained in New York City, while James directed the firm's branch in Liverpool, England under the names of Phelps, James & Co. Phelps, Dodge & Co. imported metals, predominantly tin, from Great Britain and distributed them via commission agents throughout the United States and exported cotton, which Phelps, James & Co. sold to manufacturers in England. In addition to the metal trade, Phelps and Dodge invested heavily in the Pennsylvania lumber industry, brass, copper, and iron manufacturing in Connecticut, iron mining in Michigan and New Jersey, railroads, real estate, and banking. However, it was only after the death of William E. Dodge in 1883 and the purchase of two copper mines in Arizona that the multi-million dollar mercantile house was transformed into one of the nation's foremost mining companies, dealing predominantly in the mining, smelting, refining, and manufacturing of copper.

The records consist of incoming correspondence, financial and legal documents of the New York firm of Phelps and Peck, 1818-1834, and its successor Phelps, Dodge & Co., 1834-1869. The bulk of the material dates from the founding of the firm in 1834 to the death of Anson Greene Phelps in 1852. The letters, arranged chronologically, are from commission agents, customers, suppliers, and those concerned with the firm's manufacturing, lumber, real estate, railroad and banking interests. The letters from commission agents include detailed accounts of their sales of Phelps, Dodge tin plate, wire, and other materials, including the amount, name of purchaser, price paid, commission deducted, bills of lading for shipment of goods, etc. In addition, there are a considerable number of letters from Daniel James of Phelps, James & Co. discussing the Liverpool side of the business. (cont'd)

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

Temporary catalog card added entries

Phelps and Peck	Mercantile capitalism (not LC)
Phelps, James and Company	Lumber trade
Business	Daniel James
Businessmen	Anson Green Phelps
Commerce	William E. Dodge
Merchants	Copper industry and trade
Metal trade	Brass industry and trade
Cotton trade	
New York, (N.Y.)-Merchants	
-Commerce	

Accessioned by MY
Date 4-21-86

The few letters received after 1852 pertain primarily to the estate of Anson G. Phelps. There are also a few letters to and from Melissa Phelps Dodge (Mrs. William E.), 1878-1883.

The financial and legal records include accounts of sales of Phelps, Dodge & Co. goods, invoices, receipts, 1818-1865; photostatic copies of partnership agreements, 1834-1882; the will of Anson G. Phelps; cancelled checks; and account books, bank books, and memo books of Phelps & Peck/Phelps, Dodge & Co., 1831-1848, Anson G. Phelps, 1832-1837, William E. Dodge, 1857-1864, and Anson G. Phelps Dodge, 1862-1863.

Phelps, Dodge & Co. Records

Container List

Box

Contents

Incoming Correspondence

1	1831-1835
2	1836-1838
3	1839-1840 April
4	1840 May-1842
5	1843-1846
6	1847-1848 July
7	1848 August-1850 July
8	1850 August-1851
9	1852 January-May
10	1852 June-September
11	1852 October-1853 February
12	1853 March-July
13	1853 August-December
14	1854-1856
15	1857-1859
16	1860-1864; 1867-1869; 1880
	Letters to and from Melissa Phelps Dodge (Mrs. William), 1878-1883
	Undated papers and business cards

Financial and Legal Records

17	1818-1835
18	1836-1837
19	1838-1839 June

- 20 1839 July-1840
- 21 1841-1843
- 22 1844-1845
- 23 1846-1848 June
- 24 1848 July-1851
- 25 1852-1865; n.d.
Partnership agreements, 1834-1882 (photostats)
Will of Anson G. Phelps, 1852
Cancelled checks, 1831-1847
- 26 Account books, bank books, memo books
Anson G. Phelps, 1832-1837; 1844-1852
Phelps, Dodge & Co., 1831-1848
- 27 William E. Dodge, 1857-1864
Anson G. Phelps Dodge, 1862-1863