

Roycroft (SC-08)

Records of the Roycroft Community (SC-08)
1899-1915

Title Statement

Roycroft (SC-08) Finding Aids to the Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | Records of the Roycroft Community SC-08

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-08

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/274

Unit Date

1899-1915

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection includes postcards, concert and recital announcements, subscription offers, Richmond newspaper accounts of Hubbard's visit, Roycroft Fraternity membership, an original manuscript of "A Visit to the House of Shakespeare" with handwritten annotations by Hubbard, a blank copy of Memory Book in its original box and other ephemeral material.

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet 1 box

Repository

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Records of the Roycroft Community (SC-08). VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

In 1897, Elbert Hubbard founded the Roycroft Campus in East Aurora, NY. For more than 20 years, it was a center of entrepreneurship, creativity and learning. It was a hub of the American arts and crafts movement, drawing visitors from faraway places with over five hundred working artisans and craftsmen.

In 1905 the Roycroft Inn opened to accommodate visitors and artisans interested in experiencing this emerging community and style. The Inn became a center of activity for this community. When did it close/why? In 1986, The Inn received National Historic Landmark status. With support from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, The Inn meticulously underwent an \$8 million dollar restoration and was re-opened for guests in 1995. (from roycroftinn.com/history)

Hubbard chose the name "Roycroft" from the 17th century English book-makers, Samuel and Thomas Roycroft. Additionally, the word roycroft had a special significance to Hubbard, as the word means "King's Craft." In early modern Europe, king's craftsmen were guild members who had achieved a high degree of skill and therefore made things for the King. The Roycroft insignia was borrowed from the monk Cassidorius, a 13th-century bookbinder and illuminator.

In 1915 Hubbard and his wife, noted suffragette Alice Hubbard, died in the sinking of the RMS Lusitania and the Roycroft community went into a gradual decline. Following Elbert's death, his son Bert attempted to keep his father's business afloat, proposing to sell Roycroft's furniture through major retailers. Sears & Roebuck agreed to carry the furniture, but this was only a short lived success.

Source: Roycroft

Scope and Contents

The collection's inclusive dates are 1899-1915. The collection is comprised of postcards, letters, books, and other ephemeral material.

Keywords

Roycroft Campus (East Aurora, N.Y.)

Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915

Custodial History

The collection was found in the VMFA Library's collection.

Description of Subordinate Components

Roycroft-made Blank Memory Book in original box, belonging to Clara Belle Thompson

Unit ID SC08.01.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/60773

Folder containing "A Love Letter to the Elect", and Roycroft gift brochure

Unit ID SC08.01.0.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/60774

Postcards featuring various interiors and exteriors found on the Roycroft Campus and portraits of Elbert Hubbard and other "Roycrofters"

Unit ID SC08.01.0.003

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/60775

Original annotated Manuscript of Hubbard's "A Visit to the House of Shakespeare"

Unit ID SC08.01.0.004

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/60776

Various event invitations, order forms, receipts, certificates

Unit ID SC08.01.0.005

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/60777

Times-Dispatch article on Hubbard's visit to Richmond

Unit ID SC08.01.0.006

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/60778