I. Title New Haven Tercentenary, 1938.

II. The papers of the General Committee deposited in the Library by the estate of John L. Gilson, papers of the Festival Committee deposited by Mrs. John C. Tracy, papers of Colonial Exhibit deposited by Mrs. Harold K. English.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 6 ft.
Approximate number of items: 5000

IV. Restrictions:

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note: See 1. short history p. 1
2. content guide p. 3
3. table of content p. 4

VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of 10 boxes and 5 scrap books. For additional information see "content guide" p. 3.
New Haven Tercentenary, 1938

In 1937 Mayor John W. Murphy appointed Judge John L. Gilson chairman of a committee to arrange for the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the settlement of the New Haven Colony. A general committee of twenty-five members was subsequently appointed. This Committee, in turn, created subcommittees. The Festival Committee headed by Prof. John C. Tracy and affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce sponsored events held at the Yale Bowl. The professional firm of Gerome H. Cargill of New York was hired to handle the Industrial Exposition and the Historical Pageant. The General Committee sponsored all the other events.

The celebration was initiated with the "Colonial Service Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Settlement of New Haven" held at Woolsey Hall on April 24th. The following day, the twenty-fifth, Founders' Day or Powder House Day (Foot Guard Day) was held. On May 18th, school children presented the City with a huge Birthday Cake which was displayed on the Lower Green and paid for by a "penny-march." On May 21st, the Mayor dispersed messengers on horseback to neighboring towns with invitations to the New Haven Tercentenary Celebration. A huge parade was held on May 28th, followed by a Military Ball that evening.

The Festival Committee organized the "Community Praise and Memorial Service" at Yale Bowl on May 29th with Governor Wilbur L. Cross as main speaker. It also sponsored School Day on June 2nd. State Day was celebrated on June 6th at Woolsey Hall. Among the main speakers were Governor Cross, Mayor Murphy and Charles Seymour, President of Yale University. The main attraction was Stephen Vincent Benét's "Tercentenary Ode" written especially for this occasion and delivered by the author.

The Progress Exposition took place June 1-10 at the Coxe Field House. Local business firms presented displays which made this event an outstanding industrial exhibit. The Historical Pageant was staged June 7-10 at Yale Bowl and depicted scenes from the founding of the colony to modern times. Both events were under the auspices of the Festival Committee and organized by G.H. Cargill. The Festival Committee also sponsored Sport Competitions consisting of various athletic events throughout the year.

"These are the Times," an original, one-act play with a local history theme, won first prize--$100 and a chance to be produced by the Yale Theater--in the Drama Tournament. A cenotaph, at the rear of Central Church, in commemoration of Theophilus Eaton was dedicated on November 20th.

The New Haven Colony Historical Society sponsored an exhibit of paintings formerly owned by William Scranton Pardee, at the Public Library from May 10th through June 22nd and from October 1st through November 15th. The Society also organized a loan exhibit of original, New Haven, colonial articles in the ballroom of the Pardee Morris House from May 26th through June 15th.

Shields to mark local historic sights as well as commemorative medallions and decorative stamps were produced along with a variety of pamphlets and other souvenir material. An extensive advertisement campaign was undertaken making excellent use of the press and radio.
Yale University took an active interest in the City's celebration. It sponsored a series of lectures and held an exhibit of rare documents and maps pertaining to New Haven. Members of the Yale community played an active role in all phases of the celebration and the University donated the use of its various facilities.

The events were financed by a State contribution of $21,315.00. In addition $8,338.00 was raised from subscriptions by New Haveners and $1,971.33 from the sale of madallions, shields, tickets to the ball and the "penny-march." The Festival Committee financed its own events with the revenue received from the rental of space at the Exhibit and the sale of tickets to the Exhibit and Pageant.

In 1946 all records and materials pertaining to the Tercentenary along with the unexpanded balance of $8,857.20 [Tercentenary Fund] were transferred to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
The papers of the New Haven Tercentenary, 1938 came from three main sources: the estate of John L. Gilson deposited the papers generated by the General Committee, Mrs. John C. Tracy deposited the papers generated by the Festival Committee and Mrs. Harold K. English deposited the papers generated by the Tercentenary Colonial Exhibit.

The collection spans the period from 1936 through 1947 with the bulk of the material dated 1937-1938. The collection consists of correspondence, minutes of meetings, lists, memos, applications, bids, schedules, proposals, financial statements, receipts, news releases, clippings, printed invitations and programs, blue prints, photographs, and scrapbooks—all of which pertain to the creation and functioning of committees and subcommittees and the organization, financing and staging of the various events.

The organization of the material was partly determined by the generating bodies (General and Festival Committees) and partly by the nature of the papers themselves. The containers are numbered in Roman numerals. Within each container the folders are numbered consecutively in the center (II:4 --box II:folder 4). The title and subject matter appear in the upper left corner and the date, if given, in the right corner. The material is arranged chronologically unless otherwise stated. When it is arranged alphabetically, the inclusive dates of the subject heading are given. Data added during processing appears in the upper or lower right corner in pencil and is bracketed. Printed material generated by the Tercentenary was transferred to the Library.

For additional information pertaining to John L. Gilson see J.L. Gilson, MSS B4; to John C. Tracy see N.H. Progress Exposition, MSS Bl. See also Three Centuries of New Haven, 1638-1938 by Rollin G. Osterweis.

Processed by: Zofia Sywak
TABLE OF CONTENT

Box I. New Haven Centennial Celebrations
   folder A-1. New Haven--200th Anniversary, 1838
      1. Badge with note, Major G. Leforge
      2. Program, Center Church
      3. Description of events on April 25, 1838 by Eli Dickerman

   1. Badges [2]

New Haven Tercentenary, SEE page 4.
### TABLE OF CONTENT

**Box I. New Haven Tercentenary, 1938: Planning and Organizing.** (1 box)

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1. August 23—December 9, 1937.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. January 6—14, 1938; plus undated material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Correspondence, contracts, agreements, payment forms, November 10—December 7, 1937.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. February 11—April 8, 1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. May 5—June 7, 1938; plus undated material.</td>
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<td>13. Correspondence, December 13, 1937—February 7, 1938; plus undated material.</td>
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<td>15. Outhwaite—Correspondence, December 17—23, 1937.</td>
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<td>15a. N. Podoloff—Correspondence, January 5—May 12, 1938.</td>
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<td>22. January 31—April 28, 1938; plus undated material.</td>
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<tr>
<th>G. Organization: Correspondence, minutes of meetings, memos, Dec. 1937—June 1938</th>
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<tr>
<td>27. April 21—May 7, 1938.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29. June 27—28, 1938; plus undated material.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Box I (Continued)

H. Applications for work, December 1937--May 1938.
   33. Undated material.
   33a. Lancraft Fife and Drum Corps, January 28--March 11, 1938.

I. Chamber of Commerce: Spotlight, monthly publication, 1938.
   37a. History of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce by Oliver V. Ober, undated.

J. Chamber of Commerce--1st meeting to organize Tercentenary Celebration, November 23, 1937 at the Hotel Taft.
   38. Invitations and acknowledgements--alphabetically arranged, November 17--20, 1937.
   39. Invitations and acknowledgements.
   40. Invitations and acknowledgements.

Box II. New Haven Tercentenary: Organizing.  
(1 box)

A. Committees--Correspondence, memos, lists, 1937--1938.
   Folder 1. December 17, 1937--February 23, 1938.
   3-7. Undated material.

B. Service clubs--correspondence, lists, memos, 1937--1938.

C. Tercentenary Festival Executive Committee--Correspondence, memos, minutes of meetings, November 1937--March 1938.

D. Tercentenary Festival: General Committee--Correspondence, lists, memos, minutes of meetings, November 1937--March 1938.

E. Women's Advisory Committee--Correspondence, lists, memos.
   21. Undated material.
Box II (Continued)

F. Tickets--Pageant: Committee--correspondence, memos, lists.
   Folder 22. March 8--April 5, 1938.

G. Tickets--Pageant: Distribution and sale--correspondence,
   lists, memos, receipts.
   23. March 26--May 25, 1938.
   24. May 25--June 1, 1938; plus undated material.
   25. Undated material.
   26. Undated material.
   27. Notes (some in short hand) and printed invitations.

H. Transportation and Traffic: Correspondence and memos.
   28a. Police Departments, April 13--May 11, 1938.
   29. General Correspondence, January 11--June 10, 1938.

   30. Correspondence, November 24--26, 1937.
   30a. Weather statistics from 1933 to 1937.

J. Yale: Correspondence, press releases, Yale University
   32. Yale/Durborow Correspondence, February 14--March 2, 1938.

K. Model of Yale Bowl.
   33. Correspondence with Edward Ferrari, January 27--June 14, 1938.
   33a. General Correspondence, February 5--June 16, 1938.

L. Painting of Progress Exposition by Gilbert Banever
   34. Correspondence, April 5--June 14, 1938.

M. Historical Material, 1937--1938.
   35. "Indians of New Haven and Vicinity"
   35a. "Early Homes"
   36. "New Haven Sixty Years Ago"; "The Community Chest";
       "The First Hospital"; plus list of New Haven
       historical events.

N. Historic Markers, 1938.
   37. Correspondence, forms, descriptions of sights
       marked, January 19--May 3, 1938; plus undated
       material.
   38. Lists of sights marked and institutions ordering
       markers (undated).
   39. Lists of markers ordered, locations of markers,
       legends for Tercentenary markers (undated).

   40. Correspondence--music committee and organization
       of chorus for Pageant, December 13, 1937--May 26, 1938.
   41. Lists of various New Haven choirs and their
       members (undated).

P. Drama.
   42. Poster: One-Act Play Competition (1937--1938).

Q. New Haven
   43. Correspondence, May 6--12, 1938; March 14, 1939;
       September 23, 1947; plus printed invitations.
Box III. New Haven Tercentenary: Publicity and Media

A. Publicity: General--correspondence, memos, November 1937--June 1938.
   Folder 1. Publicity suggestions for proposed Tercentenary Celebration
   (2 copies), November 9, 1937.
   2. Correspondence, etc., November 15, 1937--February 2, 1938.
   3. February 2--April 12, 1938.
   4. April 14--June 14, 1938.
   5. June 10--29, 1938; plus undated material.

B. Publicity Committee--Minutes of Meetings, January--June, 1938.

C. Publicity: Advertisement and Souvenirs--Correspondence, bids, orders
   (posters, buttons, stickers, banners, menus).
   12. May 18--June 8, 1938, & sketches for cover of Terc. booklet [3]

D. Publicity: Newspapers--Correspondence, 1937--1938.
   15. Advertisement--broadside, May--June 1938; plus undated material.

E. Media: Broadcasting--Correspondence, schedules, releases, February--June, 1938.
   16. Correspondence and schedules, February 4--April 20, 1938.
   18. Undated material.
   19--21. "Solute to New Haven" June 7, 1938 at 10:30-11 pm E.S.T. on
          station WLW.

F. Media: Press Releases--specific events, 1938.
   22. Magazines, May--June, 1938; plus undated material.
   23. Photo Frames used in stories, May--June, 1938.
   24. "New Haven Chamber of Commerce, 1794-1938" by Oliver V. Ober,
       undated (draft and final copy).
   25. "N.H. Chamber of Commerce" (2nd copy); plus material pertaining
       to exposition, undated.
   26. Material pertaining to exposition, undated.

G. Media: Press Releases to Newspapers--New Haven Register, New Haven Journal
   Courier, New York Times and others (dates have been supplied when possible).
   29. February 20--March 6, 1938.
   30. March 10--18, 1938.
   32. April 6--10, 1938.
   33. April 10--12, 1938.
   34. April 14--16, 1938.
   35. April 16--19, 1938.
   36. April 19--24, 1938.
   37. April 24--25, 1938.
   38. April 25--May 4, 1938.
   40. May 7--12, 1938.
Box III (Continued)

G. Media (Continued)

Folder 41. May 13--17, 1938.
42. May 18--23, 1938.
43. May 23--25, 1938.
44. May 26--28, 1938.
45. May 28--29, 1938.

Box IV. New Haven Tercentenary: Press Releases

A. Press Releases--General (Continued from Box III).

Folder 1. May 29, 1938.
4. June 6--11, 1938; plus undated material.
5. Undated material.
6. Undated material.
7. Pageant Series no. 1-8, undated.

B. Newspaper clippings--local and out-of-town papers.

11. Clippings, March--April, 1938.
15. Undated, 1938.
A. Organization: Correspondence, lists, memos.

Folder 1. November 13--29, 1937
2. November 29--December 2, 1937
3. December 2--19, 1937
4. December 22--January 12, 1938
5. January 12--27, 1938
6. January 27--February 1, 1938
7. February 2--10, 1938
8. February 11--March 4, 1938
9. March 4, 1938
10. March 4--15, 1938
11. March 15--25, 1938
12. March 25--31, 1938
13. April 1--11, 1938
14. April 11--27, 1938
15. May 7--28, 1938
16. May 28--June 27, 1938; including Ober's speech, at opening on June 1, 1938.
17.--21. Memos and lists, undated material
22. Digest Description of Booths
23. Digest Description of Booths

B. Finances: Correspondence, memos, lists, cost of space.

24. April 7--14, 1938; payment for exhibition space (list of checks).
25. Lists, undated material

C. Tickets: Correspondence and receipts May--June 1938

26. Correspondence pertaining to sales and distribution; May 20--24, 1938
(see also Box X, Bundle 3)
27. May 24--June 1, 1938
28. June 1--3, 1938
29. June 3--9, 1938
29a. Financial statement, June 2--9, 1938
30. June 10-15, plus undated statements and lists of tickets ordered
31. Receipts and notation of number of tickets distributed and ordered, undated--half sheets

D. Coxe Field House--Floor Plans, 1937-1938

32. Blueprints
33. Blueprints and floor plans of booths

E. John C. Tracy: Correspondence and appointment schedule, 1937-38

34.--37. Letters of appreciation--alphabetically arranged, June 1938.
38. Letters to/from, December 2, 1937--June 29, 1938
40. Personal Correspondence, 1926-1939.

Box VI New Haven Tercentenary - Events, 1938 (1 box)

A. Colonial Service Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the settlement of New Haven - held at Woolsey Hall on April 24, 1938.

Folder 1. Correspondence (April 11 - 24, 1938), printed programs, address by Willard L. Sperry.

B. Founders' Day - Foot Guard Day (April 25)
2. Sermon by Dr. Maurer, Address by Dr. Harris E. Starr.
3. Address by Judge Charles Davenport Lockwood, printed invitations, programs.
Box VI (continued)

C. Celebration on the Green (May 18, 1938), February - May 1938.

D. Mayor's Invitation (May 21)
   5. Printed invitations

E. Military Balls (February 21 and May 28, 1938)
   6. Printed Invitations, tickets

F. Parader (May 28).
   7. Correspondence, forms, invitation, program; January 10 - May 19, 1938

G. Community Praise and Memorial Service (May 29)
   8. Correspondence, lists, minutes of meetings, memos; November 1, 1937 -
      March 21, 1938.
   10. April 20 - May 10, 1938
   12. May 24 - 26, 1938 (Governor Wilbur L. Cross's address).
   13. May 27 - 31, 1938
   14. May 31 - June 22, 1938; plus undated material.
   15. Undated material, printed programs
   16. Correspondence - short sheets, March 12 - May 28, 1938, printed
      invitations

H. School Day (June 2)
   17. Correspondence, memos December 14, 1937 - April 11, 1938.
   18. April 12 - June 2, 1938

I. State Day (June 6), Woolsey Hall
   19. Address by Hiram Bingham
   20. Address by Mayor Murphy (John William) (2 copies); by Charles
      Seymour, President of Yale (2 copies); "Tercentenary Ode" by
      Stephen Vincent Benét.
   21. Signed note from Stephen Vincent Benét agreeing to write Ode;
      Undated, probably March 1938.
   22. Printed invitations, programs, tickets.

J. Pageant (June 7 - 10), Yale Bowl.
   23. Correspondence and memos, November 17, 1937 - January 6, 1938.
   25. Notes and outlines, undated.
      Haven's Progress" synopsis of a Pageant by Bernard Victor Dryer.
   27. Scenes for pageant proposed by George Dudley Seymour
   27a. Casting - Correspondence, November 1, 1937 - January 21, 1938
   28. Casting - Correspondence, January 25 - April 21, 1938.
   29. Casting - Correspondence, April 23 - June 1, 1938.
   30. Rehearsals - Correspondence and forms, April - May, 1938.
   30a. Props - Correspondence, February 1 - May 16, 1938; alphabetically
        arranged.
   31. Props - Correspondence.

K. Athletic Events
   32. Correspondence, Notes, Minutes of Meetings; October 11, 1937 -
       February 11, 1938.
   33. February 27 - March 14, 1938.
   35. March 29 - April 18, 1938
   36. April 19 - June 26, 1938 plus undated material
   37. Correspondence - short sheets, January 5 - June 2, 1938.
      and three posters.
Box VI (continued)

L. Athletic Events - Medals
38. Correspondence, alphabetically arranged, February 24 - April 13, 1938.
39. Correspondence

M. First Church of Christ on the Green
40. Correspondence and memos, November 28, 1937 - November 18, 1938.
41. Printed invitations and programs.

42. Additions

Box VII New Haven Tercentenary: Colonial Exhibit, 1938. (1/2 box)
Deposited by Mrs. Harold K. English

The Tercentenary Loan Exhibit, organized by Mrs. Alfred Hammer, was held from May 26 to June 15, 1938 in the ballroom of the Pardee Morris House and consisted of original pre-1776 New Haven articles.

A. Correspondence - pertaining to the formation of committees and procuring articles for the exhibit.
12. Correspondence; lists of articles loaned.
12a. Receipts for articles loaned - alphabetically arranged, July - September, 1938.
13a. Small brown notebook - notes on articles loaned.

B. Dismantling of Exhibit.
14. Correspondence: alphabetically arranged, June - September, 1938.
15. Correspondence

C. Original Cataloguing Lists (by Mrs. Harold K. English ??)

Box VIII New Haven Tercentenary - Finances, Commemorative Medal, Inquiries, (1 box) Record Book.

A. Finances: Correspondence, memos, estimates, expenses and income, budgets.
Folder 1. Committee - formation: November 22, 1937 plus undated.
1a. Correspondence October 18 - December 10, 1937
2. December 11, 1937 - January 10, 1938
3. January 10 - 25, 1938
4. January 25 - March 1, 1938
5. March 1 - June 13, 1938
8a. Report by George J. Bassett, Treasurer for period of February 1 - September 30, 1938 as filed in Probate Court.
9. Undated material
10. Undated material
11. Printed estimates, undated.
12. Undated material
Box VIII (continued)

B. Finances: Printing of programs and contracts.
13a. Contracts, February - April, 1938

C. Finances: Bills
14. Bills and Correspondence, May 2 - June 17, 1938.

D. Finances: Receipts
17. May - June, 1938 (short sheets).

E. Insurance
19. Correspondence with Burton, May 4 - June 3, 1938.
19a. Correspondence - General, December 2, 1937 - June 27, 1938.

F. Medals, commemorative: executed by Kilenyi
20. Lists and orders; part of letter describing Kilenyi's qualifications; see also Box X, receipt books and order forms 2 A - C.

G. Inquiries: Correspondence pertaining to events, publications and Souvenirs.
21 - 24. Correspondence - alphabetically arranged, February 3 - June 3, 1938.

H. Inquiries: New Haven Tercentenary Celebration and Reference for Cargill
25 - 31. Correspondence - alphabetically arranged, June 1938 - September 1941.

I. Souvenirs.
32. Commemorative memorabilia.

J. Record Book of New Haven Tercentenary Committee.
33. Bound ledger containing minutes of meetings and various reports, memoranda and other matters of interest in connection with the Tercentenary celebration; June 4, 1937 - December 20, 1949.

34. Publications

Box IX New Haven Tercentenary: Photographs, 1938
(1/2 box)
Bundle A + B - gift of Mrs. John L. Gilson
A. Original list:

Opening Ceremonies
Church Services - Center Church, April 24, 1938
Foot Guard Day - April 25, 1938.
Seal
Model
Horse Guard carry invitations to nearby towns
Redmen and Boy Scouts light beacon message on Green and East Rock
School Children's Birthday Party - Green
Tercentenary Parade - May 28, 1938.

B. School Festival - Yale Bowl, June 2, 1938
State Day, June 6, 1938
Pageant - Bowl, June 7 - 11, 1938
Exposition - Coxe Gym, June 1 - 11, 1938.

Bundle

C. Tercentenary events.
D. See letter from O.V. Ober to Tracy, February 27, 1949; Box V, folder 40. Photographs of Pageant by Ober.

folder E. Photographs -- medal [4]
Box X  New Haven Tercentenary - Receipts
(1/2 box)
1. Receipts
2. Receipts
   A--B. Purchases of medals, May--June, 1938.
   C. Orders for medals.
3. Receipts--exposition tickets.

Scrap Books
Item XI--XIII. Three volumes prepared by Dorothy N. Blakeslee (XII contains correspondence to John C. Tracy).
   XIV. Donor unknown, contains material on Tercentenary and Dr. Maurer, including some of his sermons--outsize.
   XV. Donor unknown, contains material on Tercentenary; plus Hartford High School, graduation 1938--outsize.

Oversized
Item XVI. Posters
NEW HAVEN TERCENTENARY, 1938
MSS #B-3

Box/Folder | Contents
---|---

Additions to the Collection, September 2010

This material was given to the Whitney Library by Barbara Kent Hickey Pitcher about the events of the Tercentenary. It consists of items removed from a scrapbook. Newsprint has been photocopied.

17/A | Newspaper articles
17/B | Programs, pamphlets, booklets
17/C | Photographs
17/D | Commemorative envelopes