NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. B28

Date processed: May 1981

I. Title The Sinnott Collection, 1923-1981

II. The papers of Edmund Ware Sinnott deposited in the Library on June 23, 1972, by Mrs. Mabel S. Sinnott and Edmund W. Sinnott, Jr. as a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 5 feet
    Approximate number of items: 2,940

IV. Restrictions: None

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of Edmund Ware Sinnott in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have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:

Page 1.

VIII. Analysis:

Page 2.
Biography

Edmund Ware Sinnott, author of Meetinghouse and Church in Early New England, and Jerauld A. Manter, his photographic collaborator, were a felicitous pair of co-workers. Both men were long-time friends, having started their teaching careers at the Connecticut Agricultural College (later University of Connecticut) at the same time; both men were science professors, both relished short trips in pursuit of historical research about early church architecture in New England.

Sinnott was born in Cambridge, Mass., on Feb. 5, 1888. His education was thoroughly Harvard, bachelor in 1903, master in 1910, and doctorate in 1913, with botany his major. From 1915 to 1928 he was professor of botany at Connecticut Agricultural College, from 1929-1940 at Barnard, and from 1940 at Yale where he became Sterling professor of botany, director of Sheffield Scientific School, and from 1950-1956 Dean of the Graduate School. During this time, 1948-1949, he served as the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, wrote two textbooks and over 90 scholarly papers, and with the publication of Two Roads to Truth and The Biology of the Spirit, promulgated his concern that a mechanistic scientific society not overwhelm the human values of man. Many of his speeches urged the internationalism of science and the need for well-rounded education. He was an active member or officer of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Botanical Society of America, and Sigma Xi.

Throughout his life, Sinnott had a deep interest in art and architecture, creating in various media and studying the relationship between architecture and its society. The latter was evidenced in his some 50 years of study of the significance of early New England meetinghouse and church architecture. So proficient was he in this field that Yale, in 1940, awarded this outstanding scientist an honorary Master of Arts in architecture.


Jerauld A. Manter was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire on Dec. 30, 1889 and educated in that state's university. From there he went directly to the Connecticut Agricultural College where he became professor of entomology and ornithology until his retirement in 1953, and still lives in Storrs on Gurleyville Road. He is a member of entomological and ornithological societies and has published books and learned articles on birds. After his retirement, his ability as a serious amateur photographer qualified him to illustrate the publications of a research project of the University of Connecticut in working with physically handicapped homemakers. Of late, his photography has concentrated on birds, which he traps and bands.

As a young man Manter, too, had become interested in early New England church architecture and found hundreds of beautiful or interesting examples a target for his camera on brief trips. All but about 40 of the photos in the book were taken by him, and almost 400 of the 509 listed in the appendix are his. Copies of all his photos are included in this collection.
Analysis

With but a few exceptions as noted, all the material in the collection pertains, either specifically or peripherally, to early meetinghouses and churches of New England. The contents are arranged with correspondence first, background notes and pamphlets of historical and architectural interest next, and photographs last. Included in the photographs given, are 40 glass negatives done by James Buckley some time during the 1910's. These plates are in the photography department of the Society.

In general, the order is alphabetic by town, as established by Sinnott, and chronological where appropriate. In each segment, the register entry will note the order for that section. There are 11 boxes and one oversize packet.

The last folder of the last box contains a letter and additional photographs sent by Jerauld Manter in response to a request for biographical information in 1981.
Sinnott Collection 1923-1981

BOX I

Folder A
Letter from Sinnott to Ralph Thomas, director, offering photo collection to NHCHS
Letter from young friend in Puerto Rico
Letter from mother
Letters from Jerauld A. Manter
Letters from various persons with information about churches of possible interest to Sinnott. (19) 1923-58

Folder B
Continuation of preceding item
Continuation of preceding item (20) 1959-67

Folder C
Letters to Sinnott from Leon Wilson, his editor at McGraw-Hill (6) 1961-63

Folder D
Letters to Leon Wilson from Sinnott (7) 1962

Folder E
Letters from Sinnott to 276 town clerks, ministers, local historians, etc., soliciting information or corroboration about meetinghouses and churches he had seen or read about, for possible use in book. Arranged alphabetically by town, A-Ba (25) 1960-61

Folder F
Continuation of preceding item, Ba-Bi (25) " "

Folder G
Continuation of preceding item, Bi-Ca (25) " "

Folder H
Continuation of preceding item, Ca-Co (25) " "

Folder I
Continuation of preceding item, Cra-Ea (25) " "

Folder J
Continuation of preceding item, Ea-Gi (25) " "

Folder K
Continuation of preceding item, Go-Ha (25) " "

Folder L
Continuation of preceding item, Ha-Ho (25) " "

Folder M
Continuation of preceding item, Hu-Li (25) " "

Folder N
Continuation of preceding item, Lo-Ne (25) " "
Continuation of preceding item, *No-Sh* *(25)* 1960-61

Continuation of preceding item, *Sh-Un* *(25) " "

Continuation of preceding item, *Ux-Wo* *(26) " "

**Box II**

Folder A

Notes on early church architecture noted on trips about Connecticut, Aug. 7, 1923-Sept. 2, 1923


Folder B

Lists compiled in organization of book

1. Illustrations in book, in numerical series by code numbers *(10) c.1962*(2) " 

2. Meetinghouses of interest in Maine and Vermont *(8) c.1962*(2) " 

3. Classification by type *(4)"*

4. Altered Type II churches *(2)"*

5. Asher Benjamin Type *(2)"*

6. Mendon, Newburyport and Double Octagon Type *(2)"*

Folder C

Continuation of lists

1. Transitional and Quaker list *(2) c.1962*(2) " 

2. Type II variations *(2)"*

3. Groups of related churches *(2)"*

4. Churches with columns *(2)"*

5. With columns added later *(2)"*

6. With weathercocks existent *(2)"*

7. Towns written to *(4)"*

8. Towns of interest with church denomination *(10)"*

9. Articles in *Old Time New England* *(1) c.1962*(1) " 

10. Clippings with data *(1)"*

11. Names from Colonial Meetinghouses of New Hampshire, by Eva A. Speare *(1) "*

Folder C-1. Pencilled checklist of single detail of some churches *(13) n.d.*

Folder D

Notes on churches used, A-G *(20)c.1962*

Folder E

Notes on churches used, H-Old *(21) "*

Folder F

Notes on churches used, Os- *(19) "*

Folder G

Thumbnail sketches of early churches in Conn. and Rhode Island *(27) 1958*
Folder H
Thinbnail sketches of early churches in Maine and Vermont (23) 1958

Folder I
As above, in Massachusetts, A-L (27) 1958

Folder J
As above, N-- (27) "

Folder K
As above, in New Hampshire, A-Go (25) "

Folder L
As above, Gr-New (25) "

Folder M
As above, No-- (30) "

Folder N
Tentative architectural designs for First Parish meetinghouse and church of New Salem, Mass., built 1794, moved 1834 (1) 1961
Architectural drawings for First Parish of Wayland, Mass., built 1815 (3) 1960
Architectural drawing of front elevation of Meeting House, Sudbury, Mass., built 1814 (1) 1960
Copy of drawings from urn and rails of communion table (4) 1817-18

Folder Q
Pieces of Eight, school publication given by Charlotte H. Isham, supervisor of instruction in Woodbury, containing descriptions of churches of Woodbury (1) 1955

Folder P
Periodical clippings about early churches in Connecticut (16) 1939-66

Folder Q
As above, in Maine and Massachusetts (12) n.d.-1967

Folder R
As above, in New York, New Hampshire and Vermont, and in general (10) 1925-67

Box III
Pamphlets and booklets considered of importance by Sinnott, arranged alphabetically by town

Folder A
Blue Hill - Groton (14) 1912-60

Folder B
Ipswich - Old (13) 1920-60

Folder C
Pe - Ru (11) 1927-61
CONFIDENTIAL

MSR #B28
BOX III (cont.)

Folder D
Sa - Wy

Pamphlets and booklets considered of questionable value for his book by Sinnott

Folder E
A - Gu

Folder F
Gu - North B

Folder G
North Pa - Wood

BOX IV

Index cards of notes on all churches considered, arranged alphabetically by state and alphabetically by town within each state

Folder A
Connecticut

Folder B
Maine

Folder C
Massachusetts

Folder D
New Hampshire

Folder E
Rhode Island

Folder F
Vermont

Folder G
Index cards for some churches at interim stage of information, arranged alphabetically by town

Folder H
Index cards for all churches visited or studied, but not included in book, alphabetically by town, Am-Hon

Folder I
Continuation of preceding item, Mon - Y

BOX V

Folder A
Four lists of photographs and other illustrations of New England meetinghouses and churches given to NHCHS by 'Sinnott and Manter

(11) 1926-61

(22) 1916-60

(17) 1916-64

(26) 1916-62

(100)

(58)

(164)

(98)

(29)

(61)

(56)

(130)

(129)

(48) 1965
Folder B
Photos of churches erected before 1830 and mentioned in Sinnott's book, alphabetically by town, Acton - Brattleboro. Some include negatives

Folder C
As above, Br - Crafts

Folder D
As above, Cu - Fi

Folder E
As above, Fo - Henn

Folder A
As above, Henn - Li

Folder B
As above, Lo - Newbury

Folder C
As above, Newburyport - North D

Folder A
As above, North G - Prov

Folder B
As above, Prov - South A

Folder C
As above, South B - Tr

Folder D
As above, Un - West H

Folder A
Photos by Manter of churches built since 1830, of some architectural or historical interest, but not used in book, alphabetical by town, Ab - East

Folder B
As above, El - Med

Folder C
As above, Mi - Pl

Folder D
As above, Po -
BOX IX
Folder A
Photos and postcards of all churches and meetinghouses arranged alphabetically by town. Includes all photos by Manter and 40 prints from glass negatives made by James Buckley about 1910's. See lists in Box V for specific authorship. Ab - Be
Folder B
As above, Bi - Cor
Folder C
As above, Cor - Ea
Folder D
As above, En - Ham
Folder E
As above, Han - Kin
Folder F
Oversize of above items, packaged separately

BOX X
Folder A
As above, Kit - Na
Folder B
As above, New - Pea
Folder C
As above, Pel - Sea
Folder D
As above, Se - Str

BOX XI
Folder A
As above, Su - Wap
Folder B
As above, War to West T
Folder C
As above, West W -
Folder D
Sole copies of photos not used, arranged alphabetically by towns, A - D
Folder E
As above, E - N
Folder F
As above, P - Y
MSS #328
BOX XI (cont.)

Folder C
As above, but towns unknown

Folder H
Photos and engravings from various sources, collected by Sinnott, together with a few enlargements of Manter's photos, and separated by Sinnott from other photos. Some duplicates, some used, and some neither

Folder I
Personal and church photos grouped by Sinnott. Some identified; none used

Folder J
Prints from glass negatives of the collection now held in photography department of the Society.

Folder K
Two letters and additional photos by Jerauld Manter send in response to request for biographical information