

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts  
No. E28

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- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the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

On June 24, 1916 Sinnott had married Mabel H. Shaw. When he died in New Haven on Jan. 7, 1968, she and three children survived: Edmund W. Sinnott, Jr., Mildred Shaw (Mrs. E.H. Hill, Jr.) and Clara Richardson (Mrs. E.M. Lipsey).

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 alphabetical 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 over-size 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 (1) 1965  
 Letter from young friend in Puerto Rico (1) 1923  
 Letter from mother (1) 1933  
 Letters from Jerauld A. Manter (6) 1967  
 Letters from various persons with information about churches of possible interest to Sinnott. (19)1923-58

Folder B

Continuation of preceding item (20)1959-67  
 Continuation of preceding item (4) n.d.

Folder C

Letters to Sinnott from Leon Wilson, his editor at McGraw-Hill (16)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) " "

## BOX I (cont.)

Folder O

Continuation of preceding item, No-Sh

(25)1960-61

Folder P

Continuation of preceding item, Sh-Un

(25) " "

Folder Q

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

(12)1923

Lecture, The Church Architecture of Early New England, possibly delivered at Connecticut State Grange, Storrs

(8) n.d.

Folder B

Lists compiled in organization of book

1. Illustrations in book, in numerical series by code numbers

(10) c.1962

2. Meetinghouses of interest in Maine and Vermont

(8) c.1962

3. Classification by type

(2) "

4. Altered Type II churches

(4)

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. 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

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 GThumbnail sketches of early churches in Conn, and Rhode Island (27) 1958

## BOX II (cont.)

Folder HThumbnail sketches of early churches in Maine and Vermont (23) 1958Folder IAs above, in Massachusetts, A-L (27) 1958Folder J

As above, N-- (27) "

Folder KAs 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 OPieces of Eight, school publication given by Charlotte H. Isham, supervisor of instruction in Woodbury, containing descriptions of churches of Woodbury (1) 1955Folder PPeriodical clippings about early churches in Connecticut (16) 1939-66Folder QAs above, in Maine and Massachusetts (12) n.d.-1967Folder RAs 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

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BOX III (cont.)

Folder D

Sa - Wy

(11)1926-61

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

Folder E

A - Gu

(22)1916-60

Folder F

Gu - North, B

(17)1916-64

Folder G

North Fa - Wood

(26)1916-62

## BOX IV

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

Folder A

Connecticut

(100)

Folder B

Maine

(58)

Folder C

Massachusetts

(164)

Folder D

New Hampshire

(98)

Folder E

Rhode Island

(29)

Folder F

Vermont

(61)

Folder G

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

(56)

Folder H

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

(130)

Folder I

Continuation of preceding item, Mon - Y

(129)

## BOX V

Folder A

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

(48) 1965

Folder B

Photos of churches erected before 1830 and mentioned in Sinnott's book, alphabetically by town, Acton - Brattleboro. Some include negatives (32)

Folder C

As above, Br - Crafts (32)

Folder D

As above, Cu - Fi (32)

Folder E

As above, Fo - Henn (32)

BOX VI:

Folder A

As above, Henn - Li (32)

Folder B

As above, Lo - Newbury (32)

Folder C

As above, Newburyport - North D (32)

BOX VII

Folder A

As above, North G - Prov (32)

Folder B

As above, Prov - South A (32)

Folder C

As above, South B - Tr (32)

Folder D

As above, Un - West H (32)

BOX VIII

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 (32)

Folder B

As above, El - Med (33)

Folder C

As above, Mi - Pl (31)

Folder D

As above, Po - (45)

## 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 (40)

Folder B

As above, Bi - Cor (50)

Folder C

As above, Cov - Ea (51)

Folder D

As above, En - Ham (51)

Folder E

As above, Han - Kin (50)

Folder F

Oversize of above items, packaged separately (18)

## BOX X

Folder A

As above, Kit - Na (50)

Folder B

As above, New - Pea (50)

Folder C

As above, Pel - Sea (50)

Folder D

As above, Se - Str (40)

## BOX XI

Folder A

As above, Su - Wap (50)

Folder B

As above, War to West T (40)

Folder C

As above, West W - (27)

Folder D

Sole copies of photos not used, arranged alphabetically by towns, A - D (15)

Folder E

As above, E - N (15)

Folder F

As above, P - Y (19)

Folder G

As above, but towns unknown

(9)

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

(48)

Folder I

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

(19)

Folder J

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

(24)

Folder K

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

(30)