

Book of memorandums and commentaries

Ms. Codex 1841

Finding aid prepared by Donna Brandolisio.

Last updated on May 09, 2019.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

August 2017

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Dickinson, William, active 1836-1845
Title	Book of memorandums and commentaries
Call number	Ms. Codex 1841
Date [inclusive]	1839-1841
Extent	1 volume
Language	English
Abstract	A volume comprising the diary entries of Philadelphian William Dickinson spanning the years 1839-1941.

Cite as:

Dickinson, William, Book of memorandums and commentaries, 1839-1841, Ms. Codex 1841, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Dickinson was the grandson of British born American landscape painter and inventor Joshua Shaw

(1776-1860). Dickinson lived in Philadelphia on Sansom Street near the theater district. He had a sister named Mary.

Scope and Contents

Leather bound volume comprising the diary entries of William Dickinson spanning the years from 1839 to 1841. Throughout the volume Dickinson recorded his attendance at art exhibitions, theatrical productions, lectures, and events in Philadelphia. There are several entries containing critiques of artists and their works at the exhibitions of the Artists and Amateurs Association and the Artists Fund Society. Dickinson discussed artists such as his grandfather Joshua Shaw, Thomas Sully, Rembrandt Peale, and John Neagle. In one entry Dickinson noted his purchase of a sketch by Neagle. He also mentioned some critiques he wrote regarding exhibitions were published in the Philadelphia American Sentinel. Dickinson attended plays at the Walnut Street Theater where he saw Edwin Forrest perform in *Gladiator*. He also attended concerts with his sister Mary at Musical Fund Hall. Three pages are dedicated to the "forger Eldrige". Dickinson described events in Philadelphia such as the funeral of Lieutenant Weems and a Fourth of July celebration. Dickinson mentioned taking flute lessons, drawing, and joining the Lafayette Literary Association. He also noted consultation work at the U.S. Mint. The diary is written on sixty-eight numbered, ruled pages at the beginning of the volume. The remainder is blank.

Administrative Information

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Source of Acquisition

Sold by Ian Brabner Rare Americana (Wilmington, Delaware), 2017.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Codices (bound manuscripts)
- Diaries
- Manuscripts, American--19th century

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)--History--19th century--Sources
- Philadelphia (Pa.)--Social life and customs--19th century

SUBJECT(S)

- American diaries--19th century--Specimens
- American diaries--Male authors--19th century

Collection Inventory

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