Reginald and Rachel French Collection
S 745.1 F875f, Manuscript

Reginald and Rachel French were long time residents of Amherst, MA, where he was a professor of Romance languages at Amherst College. Both were avid students and collectors of antiques, and from 1953 to 1993 they operated an antiques business from their home. Items in their collection of papers reflect their interests in the study, collecting and sale of antiques. Reginald died in 1996, and Rachel died in 2000, at the age of 94. Their collection of papers was given to Historic Deerfield Library by their children, Dick and Polly French.

The collection consists of 9 boxes, including correspondence, notes, drawings, account books, periodical articles, photographs and slides. The following is a list of folder headings and subject references:

Antiques-- Sale and purchase of
  See  Record books-- French
       Record Books-- Lawrence, L.B.
       Record Books-- Raymond, Percy
Amherst-- Architecture
  Notes re Amherst houses, etc.
Amherst Historical Society
  Appraisal of items belonging to the Society done by Reginald French in 1979, material relating to exhibits, and a newspaper article regarding acquisitions, including a dress of Emily Dickinson.
Antiques-- Caring for
  Notes, etc. regarding the care of antiques.  6 items.
Banks
  See  Toy banks
Baskets
  Publications, correspondence, etc. regarding Native American baskets, including material on baskets from the French's collection
Beadwork-- Native American
  Correspondence between Rachel French and James B. Richardson of The Carnegie Museum of Natural History relating to items in her collection.
Brass
  Material relating to brass items, including standishes, inkwells, bells, teapots. Includes photographic slides.
Cabinetmakers
  See  Furniture-- Cabinetmakers
Candlesticks-- Bell bases
  Notes, drawings, and photographs.
Candlesticks—Covered urns
  Notes and drawings.
Candlesticks—Donuts
  Notes and drawings.
Candlesticks-- Drum bases
  Notes and drawings.
Candlesticks—English
  Notes, drawings, and illustrations from periodicals
Candlesticks—European
Lists of candlesticks, etc. purchased by Reginald French (in Italy?), drawings, photographs and slides, etc.
Candlesticks-- Federal (Classic revival)
  Notes, drawings, and photographic slides.
Candlesticks-- Flat bases (trencher bases)
  Notes, drawings, and illustrations
Candlesticks-- Mid-drip
  Photographs, notes, and drawings
Candlesticks—Miscellaneous
  Notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.
Candlesticks—Pewter
  Periodical articles, notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.
Candlesticks-- Style cycles
  Notes and drawings.
Ceramics-- Articles re
Ceramics-- Benjamin Leigh
  Research notes re Benjamin Leigh, an 18th c. Boston merchant and possibly a manufacturer of earthenware
Ceramics-- Delftware-- Correspondence, journal articles, and photographs
Ceramics-- Delftware-- Notes and slides
Ceramics-- Inventories and newspaper references
Ceramics-- Miscellaneous
  Miscellaneous notes and drawings relating to ceramics.
Ceramics-- Photographs
Church, John W. -- Appraisal
  Appraisal done by Reginald French of the contents of the home of the Church’s home
Communion services
  See  Pewter-- Communion services
Delftware
  See  Ceramics-- Delftware
  See  Ceramics-- Benjamin Leigh
Dolbeare family
  See  Pewter-- Dolbeare family
Exhibits-- Erastus Salisbury Field
  See  Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Exhibits
Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Articles re
Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Biographical
Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Chronology
Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Correspondence of R. F. French re, c.1949-85
Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Exhibits
Field, Erastus Salisbury-- Miscellaneous
Forbes Library-- Appraisal
  Appraisal done by French in 1983 of furniture belonging to the library.
French, Reginald and Rachel-- Miscellaneous
  Newspaper clippings, obituary and memorial service bulletin (for Rachel), correspondence, etc.
French, Reginald-- Record Books
  Records of purchases and sales of antiques, c. 1947- c. 1953. 2 bound vols. and loose papers.
Furniture-- Cabinet makers
Brief notes on several cabinet makers
Furniture-- English exports
   Periodical article
Furniture-- Miscellaneous
   Photographs of chairs and tables. 5 items.
Furniture-- Shaker
   Periodical article.
Glass
   Periodical and photographic slides. 6 items.
Great-grandmother's portfolio
   See Exhibits-- "Great-grandmother's Portfolio"
Hearth equipment
   Miscellaneous notes, drawings, correspondence, photographs, and slides.
Inventory
   An inventory of household goods belonging to an unnamed individual (possibly a probate inventory). Undated.
Iron and iron founders
   Notes on several iron founders, their marks, etc.
Kinney, Arthur F., Jr.-- Appraisal
   Appraisal done by French of furniture, baskets, artwork, etc. Kinney was of Amherst, MA.
   Undated (late 18th c. ?).
Lawrence, L.B.-- Record Books
   Records of purchases, gifts, and sales of antiques, 1901-1950. Books were kept in Foxboro and Northboro. 3 vols.
Leigh, Benjamin
   See Ceramics-- Benjamin Leigh
Lighting devices
   Notes, correspondence, clippings from periodicals, photographic slides, and a paper by Garland Pass titled “American Brass Whale Oil Lamps”.
Measures—Balustres
   Miscellaneous notes, photographs, and slides.
Measures-- Correspondence re
Measures-- Marks
Measures-- Miscellaneous
   Notes, photographs, and slides.
Measures-- New Hampshire
Metrology
   See Measures
Metrology-- Miscellaneous
Native American baskets
   See Baskets
Needlework
   See Textiles
Northampton Historical Society-- Appraisal (1983)
Peele, R.
   See Receipts
Pewter
   See also Raymond, Percy-- Record Book
See also Measures-- Balustres
Pewter-- Articles and clippings
Pewter-- Candlesticks
    See Candlesticks-- Pewter
Pewter-- Collections
Pewter-- Communion services
Pewter-- Correspondence re
    See also Pewter-- Dolbeare family
Pewter-- Dolbeare family
Pewter-- Miscellaneous
Pewter-- Photographs and slides
Pewter-- Porringers
Pewter-- Price lists
Pewter-- Samuel Pierce
Pewter-- "RB" marks
Pewter-- Rubbings
Pewter-- Sundials
Pewter Collectors of America-- New England Regional Group
Pewterers
    See also Pewter-- Dolbeare family
    Pewter-- Samuel Pierce
Pierce, Samuel
    See Pewter-- Samuel Pierce
Playing cards
    Article on German playing cards
Porcelain
Porringers
    See Pewter-- Porringers
Probate inventory
    See Inventory
Raymond, Percy-- Record Book
    Records of purchases of pewter items, 1925-(1938?). 1 vol.
Receipts
    Receipts for items purchased by John Waters between 1815 and 1829 (razors, penknives, iron
    punches and a copper boiling pan from R. Peele of Salem; B.L. pots from Revere Copper Co,
    Boston; 2 sets of knives and forks from R. Brookhouse in Salem). 3 items.
Record Books
    See Raymond, Percy-- Record Book
    French, Reginald-- Record Books
    Lawrence, L.B.-- Record Books
Revere Copper Co.
    See Receipts
Seals
Silver
    Miscellaneous material regarding silver and silversmiths, including a list of Pioneer Valley
    Silversmiths, drawings,
Silversmiths-- Deerfield
Silversmiths-- Miscellaneous
Silversmiths-- Northampton
Spoons
Sundials-- Correspondence
Sundials-- Josiah Miller
    See also  Sundials-- Miscellaneous
Sundials-- Miscellaneous
Sundials-- Pewter
    See  Pewter-- Sundials
Textiles
Tiles
Toy Banks
    1 periodical article
Trenchers
    1 periodical article
Waters, John
    See  Receipts