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 children, Dick and Polly French, gave their collection of papers to Historic Deerfield Library. The collection consists of 9 boxes, including correspondence, notes, drawings, account books, periodical articles, photographs and slides.

**Box and Folder List:**

**Box 1**
1. Amherst—Architecture  
   Notes re Amherst houses, etc.
2. 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.
3. Antiques—Caring for  
   Notes, etc. regarding the care of antiques. 6 items.
4. Baskets  
   Publications, correspondence, etc. regarding Native American baskets, including material on baskets from the French’s collection
5. Beadwork—Native American  
   Correspondence between Rachel French and James B. Richardson of The Carnegie Museum of Natural History relating to items in her collection.
6. Brass  
   Material relating to brass items, including standishes, inkwells, bells, teapots. Includes photographic slides.
7. Candlesticks—Bell bases  
   Notes, drawings, and photographs.
8. Candlesticks—Covered urns  
   Notes and drawings.
9. Candlesticks—Donuts  
   Notes and drawings.
10. Candlesticks—Drum bases  
    Notes and drawings.
11. Candlesticks—English  
    Notes, drawings, and illustrations from periodicals
12. Candlesticks—European  
    Lists of candlesticks, etc. purchased by Reginald French (in Italy?), drawings, photographs and slides, etc.
13. Candlesticks—Federal (Classic revival)  
    Notes, drawings, and photographic slides.
14. Candlesticks—Flat bases (trencher bases)
Notes, drawings, and illustrations

15. Candlesticks—Mid-drip
   Photographs, notes, and drawings

16. Candlesticks—Miscellaneous
   Notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.

17. Candlesticks—Pewter
   Periodical articles, notes, drawings, photographs, and slides.

18. Candlesticks—Style cycles
   Notes and drawings.

Box 2
1. Ceramics—Articles re
2. Ceramics—Benjamin Leigh
   Research notes re Benjamin Leigh, an 18th c. Boston merchant and possibly a manufacturer of earthenware
3. Ceramics—Delftware—Correspondence, journal articles, and photographs
4. Ceramics—Delftware—Notes and slides
5. Ceramics—Inventories and newspaper references
6. Ceramics—Miscellaneous
   Miscellaneous notes and drawings relating to ceramics.
7. Ceramics—Photographs
8. Church, John W.—Appraisal
   Appraisal done by Reginald French of the contents of the home of the Church’s home

Box 3
1. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Articles re
2. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Biographical
3. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Chronology
5. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Exhibits
6. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Miscellaneous

Box 4
1. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Non-portraits
2. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Portraits, 1833-1836
3. Field, Erastus Salisbury—after 1836
4. Field, Erastus Salisbury—children
5. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Early
6. Field, Erastus Salisbury—Hubbard

Box 5
1. Forbes Library—Appraisal
   Appraisal done by French in 1983 of furniture belonging to the library.
2. French, Reginald and Rachel—Miscellaneous
   Newspaper clippings, obituary and memorial service bulletin (for Rachel), correspondence, etc.
3. French, Reginald—Record Books
   Records of purchases and sales of antiques, c. 1947- c. 1953. 2 bound vols. and loose papers.
4. Furniture—Cabinet makers
Brief notes on several cabinetmakers
5. Furniture—English exports
   Periodical article
6. Furniture—Miscellaneous
   Photographs of chairs and tables. 5 items.
7. Furniture—Shaker
   Periodical article.
8. Glass
   Periodical and photographic slides. 6 items.

Box 6
1. Hearth equipment
   Miscellaneous notes, drawings, correspondence, photographs, and slides.
2. Inventory
   An inventory of household goods belonging to an unnamed individual (possibly a probate inventory). Undated.
3. Iron and iron founders
   Notes on several iron founders, their marks, etc.
4. Kinney, Arthur F., Jr.—Appraisal
   Appraisal done by French of furniture, baskets, artwork, etc. Kinney was of Amherst, MA. Undated (ca. late 18th c.).
5-6. Lawrence, L.B.—Record Books
   Records of purchases, gifts, and sales of antiques, 1901-1950. Books were kept in Foxboro and Northboro. 3 vols.

Box 7
1. Lighting devices
   Notes, correspondence, clippings from periodicals, photographic slides, and a paper by Garland Pass titled “American Brass Whale Oil Lamps”.
2. Measures—Balustres
   Miscellaneous notes, photographs, and slides.
3. Measures—Correspondence re
4. Measures—Marks
5. Measures—New Hampshire
6. Metrology—Miscellaneous
8. Pewter—Articles and clippings
9. Pewter—Collections
10. Pewter—Communion services
11. Pewter—Correspondence re

Box 8
1. Pewter—Dolbeare family
2. Pewter—Marks
3. Pewter—Miscellaneous
4. Pewter—Photographs and slides
5. Pewter—Porringers
7. Pewter—Samuel Pierce
8. Pewter—“RB” marks
9. Pewter—Rubbings
10. Pewter—Sundials
11. Pewter Collectors of America—New England Regional Group
12. Pewterers
13. Playing cards
   Article on German playing cards
14. Porcelain
15. Portraits—Miscellaneous artists and unknown artists

Box 9
1. Raymond, Percy—Record Book
   Records of purchases of pewter items, 1925-(1938?). 1 vol.
2. 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.
3. Seals
4. Silver
   Miscellaneous material regarding silver and silversmiths, including a list of Pioneer Valley
   Silversmiths, drawings,
5. Silversmiths—Deerfield
6. Silversmiths—Miscellaneous
7. Silversmiths—Northampton
8. Spoons
9. Sundials—Correspondence, 1960-1975
10. Sundials—Josiah Miller
11. Sundials—Miscellaneous
12. Textiles
13. Tiles
14. Toy Banks
   1 periodical article
15. Trenchers
   1 periodical article