



Boston Children's Museum
308 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
(617) 426-6500

ARCHIVES Finding Aid

Accession #:
A 2017.5
Date(s) Accessioned:
August 31, 2017

Science Teachers Bureau and Children's Museum Bill Binder 1910, 1912-1914; [1912-1913]

Descriptive Summary

Collection ID: A 2017.5

Repository: Boston Children's Museum Archives

Title: Science Teachers Bureau and Children's Museum Bill Binder

Creators: Various officers and staff members of the Children's Museum and Science Teacher Bureau; several of the names included, but are not limited to: J. Allen Crosby, Edson L. Ford, Delia Griffin, Archer M. Nickerson, E.M. O'Bryan, and Felix P. O'Connor.

Dates: 1910, 1912-1914; Bulk: 1912-1913

Extent: .08 linear feet; 1 folder with materials from binder

Language(s) of Materials: English

Abstract: This collection contains various receipts of monetary transactions carried out by several officers and staff of the Children's Museum and Science Teacher Bureau from 1910 and from 1912-1914.

Conditions of Access and Use

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research. Researchers must sign a permission form to use the collection.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright belongs to Boston Children's Museum. All requests for permission to publish or quote for publication must be submitted in writing to the Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Boston Children's Museum as the owner of the physical items and as the owner of copyright in items.

Citation: Science Teachers Bureau and Children's Museum Bill Binder, Boston Children's Museum Archives, Boston, MA.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: The Museum received the materials through the mail from David C. Twichell to Phyllis O'Connell (BCM staff) in January 1975. The letter, which remains in the archival accession records, states:

“The attached bundle of material was given to me by Professor Clarence B. Nickerson, whose father apparently was the Treasurer of the Children’s Museum some years back. Mr. Nickerson came across the package while cleaning out his desk...”

Clarence Nickerson’s father was likely Archer M. Nickerson, whose signature appears several times in the receipts. The receipts were likely organized and managed by Archer M. Nickerson while he was treasurer for the Museum.

Gift: Gift of David C. Twichell and Clarence B. Nickerson, 1975

Background Information

Historical Note: Beginning in 1909, the Science Teachers’ Bureau, a group of Boston educators, gathered a collection of natural history objects for classroom use. They were a group of visionary educators dedicated to providing new resources for both teachers and students, as a center for the exchange of materials and ideas to advance the teaching of science. Combining a Progressive Era desire for experiential learning, inquiry, and social justice with the popularity of the nature study movement, they created a collection that could serve Boston-area science teachers. Then in 1913, the Science Teachers' Bureau Boston founded Children’s Museum which is the second oldest children’s museum in the world.

Custodial History: The materials were likely first owned and managed by Archer M. Nickerson when he was the Treasurer of the Children’s Museum from 1910 to 1914. At some point over the years, the materials were passed to Archer’s son, Professor Clarence B. Nickerson. Then Clarence gave the materials to David C. Twichell, who would then mail the materials to the Children’s Museum in January, 1975.

Collection Information

Scope and Content: The Science Teachers Bureau and Children's Museum Bill Binder consists of various bills and receipts paid by officers and staff of the Science Teachers Bureau and Children’s Museum through 1910 and between 1912 and 1914. A majority of the receipts are dated between 1912 and 1913, which is around the time the Children’s Museum was established. The officers and staff received individual monetary receipts of payment for administrative supplies and for services rendered to the Museum. Some of the supplies included paper stock, folders, envelopes, cases, and taxidermy stands. Also, they received receipts for services such as printing, creating letterhead designs, and lessons taught by educators.

Arrangement: Materials within the binder are kept in original order. Materials were removed from binder for preservation reasons.

Other Relevant Collections: Board of Trustees Records

Processing Information

Processed by: Brittany Contratto, Collection Processed in August 2017 and finding aid completed in February 2018.

Archivists Note: The binder was found during a 2017 inventory of the 2006 Centennial Collection. With the binder, there were two letters from 1975 relating to the transfer of the binder from Twichell to the Museum. This collection was accessioned in August 2017 and separated from the 2006 Centennial Collection materials.

Rules or Conventions of Finding Aid: Prepared following Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)