

**DESCRIPTION OF
POTENTIAL TEXT DIGITIZATION PROJECT**

Selector: *JU*

Holding Library:

Columbia University Archives-Columbiana Library

Collection Title (Please Provide a Name for this Project):

Nathaniel Fish Moore Photographs, ca. 1845

1. Nature of Digitization Project

- a. Briefly describe the materials to be digitized, including their subject or discipline-related content, chronological or geographical coverage, languages and character sets, etc.

Nathaniel Fish Moore was ninth president of the Columbia College in 1842 and was eventually succeeded by Charles King in 1849. Moore practiced photography during his presidency, using the earliest photographic process--the salted paper print.

Collection includes one of the earliest photographs of Columbia College, dating 1845 at Forty Park Place, photos of New York City and portraits of Clement Clarke Moore, credited for the poem, "The Night Before Christmas" and Pierre Toussaint, a Haitian born into slavery who moved to New York and became known for his charitable work.

- b. *[Optional: Indicate whether the project assumes external funding or should be considered for accomplishing in-house with existing staff resources; indicate too whether the project might be considered a demonstration project for the purposes of attracting funding for a larger project.]*
- c. Describe the priority this project has relative to other possible projects in your area by selecting one of the following options:

Immediate Short-Term Medium-Term Long-Term

2. Scope of Digitization

- a. Specify the types/genres and amount of material to be digitized (e.g., 10 volumes amounting to ca. 1800 pages of text, ca. 100 volumes amounting to ca. 30,000 pages of text with many black and white illustrations, 2 folio volumes of ca. 400 pages with ca. 150 oversized color images)

38 saltprints, dimensions ranging approximately 5"x7" to 12"x14".

- b. For textual materials, indicate whether they will be also need to be OCR'd and presented as searchable text, or whether page images only are needed.
- c. *[Optional :For other materials, please indicate any requirements or assumptions about the quality of scans, derivatives, indexing, etc.]*

3. Value to Columbia Libraries Collections

- a. How would this project strengthen, complement or otherwise relate to existing paper (etc.) or digital collections at CUL?
- b. Does this material relate to the collection development policies of the holding library or the Libraries as a whole?
- c. Are there other comparable or related digital collections already available publicly?

This collection adds to the available works by 19th century Columbia presidents.

4. Value to Columbia Research & Teaching

- a. How would this project serve current, recognized research, study or curricular needs of Columbia?

This collection contains examples of the first photographic process, invented by Henry Fox Talbot in 1839.

- b. Which Columbia faculty members work in the area covered by this project? Have they indicated they would make use of these materials, or materials of this type, in digitized form?

5. Partnerships

- a. Are there other Columbia groups that we can or should partner with in this type of project?
- b. Are there other institutions that are particularly strong in these or related materials that we can or should partner with?

6. Scope of Cataloging

- a. Have these materials been cataloged, described in a finding aid, or have another kind of metadata? Please describe and include links to cataloging or finding aids if available.

Finding aid available in 210 Low. MARC record in CLIO.

- b. *[Optional: If not, please give details of type and amount of cataloging / description being proposed within the context of this grant and how it would be accomplished.]*

7. Rights / Permissions

- a. Identify copyright issues and other potential restrictions. Are these materials in the public domain? Does Columbia hold rights for copying and dissemination? (If you are not sure of the answers to the preceding, what percentage of the material was published prior to 1923? What percentage between 1923 and 1963?)

Prints are the property of Columbia University, dating ca. 1845.

- b. *[Optional: Describe approach to resolving or managing these restrictions within the context of the project.]*

8. Physical Condition

- a. Are the physical items intact, in good condition, and playable (where appropriate, e.g. videotapes)?

- b. *[Optional: If not, describe in general terms what types of physical problems are present.]*

Salt prints are very sensitive to light. Flat-bed scanning is fairly benign compared to long exposure under photo bulbs, but care should be taken to avoid re-scanning, because of the tendency of salt prints to fade with exposure to light. High-quality, full-color digital scans would serve more as surrogates, preventing continued handling and reproduction of the originals.

- c. Are the materials appropriately housed, or will rehousing be part of the project?

- d. *[Optional: Will any conservation treatment or other physical work be needed to enable the materials to be digitized? For instance, it may not be possible to digitize a book that is tightly bound and has narrow margins without disbinding it.]*

- e. For archival and manuscript collections, have the materials been fully processed and arranged? **Yes.**



26