NAME OF COLLECTION: MONTGOMERY, Robert Hester (1872-1953)-- Accountancy

SOURCE: Gift - Colonel Robert H. Montgomery, 1924

SUBJECT: account books and other business records

DATES COVERED: ca. 1300 - 1941  NUMBER OF ITEMS: 1175 vols.

STATUS: (check appropriate description)
Cataloged: X  Listed: Arranged: Not organized:

CONDITION: (give number of vols., boxes, or shelves)
Bound: 1154 vols.  Boxed: Stored: Vault (Stack 14)

LOCATION: (Library) Rare Book and Manuscript

DESCRIPTION:
A collection of manuscript account books and documents which illustrate and document the history of accounting and business procedures from the 14th into the 20th century. There are well over 1000 volumes and documents in this collection, compiled in chronological order. The earliest item is Ms. 17, a record book relating to agriculture and accounting during the 13th century. The latest is an account book from 1941. The types of volumes contained in this collection include instruction books, ledgers, trade books, journals, bookkeeping ledgers, account books, inventory books, inventories, indentures, leaseholds, leasehold books, company, leasehold books, articles of agreement, bills of sale, deeds, bills, and many other significant items.

The material originates in many countries around the globe, and represents a wide variety of businesses and occupations, from household to trading company (e.g., English and French trade and company volumes), and from artisan to laborer to lawyer and physician. The majority of the manuscripts are in English and French, of the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries. The earliest manuscript account is Ms. 75, 1150-1170, Joseph Slagle, Tarentum, Pa. Also in the collection are the household accounts of Edward III, king of England, an account of the expenses of Louis XIV of France for maintaining his courts in northern France and northern Italy during the period 1692-1697, and the accounts of the von Hersee banking family of Prussia, beginning in 1636. There are several multivolume manuscripts, such as Ms. 1, the Hamburger family, 1577-1580 (2 vols.), Ms. 230, the accounts of the John R. and Mary J. Young family, 1795-1780 (11 vols.); and the Hollenbeck company, 1874-1884 (12 vols., 16 vols.). Other accounts include those of John.
(Ms. 301)

Wlioever, [1880], in which are detailed his dealings with leading artists and architects, the Villiers manuscript (Ms. 65) which relates to the second Duke of Buckingham, and a number of manuscripts pertaining to the British Museum.

The majority of the American manuscripts are from New England and New York State and concern general stores, thus giving a significant insight into everyday life in the area and period; other accounts relate to places as far away as Alabama and California. Many of the manuscripts have a bearing on the social and political history of Europe and the Americas.

There is a separate card catalog in the third floor for this collection.

The manuscripts are cataloged by personal or corporate name. Where no individual governmental unit, firm etc. could be identified, the manuscripts were cataloged by place name. For a chronological approach to the collection, please use the shelflist which, with few exceptions, is arranged in chronological order.

in vault

ELG/BRC 9 Sept 1975