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Alexander Anderson Diary12916473

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Anderson, Alexander, 1775-1870
Title:	Alexander Anderson Diary
ID:	12916473
ID:	X92 An
Date [inclusive]:	1793-1799
Physical Description:	0.42 linear feet 3 volumes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Alexander Anderson Diary; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Alexander Anderson has long been considered the father of wood engraving in America, being the first in this country to adopt the technique developed in England by Thomas Bewick. Wood engraving produces a finer image than the standard woodcut by working on the denser end-grain section of the wood. Anderson acknowledged his debt to Bewick in 1804 by creating an American edition of Bewick's *A General History of Quadrupeds* (1790) with his own re-engraved blocks, adding "some American animals not hitherto described."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Anderson's connections to Columbia are many. He received an M.D. from Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1796, engraved Columbia's commencement ticket in 1794, and a bookplate for the College Library. As noted in his diary, he began sketching the design for the bookplate on March 14, 1795, delivered the finished work to President Johnson on March 25th, and was, after some effort on his part, paid £2, 8s on May 7th.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transfer from the John B. Pine Papers #3001F by BRC Letters from 1911/1912 in the Collection File

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

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Processing Information

Local identifier (call number) changed from MS#1861 to X92 An. kws 2022-12-13

Existence and Location of Copies

A typescript of the diaries is available in the [Columbiana Manuscripts collection](#), item 119.

Existence and Location of Copies

Microfilm for volume 1 is available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Wood-engraving
- New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs -- 18th century
- Diaries
- Engravers
- Anderson, Alexander, 1775-1870
- Columbia University