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Columbia University Founding Anniversaries Collection 6900533

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Archives
Title:	Columbia University Founding Anniversaries Collection
ID:	6900533
ID:	UA#0135
Date [inclusive]:	1837-2004
Physical Description:	7.08 linear feet 13 document boxes, 1 flat box, 1 record carton, and 29 oversized items
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Columbia University Founding Anniversaries Collection; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Historical Note

Columbia University was founded in 1754 as King's College by royal charter of King George II of England. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in the State of New York and the fifth oldest in the United States. King's College was founded in downtown colonial Manhattan and its campus continues to reside on Manhattan island in New York City.

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Biographical / Historical

King's College suspended classes in 1776 and was renamed Columbia College by Charter of 1784 after the American Revolution. According to University Attorney John Pine, in "Charters, Acts of the Legislature, Official Documents and Records" (New York: Printed for the University, 1920), the Charter of 1787 repealed the prior, which had deprived King's College of its Charter, corporate rights and property, and restored such to the Trustees of the College. The first significant anniversary recognized by the College is the semi-centennial of the Charter of 1787, celebrated in 1837. Later, the centennial of the College was celebrated corresponding to the establishment and charter dates in 1854 and 1887.

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Biographical / Historical

Minor events occurred to commemorate the Sesquicentennial (150th). Among these activities, President Nicholas Murray Butler hosted a commemorative dinner, a special service was held at Earl Hall, and a University Convocation was given where several honorary degrees were awarded, mostly to faculty.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1929, a large collection of portraits, both paintings and sculpture, of faculty and alumni were donated to the University by various individuals in honor of the 175th anniversary of the 1754 founding of King's College. A convocation was held October 31, honoring notable alumni and faculty of the University.

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Biographical / Historical

The celebrations of the University bicentennial included large scale, world-wide programs under the leadership of President Grayson Kirk. Anniversary sponsored productions and

events were held by other universities, libraries, and regional Columbia alumni committees. A traveling exhibit, convocations, conferences, lectures, and symposiums promoted the theme "Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof."

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Biographical / Historical

Commemorative objects produced included a stamp issued by the United States Postal Service. A "Bicentennial Medal" was awarded during special convocations. A thorough description of the year-long events is documented in the University publication, Columbia's "Bicentennial: An Account of the Planning and Execution of a World-Wide Program of Observances Centering on the Theme Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof" (New York: Columbia University, 1956).

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Biographical / Historical

In 2004, the University marked another major anniversary celebration. The "Columbia 250th" Office organized festivities accompanying the celebration of Columbia University's 250th Anniversary of the 1754 founding of King's College. These festivities included concerts, lectures, symposia, special publications, exhibitions, various ceremonies, and dinners among other events. A University-sponsored film directed by Ric Burns was produced by Steeplechase Films, distributed and screened by alumni organizations as well as broadcast on local PBS stations.

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Summary

This collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, calendars, posters and other printed matter, memorabilia including textiles, such as banners and t-shirts that document and commemorate the anniversary celebrations of Columbia University.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into seven series. Within each series and subseries folders are arranged in alphabetical order. The contents of each folder are arranged in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Added 175th Anniversary materials (Boxes 13-14) JR Added 175th Anniversary materials (Boxes 15-16) JR 2009-10-29 2019-05-20 2023-09-08 2023-10-06

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials: Source of acquisition--Columbia University Archives. Method of acquisition--collected by.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Additional materials: Source of acquisition--Alex Oberweger, Columbia 250 Office. Method of acquisition--donated by; Date of acquisition--December 2004.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by David Schmidt (SEAS, 2006) and Darragh Martin (GSAS 2011).

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Jennifer Ulrich, September 2007.

Processing Information

Additions written by Jocelyn Wilk in August 2008 and by Joanna Rios in September-October 2023.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Related collections in the University Archives: [Central Files \(Office of the President records\) \(UA#0001\)](#); [Historical photograph collection \(UA#0003\)](#); and [Flat Files Collection \(UA#0180\)](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Universities and colleges -- New York (State) -- New York

- Charters
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Commemorative postage stamps
- Posters
- Columbia University
- Columbia University -- Alumni and alumnae
- Columbia University -- Anniversaries, etc.
- Columbia University -- Centennial celebrations, etc.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Columbia College 50th Anniversary

Title/Description	Instances	
Columbia College Semi-Centennial, 1837	box 1	folder 1
Columbia College Semi-Centennial-Correspondence, 1837 1928, 1837, 1928	box 1	folder 2

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Series II: Columbia College Centennial (100th)

Title/Description	Instances	
Columbia Centennial, 1854	box 1	folder 3
Columbia College Centennial, 1887 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 folders)	box 1	folder 4-5
Columbia College Centennial, 1887	box 11	folder 1

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Series III: Columbia University Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150th)

Title/Description	Instances	
1904	box 1	folder 6
150th Anniversary, 1904 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 folders)	box 11	folder 2-3
Columbia Daily Spectator: 150th Anniversary Issue; Chandler-Van Amringe-Number, 1904 October 28, 1904	box Flat Files	
Poster, 1904		

box Flat
Files[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series IV: Columbia University 175th Anniversary**

Title/Description	Instances	
General, 1929 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 folders)	box 1	folder 7-8
Poster, 1929	box Flat Files	
Campus Exhibition Listing and Map, 1929	box Flat Files	

175th Anniversary Committee Records, 1928-1929

Scope and Contents

These files belonged to Dixon Ryan Fox, Professor of History, who was appointed the Chair of the General Committee in charge of the Program to Commemorate the Founding of King's College, Now Columbia University. Fox seems to have been working on a report of the events held during the celebration. The materials include committee minutes, correspondence, exhibition catalogues, printed materials and information about the funding for the newly commissioned portraits.

Bronze medals, 1929	box 13	folder 1
Scope and Contents These service medals were "awarded to [47] alumni of foreign birth and training who have returned important public service in their own lands, or for service to the Univesity." For a service medals, please see the Columbia Medals collection .		
Committee, 1928-1929	box 13	folder 2
Scope and Contents In addition to matters related to the membership of the committee and the minutes, this folder includes correspondence and clippings.		
Exhibitions - Correspondence, 1929	box 13	folder 3

Scope and Contents

Correspondence with Department Heads about special departmental exhibitions in the libraries.

Exhibitions - Summaries and Inventories, 1929	box 13	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
<p>Reports from the department heads who were asked to make "a full descriptive catalogue" of the exhibitions for publication in the general 175th report. Includes department information as well as from the general Columbia exhibitions (John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, Seth Low, etc.).</p>		
Guests - Ambassadors, 1929	box 13	folder 5
Lectures, 1929	box 13	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
<p>Correspondence between Dixon Ryan Fox and possible speakers.</p>		
Luncheons, 1929	box 13	folder 7
Scope and Contents		
<p>Over 2,500 alumni, faculty members and current students attended the departmental luncheons held on campus on Wednesday, October 30, 1929. From Library Service to Philosophy, History, English and Comparative Literature, Teachers College, Engineering, departments welcomed their guests to lunch at their home offices, libraries, International House, Faculty House, etc. For departments that did not organize a luncheon, guests were asked to lunch at the Grill in John Jay Hall. Prof. Fox asked department heads to submit summaries of the luncheons for inclusion in the final 175 report. This folder contains those accounts.</p>		
Portraits, 1929	box 13	folder 8
Scope and Contents		
<p>55 artworks were on display during the celebration: 52 portraits (including new commissions and loaned works); one model of the King's College building by McKim, Mead & White; and two sculptures (John Dewey by Jacob Epstein and James Earl Russell by Sergei Konenkov).</p>		
Portraits - Beard, Charles A., 1929	box 13	folder 9
Portraits - Dunning, William Archibald, 1929	box 13	folder 10
Portraits - Jackson, A.V.W., 1929		

	box 13	folder 11
Portraits - Livingston, William, 1929	box 14	folder 1
Portraits - Seligman, E.R.A., 1929	box 14	folder 2
Portraits - Wilson, Edmund Beecher, 1929	box 14	folder 3
Press clippings, 1929	box 14	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Newspaper and Columbia Alumni News, November 1929		
Printed materials, 1929	box 14	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Program, seating list, ticket requests		
Synopsis (including a full schedule of events), 1929	box 14	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
Includes multiple drafts		
175th Anniversary Committee Chair's Correspondence		
A-G, 1929	box 14	folder 7
H-R, 1929	box 14	folder 8
S-Z, 1929	box 14	folder 9
Anniversary Memos, 1929	box 14	folder 10
175th Anniversary Mailings and Printed Materials		
Sample Invitations, 1929		
Notice to Alumni, 1929	box 15	folder 1
Notice to Faculty, 1929	box 15	folder 2
Distribution Records, 1929	box 15	folder 3
Events Program, 1929 October 25-31	box 15	folder 4
Service of Praise and Thanksgiving Program, 1929 October 27	box 15	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Includes the text of the address delivered by Rev. Raymond C. Knox		
Catalogue of Portraits, 1929 October 28-November 8	box 15	folder 6
University Assembly Program, 1929 October 30	box 15	folder 7

Alumni Dinner Menu, Program and Seating List, 1929 October 30	box 15	folder 8
Scope and Contents		
Hotel Pennsylvania		
175th Anniversary Celebration Convocation		
University Convocation Invitation, 1929	box 15	folder 8
Anniversary Celebration Program, 1929 October 31	box 16	folder 1
Formulas used by President Nicholas Murray Butler in Conferring Honorary Degrees at the University Convocation, 1929 October 31	box 16	folder 2
Ave Mater Immortalis - Concluding Address by President Butler at the 175th Anniversary University Convocation, 1929 October 31	box 16	folder 3

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Series V: Columbia University Bicentennial (200th)

Title/Description	Instances	
[1954]	box 2	folder 1
Charter Day, October 30, 1954	box 2	folder 2
Clippings, 1953-1954	box 2	folder 3
Clippings, 1954	box 2	folder 4
Columbia University: A Background, 1950 1953, 1950, 1953	box 2	folder 5
Convocation, 1954 July 1, 1954	box 2	folder 6
Correspondence, 1954-1956	box 2	folder 7
CSPA--Committee, 1950s	box 2	folder 8
Events, 1954	box 2	folder 9
Events, 1954	box 3	folder 1
File Index, 1955	box 3	folder 2
Film, 1950-1951	box 3	folder 3
First Report and Recommendations of the Bicentennial Public Relations Committee, 1952	box 3	folder 4
Materials, 1952-1954	box 3	folder 5
Medal, 1954	box 3	folder 6
Planning, 1952-1954		

	box 3	folder 7
Planning and Reports, 1952-1954	box 3	folder 8
Posters, 1952-1954 <u>Physical Description</u> : (2 folders)	box Flat Files	
Press Release Packet, 1954	box 3	folder 9
Programs, 1954	box 3	folder 10
Special Publications, 1954	box 4	folder 1
Speakers, Bureau, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 2
Stamp:		
1954	box 4	folder 3
Ceremony Acceptances, 1954	box 4	folder 4
Ceremony Regrets, 1954	box 4	folder 5
Clippings, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 6
Committee, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 7
Correspondence, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 8
Issues, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 9
Photographs and artwork, 1953-1954	box 4	folder 10

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Series VI: Columbia University 250th Anniversary

Subseries VI.1: Program Files

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles and Announcements, 2003-2004	box 6	folder 1
Book Party <i>Changing The Subject</i> , 2004	box 6	folder 2
Campus Exhibit, Low Rotunda, 2004	box 6	folder 3
Closing Festivities:		
HOWL, 2004	box 6	folder 4
Program Calendar, 2004	box 6	folder 5
Symposium--The 21st-Century City and it s Values: Urbanism, Toleration, and Equality, 2004	box 6	folder 6
Symposium--Re: NEW Frontiers in Creativity	box 6	folder 7
Tickets	box 6	folder 8

Commencement, 2004	box 6	folder 9
Columbia University Symposium:		
Brain and Mind, 2004	box 6	folder 10
Constitutions, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, 2003	box 6	folder 11
Earth's Future: Taming the Climate, 2004	box 6	folder 12
Genes and Genomes, 2003	box 6	folder 13
Columbia University in Asia, undated	box 6	folder 14
Dinner with H.R.H Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, 2004	box 6	folder 15
E-mails, 2004	box 6	folder 16
E-Newsletters, 2004	box 6	folder 17
Fred Friendly Seminar--Liberty and Security in an Age of Terrorism, 2003	box 6	folder 18
History Series--Our Past Engaged, 2004	box 6	folder 19
Living Legacies, 2004	box 6	folder 20
Miscellaneous Printed Matter, undated	box 6	folder 21
Opening Weekend, 2003	box 7	folder 3
Program Calendar, 2003-2004 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 folders)	box 7	folder 5-6
Publications, Special Editions, 2003-2004	box 7	folder 7
Tea and Talk: Alma Mater at 100, 2003	box 7	folder 9

Subseries VI.2: Memorabilia and Objects

Title/Description	Instances
Alma Mater Foam Crowns	box 9
Bandanas	box 9
Book Covers, 2004 undated., 2004 undated	box 7 folder 6
Columbia University 250th Banner:	
School of Library Service	box 8
College of Pharmaceutical Science	
Columbia 250 Community Festival Mini-Pennants	box 8
Columbia 250 Community Festival T-Shirt	box 9
Columbia 250 Community Festival Postcards	box 9
Columbians Ahead of Their Time folders	box 9

Columbia University 250 Staff Rugby Shirt	box 9	
Ephemera, 2004 undated	box 7	folder 7
Framed Artwork Commemorating President Bollinger's trip to Asia	box 8	
Picture Cube	box 8	
Postcard, 2004	box 7	folder 8
Stationery, undated	box 7	folder 9

Subseries VI.3: Moving Pictures

Title/Description	Instances
<i>C250 Slideshow</i> , CD-R	box 10
<i>Columbia 250 Year Celebration</i> , directed by Ben Hayflick. DVD-R	box 10
Columbia at 250, Steeplechase Films. length: 81m 21s. VHS, 2003 March 3 (2 copies), 2003	box 10
Columbia at 250, Steeplechase Films. length: 81m 21s. DVD-R, 2003 October 10 (2 copies), 2003	box 10
Columbia at 250, Steeplechase Films. length: 81m 21s. Super VHS, 2003 October 22, 2003	box 10
Columbia U. Studios: The Dream Factory, DVD-R, 2003 October (2 copies), 2003	box 10
Columbia U. Studios: The Dream Factory, DVD, 2003 October, 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Birthday Bash, Tape 1. 4:00pm-5:30pm. Beta, 2003 October 17, 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Birthday Bash, Tape 2. 5:30pm-6:20pm. Beta, 2003 October 17, 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Birthday Bash, Tape 3. 6:20pm-6:45pm. Beta, 2003 October 17, 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Birthday Bash, Marching Band Footage. Beta, 2003 October 17, 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Birthday Bash, length: 2h 35m. DVD-R, 2003 October 17 (5 copies), 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Concert, Tape 1. Beta, 2003 October 18, 2003	box 10
Columbia University 250TH Concert, Tape 2. Beta, 2003 October 18, 2003	box 10
Columbia University: A Celebration, length: 81m 21s. VHS (2 copies), 2003 November 5, 2003	box 10

Columbia University: A Celebration, length: 81m 21s. DVD-R, 2003 November 5 (3 copies), 2003	box 10
Columbia University: A Celebration, Titled Master. length: 81:21. VHS, 2003 October 24 (2 copies), 2003	box 10
Columbia University: A Celebration, Short version,A Cake for Kings . The Dream Factory. Revised Master. VHS, 2004 September 30 (6 copies), 2004	box 10
Columbia University 250 Concert, Opening Weekend, length: 2h 54m. DVD-R, 2003 October 18 (4 copies), 2003	box 10
New Flash Presentation, CD-R, 2004 April 13, 2004	box 10

Subseries VI.4: Posters

Title/Description	Instances
"An Invitation to Engage Our Past" 2004 April, 2004	box Flat Files
Business, Graduate School of, 2004	box Flat Files
"Brain and Mind: A C250 Symposium" 2004 May, 2004	box Flat Files
Columbia 250 Community Festival, 2004 October, 2004	box Flat Files
Columbia 250 Closing Festivities 2004 September - October, 2004	box Flat Files
"Community Block Party" by Norman Messiah, Community Festival Commemorative Poster, 2004 October, 2004	box Flat Files
Homecoming, Pictured: Sid Luckman, 2003 October 18, 2003	box Flat Files
Homecoming Weekend, 2004 October, 2004	box Flat Files
"Howl: A Poetry Gathering in Honor of Columbia's Beats," 2004 October, 2004	box Flat Files
Opening Weekend, Pictured: Alma Mater [Birthday Bash], 2003	box Flat Files
Pictured: Zora Neal Hurston, 2003	box Flat Files
Pictured: Thomas Hunt Morgan, 2003	box Flat Files
Pictured: Alexander Hamilton, 2003	box Flat Files
Pictured: Ric Burns, 2003	

	box Flat Files	
Poster Proofs, 2003-2004	box 7	folder 4
"Mobilizing Science and Policy for Earth's Future" 2004 March, April, 2004	box Flat Files	
21st Century City, 2004 October, 2004	box Flat Files	

Subseries VI.5: Proclamations

Title/Description	Instances	
New York State Senate and Assembly Legislative Resolutions, 2004	box Flat Files	
United States Postal Service Postcard Ceremony, 2004 March, 2004	box Flat Files	
New York City Mayor's Office, "C.U. Postal Card Day," 2004 March, 2004	box Flat Files	
The Council of the City of NY-250th Community Festival, 2004 September, 2004	box Flat Files	

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Series VII: Other Anniversaries

Title/Description	Instances	
Bicentennial of 1787 Charter, 1987, 1787, 1987	box 5	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
(A new charter was issued in 1787 that established Columbia College in the City of New York, the undergraduate school.)		
Columbia College Charter Bicentennial celebration scrapbook, 1987	box 12	
Charter Day Celebrations, undated	box 5	folder 2
Charter Replica, undated	box 5	folder 3
Columbia as a University, 1941	box 5	folder 4
Founding Anniversaries-History, 1939-1954	box 5	folder 5
"Graduate School of Journalism Centennial, 2012-2013"	box 5	folder 6
Law, School of -- Centennial, 1950s	box 5	folder 7
Proposed Re-chartering, circa 1920 1959, 1920, 1959	box 5	folder 8

School of Architecture and Planning Centennial -- Exhibition Poster "The Making of an Architect, 1881-1981"	box Flat Files
School of Library Service Centennial Poster, 1987	box Flat Files
School of Mines Fiftieth Anniversary Poster, 1914	box Flat Files

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