

James K. Hosmer Collection
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Finding aid prepared by Bailey Diers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

July 17, 2014

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Minneapolis, MN, 55401

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Hosmer, James K., 1834-1927
Title	James K. Hosmer Collection
Date	1891-1929
Extent	1.0 boxes
Language	English

Biography

Dr. James Kendall Hosmer (1834-1927)

"The function of the public library is to put into the hands of every individual citizen at the shortest notice any book in any class that he may need for his pleasure or benefit."

James K. Hosmer was born in Northfield, Mass., Jan. 29, 1834. He attended Harvard University and the theological school there and for several years he was a Unitarian minister. After the Civil War, in which he served in the Union Army, he taught English literature and history at Antioch College, the University of Missouri and Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Hosmer wrote extensively as a historian throughout his career. While at Harvard he met many famous writers of the day such as; Longfellow, Lowell, Emerson, Holmes, and Agassiz. Throughout his life he maintained friendships with other authors and public figures including Charles Eliot, William Dean Howells, Winston Churchill, James Bryce and Phillips Brooks.

He was appointed the director of the Minneapolis Public Library in 1892 succeeding Herbert Putnam. He served 12 years as director and two years as president of the American Library Association. Hosmer retired in 1904 and was succeeded by Gratia Countryman. The Hosmer library, built in 1916, was named in his honor in 1926. The Special Collections department was named in his honor in 2004.

Hosmer died on May 11, 1927.

Description of Collection

The James K. Hosmer Collection consists primarily of biographical information and correspondence.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library July 17, 2014

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Books and framed letters were acquired from the estate of Hosmer's granddaughter, Kendall Hosmer Mix, August, 2014. The autobiography facsimile was made by the Minneapolis Athenaeum from the original, which is now lost. The remaining materials were gathered by the staff of the Minneapolis Public Library during the course of Hosmer's career with the Library and afterwards.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Hosmer, James K., 1834-1927

Subject(s)

- Authors, American -- Minnesota.
- Librarians -- United States.
- Public librarians -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

Correspondence

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Biography	1	1
Clippings	1	2
Correspondence 1920-1928		
	Box	Folder
Cheney, Mary Moulton, 1871-1957 Countryman, Gratia A. (Gratia Alta), 1866-1953 Letters 1924-28	1	3
Scope and Contents note		
Contains facsimiles of 21 letters, most of them typewritten.		
Cheney, Mary Moulton, 1871-1957 Hosmer, Ralph S. Letters 1907-1950	1	4
Scope and Contents note		
18 notes and letters, mostly written by others, but all concerning Hosmer		
		Box
Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922 Howe, Julia Ward, 1819-1910 Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920 Framed letters to Hosmer		4
Scope and Contents note		

3 framed letters written to Hosmer from Julia Ward Howe (Nov 13, 1864), William Dean Howells (April 3, 1871), and James Bryce (Oct 4, 1921).

Creative Works

Box

Books

2

Scope and Contents note

Consists of 7 titles (9 volumes) authored by Hosmer. Many of them are inscribed by Hosmer.

History of the Expedition of Captains Lewis and Clark, 1084-05-06 [Reprinted from 1914 edition, with introduction and index by James K. Hosmer]. 1902

History of the Expedition of Captains Lewis and Clark, 1084-05-06 [Reprinted from 1914 edition, with introduction and index by James K. Hosmer]. 1903 (second edition)

Outcome of the Civil War, 1863-1865 by James Kendall Hosmer [Volume 21 of The American Nation: A History]. 1907. (inscribed "To Josephine on her birthday, with affection from James K. Hosmer. March 31, 1907")

Samuel Adams by James K. Hosmer [American Statesmen series]. 1899. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

A Short History of German Literature by James Kendall Hosmer. 1897. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

A Short History of Anglo-Saxon Freedom; The Polity of the English-Speaking Race. 1890. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

The Life of Young Sir Henry Vane, Governor of Massachusetts Bay, and Leader of the Long Parliament, With a Consideration of the English Commonwealth as a Forecast of America by James K. Hosmer. 1889. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

Books

3

Scope and Contents note

Consists of 10 titles (12 volumes), all but one of them by Hosmer. Many are inscribed by Hosmer.

The Life of Thomas Hutchinson, Royal Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay by James K. Hosmer. 1896. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

Memorial of George Washington Hosmer, D.D., Edited by his Children. 1882. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

The Last Leaf: Observations, during Seventy-five Years, of Men and Events in America and Europe by James Kendall Hosmer. 1912 (inscribed "To DeWalt Hosmer Ankeny from James K. Hosmer. Minneapolis, May 10, 1922")

A Short History of the Mississippi Valley, by James K. Hosmer. 1901 (inscribed "To my dear childre Willet and Josephine, from James K. Hosmer. Minneapolis, Christmas, 1901")

Gass's Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Sergeant Patrick Gass. With an analytical index, and an introduction by James Kendall Hosmer. 1904

An Appeal to Arms, 1861-1863 by James Kendall Hosmer [Volume 20 of The American Nation: A History]. 1907 (inscribed "To Josephine on her birth-day with affection James K. Hosmer. March 31, 1907")

Creative Works

The Story of the Jews, Ancient, Mediaeval, and Modern by James K. Hosmer [The Story of Nations series]. 1897. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

How Thankful Was Bewitched by James K. Hosmer. 1895. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

The Color-Guard: Being a Corporal's Notes of Military Service in the Nineteenth Army Corps by James K. Hosmer. 1864. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

The Thiking Bayonet by James K. Hosmer. 1865, second edition. (inscribed "To our dear children Josephine and Willet on their wedding-day, May 17, 1898, from Father and Mother Hosmer")

History of the Town of Plymouth From Its First Settlement in 1620, to the Present Time: With a Concise History of the Aborigines of New England and Their Wars With the English, &c., by James Thatcher. 1835. (signed copy belonging to George A. Hosmer, JK Hosmer's father)

The Thinking Bayonet by James K. Hosmer. 1865, second edition.

Box **Folder**

Manuscripts and Publications

1

5

Scope and Contents note

Includes a typed list of books in the Minneapolis Public Library, excluding those he edited and excerpts or chapters in other books.

Box

Autobiography 616 page, type-written manuscript. Double-spaced, single-sided, on legal-sized paper.

5

Creative Works

Existence and Location of Originals note

Facsimile copy made from the original, which appears to be either missing or lost [per Sally Ankeny Anson, phone conversation, September, 2014).

Biographical/Historical note

Authorship by Hosmer confirmed by his granddaughter, Sally Ankeny Anson (phone conversation, September, 2014).

	Box	Folder
Speeches and Addresses	1	6
Miscellaneous	1	7

Scope and Contents note

Includes a list of those to whom the memo was to be sent upon his death (in Hosmer's handwriting).

Tributes to Hosmer 1924-1927	1	8
<p>Scope and Contents note</p> <p>Includes a 17-page typescript of speeches given at a dinner in honor of Hosmer's 90th birthday, hosted by the Six O'Clock Club, February 4, 1924. Also includes a 17-page typescript of tributes made at his death, May 11, 1927.</p>		

Papers from the Minnesota Historical Society	1	9
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Scope and Contents note

Creative Works

Reproductions of correspondence from the papers of James K. Hosmer at the Minnesota Historical Society. For full collection, visit <http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00744.xml>

Box

Estate Appraisal 2014

1

Scope and Contents note

Full title is "Qualified Appraisal Report of Fair Market Value for Non-Cash Charitable Contribution of the James Kendall Hosmer Library Collection of Books and Autographs Owned by the Estate of Kendall Ankeny Mix, for Donation to the Minneapolis Central Library, a Division of the Hennepin County Library of Minneapolis, Minnesota." Includes a letter explaining the appraisal and donation.