



**Library Company of Philadelphia Collection**

**Lea & Febiger**

**Records**

**1815-1992**

**18 boxes, 13 volumes, 5 objects, 10 linear feet**

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**Box inventory compiled by:** Cary Majewicz

**Box inventory completed:** June 2008

**Restrictions:** None

**Related Collections at HSP:** See page 2

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### **Abstract**

In 1785, Mathew Carey (1760-1839) founded Mathew Carey & Co., one of Philadelphia's most successful publishing houses. The firm began printing a variety of works; however by the late 1830s, it specialized in scientific and medical publications. During the 1800s, the firm changed its name a number of times. It became M. Carey & Son in 1817, when Mathew's son, Henry C. Carey, joined the firm. In 1821, Carey's son-in-law, Isaac Lea joined the firm and it became M. Carey & Sons. The senior Carey retired the early 1820s, and shortly thereafter the firm became H. C. Carey & I. Lea, followed by Carey, Lea & Carey, when younger son Edward L. Carey joined the firm. In 1829, Edward Carey withdrew to form a bookselling partnership with Abraham Hart. In 1833, William A. Blanchard became a partner and the firm became, briefly, Carey, Lea & Blanchard. In 1836, Henry C. Carey retired and the firm was known as Lea & Blanchard until 1851. That year Isaac Lea withdrew in favor of his son, Henry Charles Lea, and the firm became Blanchard & Lea, which it remained until Blanchard's retirement in 1865. Thereafter, the firm bore only the Lea name until 1907 when Lea's sons joined with Christian Febiger to form the partnership of Lea & Febiger. The company was sold to Waverly, Inc. in 1990.

This is a collection of papers related to the Lea & Febiger publishing firm and everything is arranged alphabetically by topic. The collection contains a wide array of material such as correspondence, author agreements and contracts, partnership agreements, registration and transfers of copyrights, and records pertaining to the publication of the *History of All Nations* and centenary editions of *Gray's Anatomy*. There are also sales and distribution agreements, financial volumes, catalogues and brochures, publication lists, newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, and documentation of the company's history, including a photograph album of its 200th anniversary celebration. Among the objects in the collection are several brass dies for *Gray's Anatomy* and metal clips that once held together groups of author's contracts. The collection also includes a small batch of Mathew Carey's correspondence with notable figures that include the Marquis de Lafayette and James Madison.

While a box-level inventory is offered starting on page 4 of this guide, a more detailed folder-level inventory is available in HSP's library.

## **Separation report**

None.

## **Related materials**

Edward Carey Gardiner collection (227B)  
Mathew Carey papers, 1802-1826 (Library Company of Pennsylvania)  
Mathew Carey Papers, 1821-1829 (Library Company of Pennsylvania)  
Mathew Carey collection, Notes of the debates of the Pennsylvania legislature, 1785-1786 (Library Company of Pennsylvania)  
Mathew Carey collection, Receipt book of borrowed items, 1825-1838 (Library Company of Pennsylvania)  
Lea and Febiger records, (227B)  
Penington family papers (Collection 1435)

## **Subjects**

Publishers and publishing – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Science publishing – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia

Lea & Febiger (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Carey, Mathew, 1760-1839

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

### **Acquisition information**

Gift of Waverly, Inc., 1997.

### **Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Lea & Febiger records (Library Company of Philadelphia Collection), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## Box and folder listing

NOTE: A detailed folder-level inventory is available in HSP's library.

Box or volume number	Title	Approx. Dates	Notes
1	-Papers concerning the American Journal of Medical Sciences. -Correspondence from the Association of Centenary Firms -Author agreements	1885-1924	
2	-J.F. Cooper papers -Author contracts	1836-1900	
3	Author contracts	1901-1910	
4	Author contracts	1911-1919	
5	Author contracts	1920-1929	
6	Author contracts	1930-1935	
7	Author contracts	1936-1946	
8	-Papers concerning William Boyd, various Philadelphia buildings, and copyright issues -Mathew Carey correspondence and receipts - <i>Atlas of Human Anatomy</i> – English translation papers	1815-1964, 1992	
9	-Papers concerning copyright issues -Financial statements	1822-1987	
10	-Genealogical information on Henry Gray -Papers concerning <i>Gray's Anatomy</i> , the American edition	ca. 1900- 1958	
11	-Historical documentation on Lea & Febiger -Issues of "In Press/In Print" newsletter -Leases held by Mathew Carey and other family members -Papers concerning <i>The Medical News</i> -Reviews of the publication, "One Hundred Fifty years of Publishing"	1824-1935	
12	-Article: "Osler and His Publishers" -Partnership agreements -Power of attorney	1824-1989	

12 (con't)	-papers concerning publishers and publisher's liability		
13	Publication lists	1835-1987	
14	<i>History of All Nations</i> – pre- and post-publication documents	ca. 1890-1905	
15	-Sales/distribution agreements -Papers concerning the 200 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lea & Febiger -U.S. Pharmacopoeia papers -Biographical information on Mason Locke Weems	1893, 1900-1990	
16	Publication lists	1921, 1924-1939	
“X-1”	Woodcuts – brass dies – Gray's Anatomy	1908, 1910	
“Object 1”	Contains objects 2a: Two large metal clips; and 2b: padlock and key	n.d.	See List of Objects on page 6
Vol. 1	General ledger	1856-1860	Record of accounts receivable. Arranged chronologically with alphabetical index
Vol. 2	Cost book	1910-1955	Record of cost of production of books including paper, plates and forms, folding and payment to authors. Arranged chronologically with index by author
Vol. 3	Royalty accounts	30 June 1932 - 31 Dec. 1936	Record of payment of royalties to authors.
Vol. 4	Cash book	June 1934 - May 1944	Record of expenses paid from cash account.
Vols. 5-6	Book inventory ledgers	1968-1993, 1981-1988	Records of physical inventories of books. Arranged alphabetically by author.
Vol. 7	Account journal	1976-1988	Monthly account summaries for overall operations.
Vol. 8	Two Hundredth Anniversary celebration	25 Jan. 1985	Photograph album.
Vol. 9-13	Five copies of <i>Two Hundred Years of Publishing, 1785-1985</i> , by Lea & Febiger	1985	Each book is separately sealed in plastic wrap

**List of Objects**

<b>Object number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approx. Dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Woodruff's Improved File Folder (patented 1891, 1896, 1897, 1898) – a wooden triangular folder with contains author contracts (see boxes 2-7)	n.d.	(Dimensions) 10" H x 10" D x 4.25" W
1a	Piece of cardboard which was in front of contracts	n.d.	3.75" W x 9.25" H
2a	Two Large metal clips with initial "L" used to clip some author contracts together	n.d.	2.25" W x 4" H
2b	Padlock and key for tin document box (#3)	n.d.	
3	Tin document box with 8 compartments which held various papers of Lea & Febiger and its predecessor companies. The original contents of the box have been rehoused and are in boxes 7-15.		Diagram of the contents and their new placements in the box.