Bound for Glory: cataloging bound sheet music for the 21st century

Andrea Cawelti & Robert Cunningham
MOUG, February 19, 2019
St. Louis
One of Houghton’s many bound sheet music backlogs
Eleanor Parke Custis
February 25

Eleanor Parke Lewis

1797

Eleanor Parke Lewis

Eleanor Parke Lewis

Eleanor Parke Lewis

Nelly Custis Lewis volumes, TS 513.139, Houghton Library
Charles Ammi Cutter
volume of American piano music,
Mus 466.1. Houghton Library
Jeanice Brooks is a musicologist who is currently working on domestic music-making in Britain, ca. 1800. She has focused on the exploration of bound volumes as a function of cultural music expression among the Georgian nobility.


Our traditional method of cataloging each piece of music separately, relegates vital information to local notes (marked in red and yellow). These local notes don’t currently tape out to OCLC.
Katie Callam, Harvard PhD candidate in the music department, also wrote several blogs on her work for the Houghton Blog: http://blogs.harvard.edu/houghton/

**Nineteenth-Century Bound Sheet Music Volumes Part I: Edith Forbes Perkins volumes**

With one of this summer’s Pforzheimer fellowships came the opportunity for frequent trips to a remote corner of Houghton Library’s sub-basement level, where several hundred bound sheet music volumes lay waiting to be catalogued. Thanks to Dana Gee’s extraordinary work with the Hidden Collections Sheet Music project, tens of thousands of loose sheet music scores in the Theatre Collection have received preliminary identification and categorization. Bound sheet music volumes were next in line for attention, as their contents were not yet recorded beyond place of publication and genre. (For a general sense of the collection’s scope, see Kathryn Lowerre, “Some Uncataloged Musical Resources in the Harvard Theatre Collection with a Handlist for the Bound Music Volumes,” *Notes* 2006 Vol.62(3)).
The contents note records each title with its statement of responsibility, and publication information.
Other important notes describe signatures and annotations, seller’s stamps, bindings, related material, and biographical notes.
Music store stamps like this one often help narrow down the possible owners.
Abby A. Steele volume of American vocal exercises, Lowerre 262, Houghton Library
Georgine Holmes Thomas’s volume dedicated to Civil War music in the South.

Tawa 70. Houghton Library
Georgine Holmes Thomas assembled several volumes which she entitled “Souvenir of the Confederacy.” The Louisiana State Library copy was unattributed until we compared bindings.
List of concert repertoire with performers' names.
Tawa 27,
Houghton Library
“Until I see another I like better.”
Comment by Matilda W. Coffin (1840-1932).
Tawa 37. Houghton Library
Worcester Art Museum portraits of Catharine Dean Flint (1802-1869)

after Pamelia E. Hill
Before 1843?

Pamelia E. Hill
1843
Julia Ward Howe
JULIA HOWE
BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC.

BY MRS. JULIA WARD HOWE.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord: He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.
THE BATTLE OF PRAGUE
A Favorite

SONATA
FOR THE
PIANO FORTE

ACCOMPANIMENT
VIOLIN

COMPOSED BY
F. KOTZWARA

Philadelphia: Published & sold by G. W. Bly, 171 Chestnut St.

PRICE $.75 CENTS
Battle of Prague (1757)
DACCS
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials
MUSIC

ERMS Bibliographic Standards Committee
AND
MLA Cataloging and Metadata Committee
with
The Library of Congress
WE ARE KEEPING A RECORD OF OUR PROCEDURES, WITH AN EYE TO EVENTUALLY CREATING SOMETHING OF A BEST PRACTICES
A made-up multipart group of items that were not originally published, distributed or produced together.
DtSt: i

1818, 1840
Doe, Jane, collector.
Jane Doe volume of American songs and piano music.
FIELD 246

Music
FIELD 264

[United States] : [various publishers], [1818-1848]
FIELD 300

1 volume (10 items)
FIELD 500

Binder's ticket inside front cover: Bronson Bros., Waterbury, Conn.
FIELD 505 00

‡t Title /
‡r Statement of responsibility,
(Series)
‡g Edition. Place of publication: publisher, date. plate number, Wolfe, R.J. Secular music in America, 1801-1825, 7740A.
FIELD 650

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700 1 ǂ3 Kingdom coming ǂa Sontag, Henriette, ǂd 1806-1854, ǂe singer.
Bound sheet music.
‡2 aat
N. Currier (Firm), the lithographer.
Ancestry Library Edition

search your family tree at the library
BPL Backlog soon to go away
Thank You!

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Robert Cunningham: rcunningham@bpl.org

For the latest copy of our cataloging procedures, just ask!