

LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA SUMMER 2018 HURFORD INTERN PROJECT

Project Description: The intern will work in the Library Company's Print Department, but will be exposed to other aspects of work at the library as well. The intern will split their time between two projects in the Print Department.

1. Retro-processing of David Doret and Linda G. Mitchell Collection

Long-term Library Company donor David Doret has gifted the library hundreds of graphic materials and ephemera, including certificates, parlor prints, architectural and engineering prints, maps, and views of Philadelphia over the last two decades. Recently, Mr. Doret has gifted the library dozens of watercolors and drawings depicting Philadelphia and the region to formally implement the David Doret and Linda G. Mitchell Collection. As a result of this gift, the Print Department is seeking to re-process and integrate Mr. Doret's previous gifts into the David Doret and Linda G. Mitchell Collection.

The intern will inventory, review the catalog status, selectively catalog, and rehouse the Doret and Mitchell Collection into a centralized, provenance-based collection.

2. Goldman African Americana Trade Card and Ephemera Collection Cataloging Project

The intern will work with the Goldman African Americana Trade Card and Ephemera Collection. The collection contains several hundred later 19th-century trade cards, scraps, and other ephemera depicting African Americans, predominately in satire and caricature. The cards document the racial tensions of the 19th century and the visual culture of the period, as well as the marketing rhetoric and devices employed by Victorian business enterprises.

The intern will accession and rehouse the collection, and create catalog records of select trade cards. As time permits, the intern will also scan the items for future inclusion in the Library's digital catalog. The intern will also describe their work and progress on these two projects through blog posts and other social media platforms used by the Library Company. The intern will be supervised by Associate Curator of Prints and Photographs Erika Piola (Haverford College graduate).

Challenges and Rewards: These projects will provide the intern with an excellent introduction to curatorial work at a special collections institution with a long and continual history of collecting, preserving, and providing access to rare materials. To gain an understanding of the operations of the Library Company as a whole, the intern will also be given introductory sessions in other departments, including reference, cataloging, conservation, and development. The intern will also be encouraged to attend colloquia given throughout the summer by our visiting research fellows. The Library Company will greatly benefit from the work of the intern since s/he will be helping us process recently acquired collections and to share collections on social media, making all of this material more available to our researchers.

The Institution: Founded by Benjamin Franklin and a group of his friends in 1731, the Library Company of Philadelphia today is an independent research library in center city Philadelphia concentrating on American history and culture from the 17th through the early 20th centuries. Free and open to the public, the Library Company houses an extensive non-circulating collection of rare books, manuscripts, broadsides, ephemera, prints, photographs, and works of art. The mission of the Library Company is to preserve, interpret, make available, and augment the valuable materials within its care. We serve a diverse constituency throughout Philadelphia and the nation, offering comprehensive reader services, an internationally renowned fellowship program, online catalogs, and regular exhibitions and public programs.