

## Description of Summer 2022 Hurford Intern Project (Library Company of Philadelphia)

**Project Description:** The intern will work in the Library Company's Graphic Arts Department, but will be exposed to other aspects of work at the Library as well. The intern will split their time among a variety of curatorial projects in the Department, including two primary projects.

### **Wood Furness Family Collection Project**

The intern will work with this family archive, containing scrapbooks, photograph albums, photographs, and ephemera compiled by, collected by, and/or of members of the related Wood and Furness families. Family members represented include Rev. William Henry Furness (1802-1896), his son Shakespearean scholar Horace Howard Furness (1833-1912), and Haverford alum and artist George Bacon Wood, Jr. (1831-1910). Subject matter of the archives range from Civil War ephemera to abolitionist material to celebrity caricatures, as well as the centennial celebration of the Constitution and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The intern will inventory, describe, arrange, and house the collection, as well as create a Wood Furness family tree.

### **Scrapbooks of Philadelphia Trade Cards Inventory Project**

The intern will work with two scrapbooks that contain hundreds of later 19th-century Philadelphia-related trade cards and complementary commercial ephemera. The cards are rich with images representing the visual and popular culture of the Victorian period, including views of interiors of department stores, household appliances lost to history, and idealized scenes of everyday life. Businesses range from those still known today like Wanamaker's to those more recognizable in their era like lace merchant J.W. Le Maistre, Darlington, Runk & Co. dry goods, and Partridge's Dining Rooms.

The intern will inventory and describe, as well as cross reference the individual trade cards for duplicates in the Library's complementary trade card collections.

### **Miscellaneous projects time permitting**

Other curatorial projects, time permitting, will include the continuing transcription of an 1830 extra-illustrated manuscript of John Fanning Watson's *History of Philadelphia* (1830) and an inventory of the contents of a 1904-1905 scrapbook compiled with the work of early-20th century illustrator and caricaturist V. Floyd Campbell (1873-1906).

The intern will also describe their work and progress on the projects through blog posts and other social media platforms used by the Library Company. The intern will be supervised by Curator of Graphic Arts Erika Piola (Haverford College graduate).

**Challenges and Rewards:** The project 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 and 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, prints, photographs, ephemera, and works of art. The mission of the Library Company is to foster a learning community grounded in our historic collections that contributes to and amplifies knowledge of American culture and society and works for the benefit of all. We serve a diverse constituency throughout Philadelphia and the nation, offering comprehensive reader services, a renowned fellowship program, online catalogs, and regular exhibitions and public programs.