

Internship at the Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
<http://www.librarycompany.org/>

Project summary: The intern will contribute to the Library Company's publicly-accessible electronic resources by adding records for woodblocks and printed images to our digital collections catalog, ImpAC, and will also develop an understanding of the workings of a research library.

The Institution: The Library Company of Philadelphia was founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin and his friends. Today, it is a major center for scholarship on American history and culture from the colonial period through the end of the 19th century. Scholars from around the country, as well as abroad, have produced groundbreaking studies based on the library's collections of rare books and graphics. The whole community of staff and readers participates in lively discussions related to all aspects of American history, often with special emphasis on race, gender, and class.

The Project: In 2009, the Library Company received approximately 6,500 woodblocks as part of the S. Robert Teitelman Collection of American Sunday-School Union Woodblocks and Imprints. Based in Philadelphia, the Union was the most prolific publisher of children's books in 19th-century America. Their extraordinary distribution system flooded America with inexpensive children's literature. The publications both reflected and reinforced the cultural, religious, and social dominance of Protestantism in American culture. The woodblocks, used to print the illustrations in the books and periodicals, represent the work of skilled artist-engravers, notably George Gilbert (fl. 1818-1836), Alexander Anderson (1775-1870), and John Warner Barber (1798-1885). Commissioned by the Union, the woodblocks provide a remarkable record of both the images and the technology of print production.

The ImpAC records will contain scans of the woodblocks, descriptions of the images depicted, and topical subject headings. When possible, they will be juxtaposed with the same image on a printed page. For this part of the work, the intern will work closely with Cornelia King, Chief of Reference. The project will help the Library Company meet one of its primary goals: to make its collections more accessible through the use of digital technology, especially for those who cannot come to the Library Company in person. The records will be of use to scholars working in many areas: children's literature, art history, the history of religion, and media studies.

If time permits, the intern will develop an exhibition for the Library Company's website on a topic related to the study of the woodblocks. (For example, see the exhibition completed by the 2010 Hurford intern at the Library Company: <http://www.librarycompany.org/extraordinarywoman/>)

The intern will be based in the main reading room, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. S/he will assist in the day-to-day work of moving materials in and out of the reading room from the library's closed-stack collections. The intern will balance activities such as paging, shelving, and photocopying with the main component of the internship, the woodblock project. In a library setting, the ability to balance a number of duties, some challenging and some mundane, is an important skill to develop. S/he also will attend the colloquia at which researchers present their projects for discussion with staff and other scholars. To gain a fuller understanding of the workings of the

Library Company as a whole, s/he will also be given introductory sessions in the other departments (the print room with its separate reading room, the digitization lab, the conservation lab, and the cataloging unit).

Special Skills: Through this experience, the intern will gain an understanding of the process of creating electronic access to digitized images, as well as an introduction to the field of special collections librarianship. S/he will also learn to:

- Synthesize information into cataloging records for visual materials in the Library Company's digital collections catalog, ImPAC.
- Handle rare materials in a special collections context.
- Scan material for archival purposes; process the image for viewing in ImPAC.

Challenges and Rewards: For the intern, the greatest challenge will be to describe visual materials concisely, within the structure of the Library Company's digital collections catalog. An additional reward to the intern will be a fuller understanding of the career paths represented in the Library Company community, where many staff members as well as readers have advanced degrees in history, literature, and/or library science. The reward of the woodblock project will be experience with an unusual set of objects that provide direct understanding of 19th-century illustration technologies and pedagogy. The reward for the Library Company will be the increased access to the woodblocks through the Library Company's digital collections catalog.

See next page for sample record in ImPAC.



Click the thumbnail to view a larger copy of this image, and to see any other images that may be attached to this record.

Digital object(s)	 ASSU Illustration 3163 - Complex Object ()
Title	ASSU Illustration 3163
Alternate title	Woodblock for printing an illustration of Moses.
Date	[s.a.]
Physical description	1 wood block ; 5.1 x 5.0 x 2.3 cm.
Notes	<p>Block numbered in one place: 3163.</p> <p>Image of Moses seated, holding the Ten Commandments while rays of light shine on him.</p> <p>Illustration appears in <i>Four Seasons</i>, Child's home library series no. 10 (Philadelphia, between 1857 and 1870?), p.13.</p> <p>Illustration also appears in <i>James and Sisters</i>, Child's home library series no. 11, (Philadelphia, between 1857 and 1870?), p. 7.</p> <p>Illustration also appears in <i>Man lost and saved</i> (Philadelphia, between 1857 and 1907?), p. 8. This title was listed in <i>American Sunday-School Union catalogues</i> from Jan. 1853 to at least 1893.</p> <p>Back of block partially obscured by pasted-down paper.</p>
Subject	Moses (Biblical leader)
Genre	<p>Wood blocks (Printing blocks)</p> <p>Wood engraving (Process)</p> <p>End-grain blocks.</p>
Associated name	American Sunday-School Union, former owner.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PRINTED IMAGE.



You recollect that it is written in the Fourth Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." But this means something more than putting away playthings