



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: The Pequot Library (Southport, Conn.). Records

Collection #: Ms B72

Dates: 1877-1984

Size of Collection: .25 linear ft

Accession Number: L94Nov11

Donor: Stanley Philips, and gathered material

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Linda Mulford; additional processing by Barbara Austen

Date: 1994; August 1996

Biographical/ historical note:

The building which houses the Pequot Library, designed by H. H. Richardson, was erected in 1887, personally financed by Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Monroe who lived on the site. The Monroes envisioned the building as a library, reading room, lecture hall, and “something in the nature of a social headquarters.” A library association formed in 1893 with the purpose of overseeing management of the organization. The building opened to the public in 1894. The library is known for its rare book collection, including Audubon elephant folios, Civil War materials, current fiction and non-fiction, its three stained-glass windows and its homey atmosphere. See the vertical file for additional information on this building, its contents and its programs.

Portions of the material in this collection were donated by the historian of the Southport Congregational Church along with other Southport memorabilia. Items that were “gathered” for the vertical file were removed to this collection to ensure their preservation.

Scope and content note:

The collection consists primarily of tickets and small broadsides advertising lectures, concerts and other events held at the Pequot Library Hall, 1894-1939, 1953, 1980-84. Other items of note include a list of subscribers to the Southport Library, 1877; correspondence, 1894-1896, 1916, 1937-1971 (scattered), the earliest of which concern the construction of the library building; and drawings of the seating plan in library hall, n.d., a pencil sketch of stack arrangements, n.d., and a blueline drawing of book shelving placement, 1953. Also included among the materials are bills, 1895-1897; newsletters, 1970-1987; and assorted publications.

PEQUOT LIBRARY (SOUTHPORT, CONN.)
Records, 1877-

Folder 1	Subscription list, 1877
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1894-1896, 1916, 1937-1939, 1950, 1971
Folder 3	Bills, 1895-1897
Folder 4	Drawings, n.d., 1953
Folder 5	Broadsides, 1894-1906
Folder 6	“ 1907-1915
Folder 7	“ 1924-1939, 1953
Folder 8	“ n.d.
Folder 9-10	Event tickets, 1894-1940
Folder 11	Exhibit catalogs, 1980, 1984
Folder 12	Newsletters, 1970-1987
Folder 13	Assorted publications, n.d.

Subject headings:

Architecture--designs and plans
Libraries--Conn.--Southport--Cultural programs
Library associations--Conn.--Southport
Library buildings--Conn.--Southport
Southport (Conn.)--Libraries