



BHC Special Collections
Guide to the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room Catalogs
By E. Van Tuyl
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room [Bridgeport, Conn.]

Title: Collection of early printed catalogs, Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room

Dates: 1860-1952

Quantity: 1 document box

Abstract: Collected by BHC Staff from general collection.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative Background:

During the 19th and early 20th Century, the *Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room* printed library acquisitions and catalogs. These hard bound publications were in turn cataloged and made available to the public. It's not clear how often these catalogs were compiled and published. Some of the publications list materials devoted to a specific subject such as industry, but most of these printed catalogs contain subject divisions with lists of publications owned by the Bridgeport Public Library, including works on art, history, science, travel, etc. They also list works under "Authors' Names," Poetry," "Drama," and finally, "Biographies." Some catalogs are referred to as a "Classified Catalog and Supplement of the Bridgeport Public Library."

A sampling of a "finding list" published in October of 1899 listed following subject categories among hundreds: "Afghanistan," "Butterflies," "Socialism," and "Weights and Measures." At least two catalogs are devoted to "Catholic Authors" or "Catholic Publications." Anecdotal evidence taken from other library publications suggests that outside groups or individuals sometimes donated a set of books or books from personal collections. Books were also purchased with specific funds or endowments. One researcher has stated that her grandmother was part of an initiative that donated Yiddish language books in the early 20th Century, but to date, the BHC has been unable to locate a verified list of those items. These surviving catalogs stand as a testament to the growth of the library as an institution and the diversity of interests of the growing population that it served.

Scope and Content note:

Published catalogs from the late 19th Century and mostly early 20th Centuries. Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room is the author. Apparently, more than one catalog was sometimes published throughout the year as evidenced by "parts I and II" for 1899, e.g. These volumes are the surviving publications found in today's library's current holdings.

Arrangement Note:

Arranged chronologically in three boxes with folders.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Published by the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room.

Preferred Citation:

Please cite an individual catalog.

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. 1860, January [Bridgeport Library Association](2 copies)
2. 1877, Classified Catalog (2 copies)
3. 1882, Classified Catalog and Supplement 3
4. 1882-1884, Classified Catalog and Supplement 1-4
5. 1884-1886, Fifth Supplement, *Books added from November 1884 to September 1886*
6. 1890-1891, April, pt. I (3)
7. 1892, Finding List, pt. II

Box 2

1. 1893, May, First Supplement to the Finding List of the Bridgeport Public Library
2. 1893, August, pt. I, second edition. *English prose, fiction and translated novels; juvenile literature; works in foreign languages*
3. 1896, April, pt. II. *An author-list of English prose fiction, humorous works, and translations of foreign novels; an author-list of works in foreign languages*
4. 1897, August, pt. III, *Books for Boys and Girls*
5. 1898, September, pt. II
6. 1899, October, pt. 1 (2 copies)
7. 1904, April. Novels and Tales in the English Language (including translations) (2 copies)

Box 3

1. 1904, April. Novels and Tales in the English Language (including translations) (2 copies)
2. 1910-1913, *Industrial and technical books* purchased from the E.G. Burnham fund
3. Books by Catholic Authors and Other Books of Interest to Catholics, compiled by Frances Gleason, Library Staff, 1941
First Ten Year Supplement to Books by Catholic Authors, compiled by Frances Gleason, Library Staff, 1952