# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .................................................................................................................. 3  
Requesting Instructions ............................................................................................................. 3  
Administrative Information ....................................................................................................... 3  
  Immediate Source of Acquisition ............................................................................................ 3  
  Conditions Governing Access ................................................................................................. 3  
  Conditions Governing Use ...................................................................................................... 4  
  Preferred Citation .................................................................................................................. 4  
Processing Information ............................................................................................................. 4  
William Peterfield Trent (1862-1939) ..................................................................................... 4  
Scope and Contents .................................................................................................................. 4  
Arrangement .............................................................................................................................. 4  
Collection Contents .................................................................................................................. 5  
  I. William Peterfield Trent Research Materials ..................................................................... 5  
  II. Henry Clinton Hutchins Research Materials .................................................................... 6  
Selected Search Terms ............................................................................................................. 7
Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 859

**CREATOR:** Trent, William P. (William Peterfield), 1862-1939

**TITLE:** William Peterfield Trent Daniel Defoe Research Collection

**DATES:** 1830–1962

**BULK DATES:** 1912–1950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 14.38 linear feet (21 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Notes, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, typescripts, and printed material related to William Peterfield Trent’s unpublished biography and bibliography of Daniel Defoe; and correspondence, notes, and printed material related to William Clinton Hutchins’s editorial work on Trent’s manuscripts.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.trentdefoe

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.trentdefoe.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**


**Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.
**William Peterfield Trent (1862-1939)**

William Peterfield Trent was born in Richmond, Virginia on November 10, 1862. He received his M.A. from the University of Virginia in 1884 and his LL.B from Wake Forest College in 1889. He joined the faculty of Sewanee, The University of the South as a professor of English in 1888. While there, he founded and edited *The Sewanee Review* (1892), founded the Sewanee Historical Society, and published several works, including the *Life of William Gilmore Simms* (1892).

In 1900 he moved to Columbia University as a professor of English and taught there until his retirement in 1929. His works include *A History of American Literature, 1607-1865* (1903); *Longfellow and Other Essays* (1910); and *Defoe--How to Know Him* (1916). He was co-editor of the Columbia University edition of the complete works of John Milton (1931), and of the *Cambridge History of American Literature* (1917-1921). He also contributed articles on Defoe and other eighteenth-century authors to the *Cambridge History of English Literature* (1932).

For over fifteen years, Trent worked on a multi-volume bibliography of Daniel Defoe, as well as an accompanying biography. These works were never completed or published, although Yale Professor of English and Defoe scholar Henry Clinton Hutchins (1889-1962) carried out additional editorial work on Trent’s materials during the 1930s and 1940s.

Trent married Alice Lyman in 1896, and the couple had two children, Lucia Trent Chaney and William P. Trent, Jr. He died, after several years of poor health, at home in Hopewell Junction, New York on December 7, 1939.

**Scope and Contents**

Notes, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, typescripts, and printed material related to William Peterfield Trent’s unpublished biography and bibliography of Daniel Defoe; and correspondence, notes, and printed material related to Henry Clinton Hutchins’s editorial work on Trent’s manuscripts.

**Arrangement**

Collection Contents
I. William Peterfield Trent Research Materials

11.88 linear feet (19 boxes)

This group consists almost entirely of bundles and groups of notes by William Peterfield Trent for his planned bibliography and biography of Daniel Defoe. Folder titles have been transcribed when they appear.

This material is not arranged in any particular order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1</td>
<td>“Notes on Defoe’s Review” and “Notes on Political State”</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>“Notes” and “Appendices to Chapter II”</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>“Contemporary things that may be worth examining”</td>
<td>1912–1930,  undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4</td>
<td>Notebooks, notepads and index cards, many containing information on dates in Defoe’s life and publishing history</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Copies of title pages to French editions of Robinson Crusoe</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6</td>
<td>Research materials, including “Plausible, Dubious and Erroneous Attributions”</td>
<td>1912, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>“Defoe’s contemporaries--alphabetical”</td>
<td>1912–1930, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Research materials and newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1912–1934, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9</td>
<td>Research materials, including some on Defoe’s periodical publications</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10</td>
<td>Research materials and newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1912, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11</td>
<td>Research materials and newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1906–1912, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12</td>
<td>Research materials and newspapers clippings</td>
<td>1912, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13</td>
<td>Lists of Defoe’s publications and other research materials</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 14</td>
<td>Catalog cards of Yale University’s Defoe holdings</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 15</td>
<td>Defoe biography, manuscripts and typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 16</td>
<td>Defoe biography, manuscripts and typescripts; Defoe bibliography, manuscripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 17</td>
<td>Defoe bibliography, manuscripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 18</td>
<td>Defoe bibliography, typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 19</td>
<td>Defoe bibliography, manuscripts and typescripts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Henry Clinton Hutchins Research Materials

2.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Correspondence, notes, manuscripts, and printed material related to Hutchins’s scholarly work on Daniel Defoe, and particularly to his work with Trent’s unpublished biography and bibliography.

This material is not arranged in any particular order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 20</td>
<td>Correspondence, notes, and research files on Defoe</td>
<td>1910–1962, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes correspondence with booksellers, academic and public libraries, and scholarly journals. One folder of correspondence, labeled “Personal,” contains letters from relatives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 21</td>
<td>Research files on Defoe and printed material</td>
<td>1830–1962, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

**Subjects**
- Bibliographers -- United States
- Biographers -- United States
- English literature -- 18th century -- Bibliography

**Names**
- Defoe, Daniel, 1661?-1731
- Defoe, Daniel, 1661?-1731 -- Bibliography
- Trent, William P. (William Peterfield), 1862-1939

**Contributors**
- Trent, William P. (William Peterfield), 1862-1939
- Hutchins, Henry Clinton, 1889-