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Guide to the Charles Astor Bristed Notebooks and Other Material

YCAL MSS 462



by Beinecke staff

April 2011

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 462

CREATOR: Bristed, Charles Astor, 1820-1874

TITLE: Charles Astor Bristed notebooks and other material

DATES: 1838-1888

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains seventeen notebooks from Bristed's undergraduate and graduate studies at Yale and Cambridge universities from the late 1830s to mid 1840s, chiefly on classical authors and texts, including translations, and mathematics, as well as a catalog of his books, several letters, a diary, a receipt, and two printed books, including Bristed's Anacreontics, published under the pseudonym Carl Benson.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Howard S. Mott Rare Books, 1964.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Charles Astor Bristed Notebooks and Other Material is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Charles Astor Bristed Notebooks and Other Material. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition in 1964. Further organization, rehousing, and description was carried out in 2011.

Formerly classed as Za Bristed.

Charles Astor Bristed (1820-1874)

Charles Astor Bristed, author, was the son of Reverend John Bristed and Magdalen Astor, daughter of John Jacob Astor II. He was born in New York City and educated at home by tutors before attending Yale University (1835-1839) and the University of Cambridge (1840-1845). Following his studies at Cambridge and some travel in Europe, he returned to the United States and began writing, sometimes under the name of Carl Benson. Under this pseudonym he was a regular contributor to the sporting journals *Porter's Spirit of the Times* and *Wilkes's Spirit of the Times*. Published works include: *Selections from Catullus* (1849); *A Letter to the Hon. Horace Mann* (1850); *The Upper Ten Thousand: Sketches of New York Society* (1852); *Five Years in an English University* (1852); *Pieces of a Broken-Down Critic* (1858); *The Interference Theory of Government* (1867); *Anacreontics* (1872); and *On Some Exaggerations in Comparative Philology* (1873).

In 1847 Bristed married Laura Brevoort of New York, who died in 1860. In 1867 he married Grace Sedgwick of Lenox, Massachusetts.

Biographical information taken from "Charles Astor Bristed." *Dictionary of American Biography*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936. *Gale Biography in Context*. (accessed 3 May 2011).

Scope and Contents

The collection contains seventeen notebooks from Bristed's undergraduate and graduate studies at Yale and Cambridge universities from the late 1830s to mid 1840s, chiefly on classical authors and texts, including translations, and mathematics, as well as a catalogue of his books, several letters, a diary, a receipt, and two printed books, including Bristed's *Anacreontics*, published under the pseudonym Carl Benson.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Notebooks, 1838-1846. II. Other Material, 1841-1888.

Collection Contents

Series I: Notebooks, 1838-1846

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I. Notebooks contains seventeen notebooks from Bristed's undergraduate and graduate studies at Yale and Cambridge universities from the late 1830s to mid 1840s, chiefly on classical authors and texts, including translations, and mathematics, as well as a catalogue of his books.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b.1	"Aristophanes..."	undated
b.1	"Aristotle's politics (with Gibbs & Solus, Blakesley's and Thompson's lectures)"	1845-1846
b.1	"Books of the Republic"	1845
b.1	"Catalogue of books belonging to C. A. Bristed"	undated
b.1	"Cicero... Sophocles... general notes"	1842
b.1	"Composition"	1844
b.1	"Extracts for translation with notes"	undated
b.1	"Extracts Vol. I & Polymigia No. 2"	1838-1839, undated
b.2	"Freshman subjects"	1840-1841
b.2	"Life of Thucydides"	undated
b.2	[Notes in Latin and Greek]	undated
b.2	[Notes on mathematics] 2 Folders	undated
b.2	[Notes on reading the classics]	undated
b.2	"Optics, trigonometry, dynamics"	undated
b.2	"Scripta delecta Vol. 2 Part 1"	1839
b.2	[Translations]	undated
b.3	[Translations]	undated
b.3	"Whewell's lectures"	1844-1846

Series II: Other Material, 1841-1888*(5 folders)*

Series II. Other Material contains several letters, a diary, a receipt, and two printed books, including Bristed's *Anacreontics*, published under the pseudonym Carl Benson. Correspondence includes four letters to Bristed, from Richard Grant White and others, and one autograph letter from Bristed to an unidentified recipient.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 3	Correspondence	1863-1888, undated
b. 3	Diary	1856-1857
b. 3	Receipt	1841 January 20
b. 3	<i>Anacreontics</i> , printed version, with inscription	1872-1873
b. 3	<i>A Dictionary of English Etymology</i> by Hensleigh Wedgwood, printed version, with autograph notes	1862-1863

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

American literature -- 19th century
Authors
Authors, American -- 19th century -- Archives

Names

Bristed, Charles Astor, 1820-1874

Corporate Bodies

University of Cambridge -- Students
Yale College (1718-1887) -- Students