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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the William Peterfield Trent Daniel Defoe Research Collection

GEN MSS 859



by Beinecke Staff

May 2012

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(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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Notes, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, typescripts, and printed material related to William Peterfield Trent's unpublished biography and bibliography of Daniel Defoe; and correspondence, notes, and printed material related to William Clinton Hutchins's editorial work on Trent's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: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.trentdefoe>

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## 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 <https://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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Henry Clinton Hutchins, 1962.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The William Peterfield Trent Daniel Defoe Research Collection 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.

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## Preferred Citation

William Peterfield Trent Daniel Defoe Research Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition. Further rehousing and description were carried out in 2012.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two groupings: I. William Peterfield Trent Research Materials, 1912-1939; II. Henry Clinton Hutchins Research Materials, 1830-1962.

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## Collection Contents

### I. William Peterfield Trent Research Materials, 1906-1934

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.

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

**II. Henry Clinton Hutchins Research Materials, 1830-1962**

*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.

b. 20	Correspondence, notes, and research files on Defoe Includes correspondence with booksellers, academic and public libraries, and scholarly journals. One folder of correspondence, labeled "Personal," contains letters from relatives.	1910-1962, undated
b. 21	Research files on Defoe and printed material Contents include Walter Wilson, <i>Memoirs of the Life and Times of Daniel De Foe</i> (London, 1830) and William Lee, <i>Daniel Defoe, His Life and Recently Discovered Writings</i> (London, 1869).	1830-1962, undated

## **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-