

W54.929f and W09.262e
U.S. Sanitary Commission and Sanitary Fairs
A collection of publications and ephemera related to the fairs,
dinners, etc. held at various places, 1861-65

Introduction

This part of the John Shaw Pierson Civil War Collection contains publications and ephemera related to the U.S. Sanitation Commission and similar organizations. The Sanitary Fairs were held to support the work of the U.S.S.C. and groups such as the Western Sanitary Commission, U.S. Christian Commission, and homes for injured soldiers and sailors. The fairs were held in many cities and towns during and just after the Civil War. The Pierson collection contains many other books and periodicals about these organizations and the fair, but this finding aid is limited to just two call numbers.

The collection will be of interest to scholars who are interested in the work of the Sanitary Commission and the Sanitary Fairs. More generally, they are a window into the organization of 19th Century charities, life on the home front during the Civil War, and the cities where the fairs were held.

The first call number, **W54.929f**, refers to a collection of ephemera that is now housed in two large file boxes, a smaller box and a large flat file for oversize items. It was re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes in August/September 1998 and organized. Before re-housing, the collection was stored in two boxes. The first box chiefly contained material related to the Great Sanitary Fair held in Philadelphia in 1864. The second box had much material related to the Northwest Sanitary Fair held in Chicago in 1865. But this box also had several unopened bundles of material that had been wrapped in paper and tied with twine. Most of this material had to do with fairs in New York, Cincinnati, and St. Louis. There was also a fair amount of loose material in both boxes, including some information about events held in other cities. This observation is offered to users of the collection as a caution. I've done my best to preserve the order in the collection as I found it. Proximity was sometimes used as a clue when sorting materials. But because there was a lot of material floating in both boxes, it is possible that sometime during the past century, material from different fairs wound up next to one another.

The second call number, **W09.262e**, refers to a related collection that contains various badges and ribbons worn by participants in the Sanitary Fairs as well as an event held on July 4, 1866 where battle flags were returned to Pennsylvania. It also includes a Civil War-era dog tag. It is stored in a large flat box.

A description of the contents of each box or folder follows.

--Chris Dupin

W54.929f

BOX 1

- Folder 1 This folder contains a copy of the original catalog card for this collection, this finding aid, and a few other items that might be useful or interesting to users of the collection.
- Folder 2 Great Western Sanitary Fair
Cincinnati, Ohio
12/21/63-1/9/64 (All the dates for the fairs are approximate.)
Contents include:
appeals and letters by various committees for donations;
blank forms, envelopes, tickets;
a letter (printed reproduction) lauding the fair by Johanna Claria Heckewelder (sp?) who says her mother was an Indian captive and that she was the first white person born in Ohio;
several poems and songs including "Our Heroes" by Francis de Haes Janvier, and two pieces written for the fair: "National Union Hymn," and "O, Where is My Boy Tonight!";
handbills or small posters advertising items such as a writing case for soldiers, a history of the fair, and an exhibit of relics, war memorials and curiosities. These curiosities range from "a well prepared head of a wild boar of Bohemia" to a set of tools carved from wood by a Massachusetts soldier while in a Rebel prison.
- Folder 3 Albany Sanitary Fair (Army Relief Bazaar)
Albany, N.Y.
2/22/64-3/10/64
This small collection of tickets was in a sealed envelope. The envelope has the name of the Indiana State Sanitary Exhibition and Fair on it, but the tickets appear to be from Albany events, with one exception, a ticket from the Great Central Fair in Philadelphia.
- Folder 4 Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair
St. Louis, Missouri
12/21/63-1/9/64
This folder contains several circulars announcing plans to hold the fair, and a catalog of autographs, letters and documents sold at the fair. The fair was held for the benefit of the Western Sanitary Commission.

- Folder 5 Indiana State Sanitary Fair
 Indianapolis, Indiana
 10/3/64-10/8/64
 (Note: There are also some posters from the fair in the large flat file)
 Contents include:
Proceedings of the Indiana Sanitary Convention (3/2/64);
 appeals to the people of Indiana to support the fair;
 a badly soiled copy of the **Sanitary Fair Bulletin**, which was
 apparently, printed daily during the fair;
 tickets, envelopes, and blank forms.
- Folder 6 Metropolitan Fair
 New York, N.Y.
 4/4/64-4/23/64
 Contents include:
 appeals for contributions;
 a booklet listing committee members;
 a copy of the address by Samuel B. Ruggles gave at Union Square at
 the opening of fair;
 a catalog of an art exhibition;
 a catalog of original sketches of battle scenes and incidents of the war
 “made on the spot by the special artists of **Frank Leslie’s Illustrated
 Paper**” that were for sale at the fair;
 a poster advertising an auction of sketches by American artists;
 various blank forms and envelopes;
 tickets to fair events.
- Folders 7-15 Northwest Sanitary Fair
 Chicago, Illinois
 May/June 1865
 (This was the second of the Chicago fairs)
- Folder 7 Appeals by the executive committee and various departments and
 committees. (Most represent various trades or business interests.)
- Folder 8 Appeals by various religious denominations and fraternal
 organizations along with ephemera relating to these groups. Included
 are Baptists, Catholics, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Methodists,
 New Jerusalem, Presbyterians, Spiritualists and Progressionists,
 Unitarians, Universalists, Friends of Progress, Good Templars, Odd
 Fellows, Sons of Temperance, Union League, Fenian Brotherhood.
- Folder 9 Handbills and posters, including:
 handbills advertising sales of calico cloth, paintings and statuary, rare
 coins, and a sewing machine raffle;
 Flyers advertising exhibitions of Harriet Hosmer’s statue of “Zenobia,
 Queen of Palmyra,” and Carpenter’s painting of the signing of the
 Emancipation Proclamation.

- Folder 10 Catalogs, programs, menus, and other publications, including:
 A catalog of “arms and trophies” sold at the fair such as flags carried in battles, captured Rebel flags, autographs, photographs, etc.;
 catalogs of paintings and statuary exhibited at fair;
Burnett’s Floral Handbook and Ladies Calendar for 1865;
 “List of Contributors from Friends in Europe;”
 New England Farm House Bill of Fare;
 Program for play, **Betsy Barker or Too Attentive by Half.**
- Folder 11 Collection of tickets, blank forms, and other ephemera.
 This includes a newspaper article and photograph of Joseph Crele, reputedly, “the oldest man in the world.”
- Folder 12 Handbills and other material related to “Old Abe,” live eagle mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment.
- Folder 13 **Bugle Call**, a fair newspaper.
- Folder 14 **Dearborne School Gazette**, Nos. 1,3,4,5.
- Folder 15 Clippings from the Chicago **Evening Journal**
 (more clippings can be found in oversize flat file.)
- Folder 16 Lawrence Sanitary Fair?
 Lawrence, Mass.?
 Balance sheet showing receipts and expenditures for a “Fair in Aid of the Sanitary Commission. No location given, but there is a mention of Lawrence and the bridges across the Merrimac River.
- Folder 17 Publications of the U.S. Sanitary Commission:
 No. 27 **Report on U.S. Troops in Mississippi Valley during the month of August** (1861?);
 No. 31 Report on **Quinine as a Prophylactic against Malarious Diseases** (1861);
 No. 36 **Report on the condition of the troops and the operations of the Sanitary Commission in the Valley of the Mississippi**, By J.S. Newberry, (1861);
 No. 42 **Report on A Visit to Fort Donelson, Tennessee for the Relief of the Wounded of February 15, 1862**, by J.S. Newberry;
Brief Reports of the Operations of the Sanitary Commission in Tennessee, May 1862, by J.S. Newberry;
 No. 54, Untitled report on hospital clothing, by Henry W. Bellows (Oct. 22, 1862);
 No. 62, **Rules of the Supply Department of the Sanitary Commission** (1863);
The Sanitary Commission Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 12, April 15, 1864;
The Sanitary Commission Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 13, May 1, 1864.
- Folder 18 Publication of the U.S. Christian Commission
Information for Army Meetings, December 1864.

Folder 19 1790 Loan Document
The document begins: “Received of John Neusville, Commissioner of Loans in the state of South Carolina the following certificates of funded debt...”
This document is seemingly unrelated to the collection.

Box Two Great Central Fair
Folders 1-18 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 1864

Much of the material related to the Philadelphia fair had been sorted by either the original collector or at some later date. The sorter had placed letters and printed material into folders with the names of various committees and “departments” involved in organizing and running the Philadelphia fair. These folders were discarded because they were made with acidic paper and recreated with acid-free material, but the contents have been left pretty much as I found them. You will find small handbills, catalogs, tickets and menus interspersed among the appeals by various groups. The paper folders are alphabetized and placed in folders 2-6 in Box 2. Among these papers are a number of letters by committee members responding to requests by A.C. Kline for badges or other fair ephemera.

Mr. Kline was a philatelic dealer whose **The Stamp Collector’s Manual** (3rd Edition, Philadelphia, 1865) contains what may be the first reference to Sanitary Fair stamps. (See **Sanitary Fairs: A Philatelic and Historical Study of Civil War Benevolences**, by Alvin Robert Kantor and Marjorie Sered Kantor, Amos Philatelics Inc./dba Scott Publishing Co. 1992, Page 160.) The back cover of the 1865 catalog (a photocopy of that page can be found in Folder 1) mentions that A.C. Kline also dealt in a wide variety of other collectibles including coins, medals, medalets, tokens, minerals, fossils, shells, “Indian and other curiosities.” It is possible that the other collection mentioned in this finding aid, **W09.262e**, includes ribbons and badges that were solicited by Mr. Kline, though there are no Sanitary Fair badges from the Philadelphia fair in that box.

There are a number of items that seem to be related to events held before or after the actual Great Central Fair in June.

Folder 1 Directory naming the various committees and members.

Folder 2 Committees and Departments A-C.

Folder 3 Committees and Departments D-F.

The Delaware file includes a booklet entitled **A History of the Delaware Department;**

the Fine Arts file has several catalogs of furniture, paintings, and statuary sold at the fair, and handbills.

Folder 4 Committees and Departments G-O.

The India Rubber and Gutta Percha Department appeal includes an air with new lyrics to be sung to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne.” Here are few of the verses:

The time has come when patriots true
Should lend a helping hand,
Each from his store give what is due
To save his native land.

Then fetch your Sacks and bring your Coats
And Blankets to keep warm.
Your Leggins and your Long-top Boots,
The Cape to shield the arms.

Attend ye India Rubber Men
To this, your Chairman’s Call
Expand, as does your Gum, and, then,
Your gifts will not be small.

- Folder 5 Committees and Departments P-R.
 The folder for the Department of Relics, Curiosities, and Trophies includes two catalogs, one for autographs, the other for flags, trophies and relics. There is also an envelope which includes little paper tags that were affixed to pieces of wood taken from various sites at Gettysburg. The Restaurant file includes a number of menus and flyers touting products such as Duryeas’ Maizena and Scull’s Continental Coffee.
- Folder 6 Committees and Departments S-Z
- Folder 7 Material related to the Diligent Fire Engine Co. of Philadelphia
- Folder 8 Floor plans of the fair and a small pocket guide of Philadelphia with a schematic map of the city designed for visiting soldiers.
- Folder 9 A variety of blank forms used during the fair
- Folder 10 Catalogs of goods sold or auctioned at the fair including a receipt for purchase of moccasins and other Indian goods
- Folder 11 A collection of songs, poems, and plays – some composed for or performed at the fair. They include:
 “Hymn” and “Army Hymn” by Oliver Wendell Holmes;
 Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address;
 “Easter Lillies’ Song;”
 “Our Heroes” by Francis De Haes Janvier;
 “Complimentary to the Steamer Niagara;”
 “A New Song on the American War of 1861 & 1862” by W.W.;
 Notre-Dame of Paris: A Lyrical Drama in Four Acts. The subject from Victor Hugo’s novel of the same title, Words by J.R. Fry, Music by W.H. Fry;
 Songs sung at the Scottish concert in Musical Fund Hall May 20, 1864;

“The Maiden’s Bow: A Legend of India” manuscript or copy of a 5 stanza poem signed L. Ford? and dated Philadelphia, 1863.

- Folder 12 Programs, Posters, and Handbills for performances, lectures, and other events given around the time of the Philadelphia Fair. These include performances of Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice” and Goldsmith’s “She Stoops to Conquer,” a magic show, gymnastic exhibition, and concerts.
There are also notices of lectures by:
Rev. J. Walker Jackson on “Our Nation and its Peril;”
Constant Guillou on the “Island of Cuba: Her Customs, Capital, Peculiar Sylva & c.;"
Grace Greenwood on “Lights of the War Cloud.”
- Folder 13 Handbills and posters inviting visitors to tour the Cathedral of St. Peter & St. Paul.
- Folder 14 Advertisements for a variety of products aimed at soldiers including writing supplies, a compass, an army cot, and a camp stove. There is also a flyer asking attendees to vote for their favorite general, at a cost of \$1 per vote. The winner of the poll was to be presented with a camp chest filled with silverware worth \$1,000.
- Folder 15 Miscellaneous Materials, including:
Political posters for Alexander Henry, Philadelphia Mayor (in German);
A menu for the Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon and Hospital which provided care for soldiers passing through the city;
A poster advertising an exhibition of the “Rebel Steam Ram Atlanta;”
A handbill giving delivery rates from the Philadelphia Local Express Co.;
Advertisements for print shops, shirts, and paper shirt collars. (The latter has a patriotic appeal “Cotton Dethroned; Paper is King”)
- Folder 16 Clippings from Philadelphia newspapers: March, April and May 1864
- Folder 17 Clippings from Philadelphia newspapers: June 1864
- Folder 18 Clippings from Philadelphia newspapers: July 1864 and several unidentifiable dates.
(Note: Larger clippings are in the collection’s oversize folder)

Box 3

This smaller box contains tickets and other small items related to the 1864 Great Central Fair or other events in Philadelphia to benefit soldiers such as the Floral, Strawberry & Fancy Fair of 1863 for the benefit of the Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon and Hospital. Included is a ticket for a "Match Game of Base Ball in Aid of the Sanitary Fair Pennsylvania vs. New Jersey, Wednesday, May 25, 1864..."

Included are several envelopes with lots of 20 tickets with A.C. Kline stickers upon them. They may have been sold as collectibles by Kline's Emporium

Box 4
(flat file folder)

- Great Central Fair
Philadelphia, June 1864
- Folder 1 Clippings from Philadelphia newspapers about the Great Central Fair.
- Folder 2 Posters and other ephemera from Philadelphia's Great Central Fair including:
Poster for the Committee for a Day's Labor, which sought workers and businesses to contribute a days wages or day's profits to the work of the Sanitary Commission;
Sheet music for The Sanitary Fair Polka;
Directions for sewing mittens for soldiers with ad for Wilcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine;
Poster for **Our Daily Fare**, newspaper published during the fair ;
Poster for exhibit of the original manuscript of the Emancipation Proclamation;
Poster for Taylor's Orilote and Denticrete for "cleansing the teeth, hardening the gums, and sweetening the breath;"
Poster advertising sale of a building lot on West Street with proceeds to benefit the fair;
Poster for a Literary and Musical Entertainment held on May 16, 1864;
Poster for exhibit of works of art belonging to Joseph Harrison, Jr.;
Poster for "The Union Vase" (fairgoers were asked to vote for an individual or organization at \$1 per vote, the top vote-getter was presented with the vase;
Poster for a prize "Fire Horn" to be awarded in much the same way as above;
Poster for a Camp Chest to be awarded in much the same way to the public's favorite general;
Poster for "A magnificent set of Horse Equipments" to be presented to a general receiving the largest number of votes;
Catalogs of Miscellaneous Goods and Cabinet Furniture sold at the fair;
Poster for American Card Co.'s Union Playing Cards;
Poster for a donkey to be raffled;
Poster for a children's May Party;
Poster for a Fancy Ball ;
- Indiana Sanitary Fair
Indianapolis, October 1864
- Folder 3 Poster, soiled, with fair regulations
- Folder 4 Poster, soiled, advertising sale of Sanitary Fair Bulletin (with "Hot Oysters" lettered in hand on verso)
- Folder 5 Copy, soiled, of Sanitary Fair Bulletin

Northwest Sanitary Fair,
Chicago, June 1865

Folder 6 Clippings from Chicago **Evening Journal** about the
Northwest Sanitary Fair

Folder 7 Posters from the Northwest Sanitary Fair
Poster advertising auction of a 160 acre farm in Harrison County,
Iowa, and a gold watch “donated by a dying citizen of Iowa; who said,
‘I can better die without the Watch, than the suffering Soldier can do
without aid.’ ”

Poster for performance of “Macbeth”

Copy of **Daily Opera**, apparently a fair newspaper.

W09.262e

This collection consists of several dozen ribbons and badges. Most items are pinned or sewn to sheets of paper and are fragile. Unfortunately, some items are not well identified, and some are missing.

There are a number of letters in the complementary collection (**W54.929f**, Box 2, Folders 2-6) by the philatelic dealer A.C. Kline asking participants in the Philadelphia fair for badges. It is possible some of the badges in this collection were collected by him and then later acquired by Mr. Pierson. However, I do not see any badges in this collection that were specifically for the Philadelphia fair.

File 1

Badges worn by participants at the Indianapolis Sanitary Fair in 1864.

File 2

Badges worn by participants in the Chicago Sanitary Fair of 1865.

There are badges worn by the aids in the area where "Old Abe" the live eagle mascot of the Wisconsin 8th Regiment was exhibited.

Another ribbon shows the American flag and is striped black to mourn President Lincoln.

Under a ribbon for the Arms, Trophies and Curiosities department the collector has written: "This is the badge worn by the wife of Hon. J.B. Bradwell. Is it not elegant? I had to beg hard for the enclosed for you. So please appreciate them. 5/each."

File 3

Badges and Ribbons from July 4, 1866 when battle flags were returned to Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

File 4

Badges from an unidentified fair. Because of the anchor on the button in the middle of the rosette and the presence of a floor plan for the National Sailors Fair in the collection, (see next folder) I think they may be from this 1864 event held in Boston. It raised money that was used to create a home for sailors near Quincy.

File 5

Floor plan for National Sailor's Fair, Boston
November 9-22, 1864

File 6

A Civil War era "dog tag" made up parchment rather than metal. The tag seems to have been distributed by the U.S. Christian Commission. It was found with an envelope which reads: "Parchment label (prepared by Christian Commission) for each soldier to wear on his person to identify him in case of sudden death."