

INTRODUCTION

- Hidden Collections in Academic Libraries
- T.W. Mussen collection, a perfect example of “hidden collection”
 - ✓ risk of items being lost
 - ✓ inaccessibility to wider scholarly community
 - ✓ manual finding aides underutilized by inexperienced researchers
 - ✓ staff-dependent local access
 - ✓ wear of physical items
 - ✓ exclusion from retrospective conversion projects

T.W. MUSSEN COLLECTION

T.W. Mussen (1832-1901)

- Rector at West Farnham at 1859
- “A man of culture and erudition” Borthwick, J. Douglas. *History of the Diocese of Montreal*

T.W. Mussen collection at McGill

- 1919 – collection of books, prints, and Roman and Greek coins donated to McGill
- “An exceptional gift” “Notable Gifts to M'Gill Library.” *Montreal Gazette*, 15 February 1919
- Unique and valuable items:
 - ✓ old master prints (ex. Dürer, Van Dyck)
 - ✓ early printed books (16th and 17th cent.)
- Subject-focused
- Theology, Church History, Ancient History,
- Latin, English, Greek
- Evidence of bibliographic research and constant interest in book collecting

GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Identify, describe, analyse, and make accessible to the public a ‘hidden collection’ of rare prints and early books donated to McGill Library by T.W. Mussen

Objectives

Phase 1 – completed:

- identify all T.W. Mussen prints and books
- compile an inventory of the collection

Phase 2:

- investigate the history of the items
- analyse & describe the collection as a whole
- describe individual items

Phase 3:

- prepare a catalogue for publication
- create a digital exhibition / website



T.W. Mussen: Identifying & Analysing a Hidden Collection

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INITIAL ACCESS

Prints:

- No comprehensive list of donated prints
- No records in online catalogue
- Some prints listed in “European prints” typewritten catalogue
- Carbon copy of Mussen Memorial list - no links to the physical items

Books:

- No list of donated books
- No total number of donated books
- Accession registers initially unavailable for consultation
- Only 16 books in online catalogue with T.W. Mussen in notes
- T.W. Mussen traced as a donor in only 2 records
- Small binder with 46 old type-written or hand-written 3 x 5 cards

IDENTIFICATION METHODS

Prints:

- Finding prints from Mussen Memorial list in “European prints” catalogue – abandoned
- Examining the whole section of European prints in RBSC:
 - ✓ 1,605 catalogued
 - ✓ more than 900 uncatalogued prints

Books:

- Finding titles from binder in online catalogue – 4 more books
- Mussen Memorial list starts at page 3, so pages 1-2 may have had a list of books.
- McGill Archives to find missing pages of Mussen Memorial list
- Comparing information found in:
 - ✓ Archival documents
 - ✓ McGill online catalogue
 - ✓ RBSC card catalogue
 - ✓ 3 x 5 cards’ binder
 - ✓ Library accession register

RESULTS

Prints:

- Comprehensive list of all Mussen prints
 - ✓ 97 prints from the Mussen Memorial list
 - ✓ 14 prints not included in the Mussen Memorial list
 - ✓ 17 prints identified as missing
- Authority work (creators’ names, dates, prints’ titles)
- Mylar protective enclosures

Books:

- Total number of donated books – 76
- All 76 titles donated to McGill Library identified
- Comprehensive list of all Mussen books
 - ✓ 66 in RBSC collection
 - ✓ 10 missing
- Authority work (creators’ names, dates, titles)
- Provenance confirmed by examining physical items (accession number, T.W. Mussen memorial plate, signature, or label)

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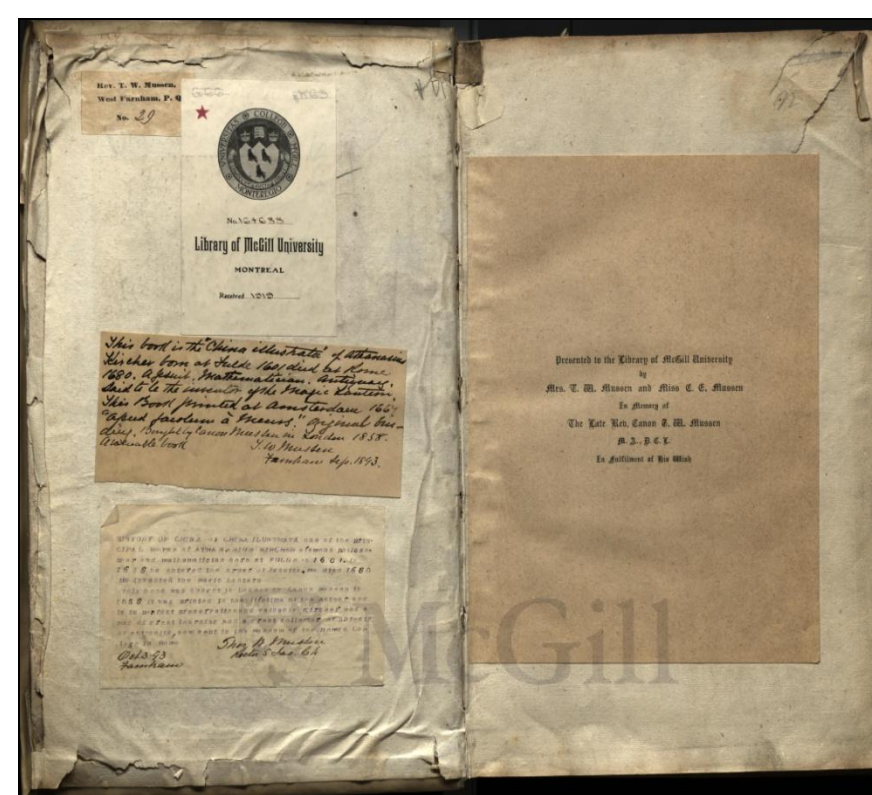
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The four horsemen of the Apocalypse, Albrecht Dürer



T.W. Mussen bibliographic notes



Decretum Gratiani, 1472