

# Winterthur Library

## *An Introduction to Resources*



## Arts and Crafts Movement

The Winterthur Library offers researchers a wealth of material on the arts and crafts movement in America, including original furniture designs, scarce nineteenth- and twentieth-century periodicals, rare advertising material, and early glass-plate negatives and photographs. Much material has been recently acquired, presenting a remarkable opportunity for original scholarship.

### Gustav Stickley Company

One of the key figures in the American arts and crafts movement was Gustav Stickley (1858–1942). In 1899 he formed the Gustav Stickley Company, which manufactured furniture. In 1901 he began

publishing *The Craftsman*, a monthly journal promoting the ideals of the movement. His solid, straight-lined Mission furniture popularized the craftsman ideal for the middle class.

The Winterthur Library's Stickley Collection documents the rise and fall of Gustav Stickley's business enterprises, particularly Craftsman, Inc. Included are business records including bills, cancelled checks, stock information, minutes of corporate meetings, contracts, patents, and the legal records and letters from creditors that relate to the bankruptcy of Craftsman, Inc., in 1916 and the dissolution of the Craftsman Publishing Company. The collection also contains 675 glass-plate negatives and a set of reproduction proofs used in



What is Wrought in the Craftsman Workshops, United Craftsman, Syracuse, N.Y. 1904. Printed Book Collection, Winterthur Library

the production of the firm's trade catalogues. Winterthur also owns an almost complete run of *The Craftsman* and a number of trade catalogues, including the very rare *What Is Wrought in the Craftsman Workshops* (Syracuse, 1904).

### Rose Valley

In 1901 architect Will Price and his associates founded the Rose Valley colony for the "manufacture of structures, articles, materials and products involving artistic handicraft." Located on the ruins of the abandoned Rose Valley Mills near Philadelphia, the utopian community produced furniture, bookbindings, pottery, and the journal *The Artsman*.

Winterthur's material on the community includes the legal papers, correspondence, meeting minutes, and letter book of the Rose Valley Association covering the years 1901 to 1904. The Rose Valley Press material consists of examples of printing and line cuts. A complete run of *The Artsman* as well as several rare advertising flyers and bulletins are also in the collection.

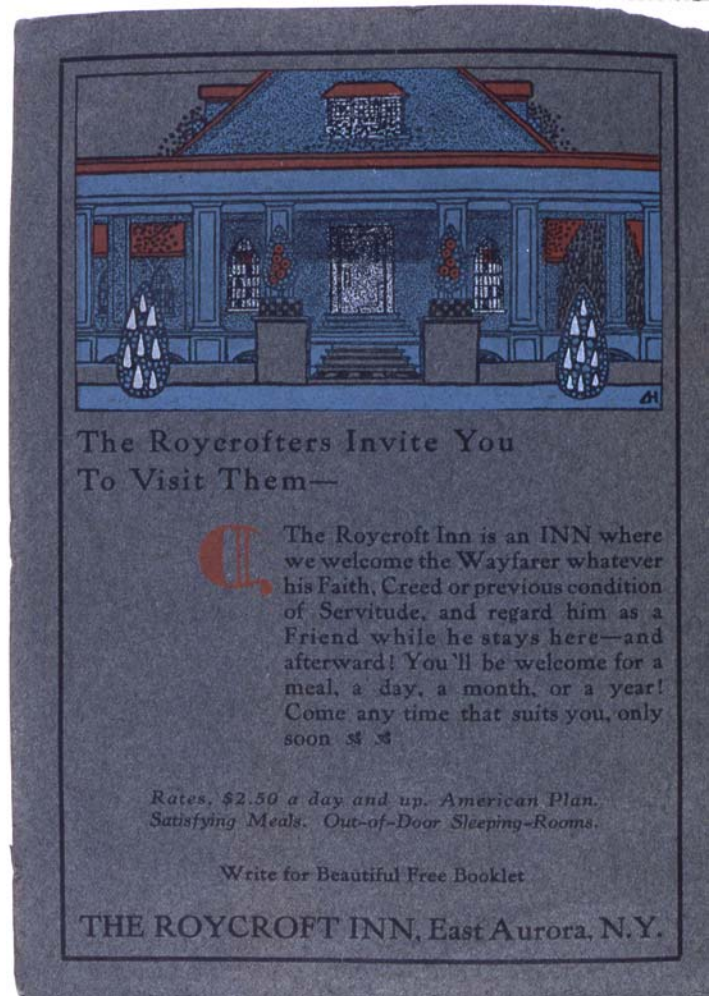
### Roycroft

The more commercially successful community of Roycroft in East Aurora, New York, produced books, furniture, leather, and metalwork from 1895 to 1938. Founded by Elbert Hubbard (1856–1915), a successful businessman with advertising and mass marketing skills, Roycroft combined the ideals of William Morris with the techniques of capitalism.

Winterthur's collection of printed material includes original trade catalogues for Roycroft products, including copper and leather objects, furniture, and books as well as many issues of Hubbard's periodicals *The Era* and *The Philistine*. In 1992 the library acquired a collection of more than 150 glass-plate negatives and lantern slides from Roycroft. Images include the workshops and workers, exterior scenes, portraits, and photographs used in the trade catalogues.

### Byrdcliffe

Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead (1854–1929), an independently wealthy Englishman and student of John Ruskin, founded an arts colony in rural Woodstock, New York, in 1902. He invited talented craftsmen to work and teach at Byrdcliffe, hoping



Hand Made Gifts from the Roycroft Shops, Roycroft Shops, East Aurora, N.Y., 1917. Printed Book Collection, Winterthur Library.

to offer a healthy environment for workers to combine intellectual and manual labor. The community was never successful either financially or socially. Furniture production ceased in 1905, and many of the artisans left. Pottery and weaving production continued, and a number of well-known artists and intellectual figures continued to visit, but by 1915 the once-lively community had come to an end.

All of Byrdcliffe's archives and most of Whitehead's personal papers have been donated to the Winterthur Library. The collection includes hundreds of original drawings of items made in the colony, more than 400 photographs—including ones taken by Jessie Tarbox Beals—and books and periodicals from the Byrdcliffe library as well as a large collection of art reference prints.

### Parke E. Edwards

Metal designer Parke Edwards (1892–1975) is significant as one of the first generation of school-



Ralph Whitehead on the porch of White Pines, Byrdcliffe, Woodstock, N.Y., ca. 1910. Downs Collection, Winterthur Library.

trained craftsmen and because his career reveals arts and crafts practices reaching the mid-twentieth century. He attended the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art and later studied with renowned Philadelphia blacksmith Samuel Yellin. Edwards was best known for the design, execution, and installation of the decorative metalwork for the Swedenborgian Cathedral at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania.

The Parke Edwards archives at Winterthur consists of original watercolor and pen and ink designs for metal objects and architectural elements, including doors, windows, hardware, and lighting devices as well as a few examples of his work in metal. Student sketches, correspondence, photographs, and clippings support the design work.

### **Additional Resources**

The Winterthur Library contains many other important arts and crafts resources. Periodicals of the era in the collection include *Keramic Studio*, *Handicraft*, *House and Garden*, *International Studio*, and *House Beautiful*. Books on decorating

advice and amateur crafts and photographs of objects in museum and private collections support research. Trade catalogues, trade cards, and advertisements from manufacturers who produced furniture and decorative items for the mass market in the arts and crafts style and material on interior design firms inspired by the group bring the movement into the contemporary era.



*Winterthur Library is located in the Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from the main entrance to Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.*

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

800.448.3883 ☎ 302.888.4681  
[www.winterthur.org](http://www.winterthur.org) 📧 [reference@winterthur.org](mailto:reference@winterthur.org)