# Beyond the Finding Aid

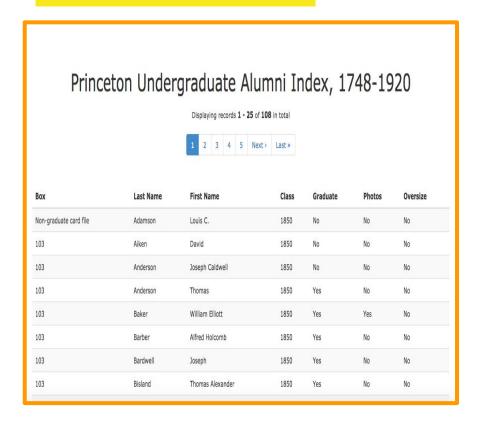
**Alexis Antracoli** 

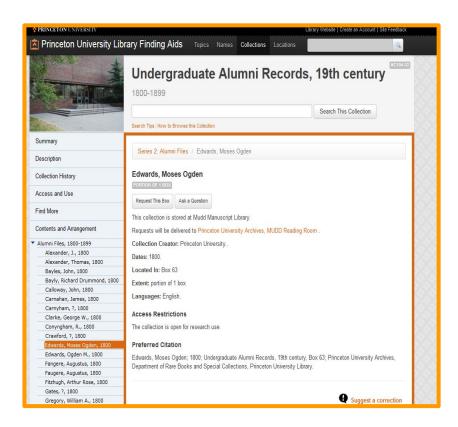
**Meghan Lyon: @misformeghan** 

**Jennifer Sirotkin** 

**Greg Wiedeman: @gregwiedeman** 

### **Alexis: Introduction**





### **Meghan: Introduction**



## Guide to the Virginia Woolf's Oak Writing Desk, approximately 1911

#### Summary -

Writing desk at which one would stand, designed and owned by Virginia Woolf. The sloping top of the desk features a central panel in two pieces, with hinges at the top. The panel lifts to reveal a storage compartment underneath. Two drawers are located below the storage area, one on each side of the desk. There are metal pulls on each drawer. The left-hand drawer pull surrounds a flower medalion; the medalion on the right-hand drawer is missing. The drawers and desk top each feature a metal lock, but no keys are present. Quentin Bell painted the figure of Cleo holding a trumpet on the top of the desk. He painted the rest of the desk, except the back, in grays with black accents. There are random spatters of paint present on all surfaces.

More About This Collection

#### Collection Details -

Collection RL.11122 Number

Title Virginia Woolf's oak writing desk

Date approximately 1911

Extent 2.5 Linear Feet, 67.4 x 126 x 87.7 cm; 26.5

x 49.5 x 34.5 inches

Repository David M. Rubenstein Rare Book &

Manuscript Library



Summary
Collection Overview
Using These Materials
Contents of the Collection
Historical Note
Subjects
Other Notes

▲ Collections must be requested at least 2 full business days in advance for retrieval. Contact Rubenstein Library staff before visiting.

Catalog Record | XML | Components: 1

### Guide to the Wesley family papers, 1726-1889 and undated





Some materials from this collection have been digitized and are viewable from within this collection guide. Start Viewing Now »



#### Summary -

The brothers John Wesley (1703-1791) and Charles Wesley (1707-1788) were Church of England clergymen and two of the founders of Methodism; Sarah Wesley (1726-1822) and Sarah Wesley (1759-1828) were the wife and daughter of Charles Wesley. The Wesley family papers span the years 1726-1889 and mainly comprise the correspondence of John and Charles Wesley, with single items from the wife and daughter of Charles, both named Sarah; there is also an inventory of John Wesley's library taken at the time of his death, 1791, and a photograph album, 1889, of English sites related to the Wesleys and the history of Methodism. Correspondence discusses John Wesley's life as a student at Lincoln College, the administration of Kingswood School, the brothers' mission to Georgia in the 1730s, and Methodism's eventual separation from the Church of England. Correspondents and people mentioned in the letters include the Countess of Huntingdon, George Whitefield, James Oglethorpe, Joseph Benson, and Samuel Bradburn.

**More About This Collection** 

#### Collection Details -

#### Collection RL.01367

Date

Number

Title Wesley family papers

1726-1889 and undated

#### Series in This Collection .

- 1. Correspondence Series, 1726-1862 and undated
- 2. Miscellaneous Series, 1735-1738 and undated
- 3. Volumes Series, 1791-1889



#### Guide to the Wesley family papers, 1726-1889 and undated

Series: Correspondence Series, 1726-1862 and undated All Series »

#### Wesley, Charles, n.p., copy to Dr. Chandler, London, 1785 Apr. 28, 1862, and undated

Two different handwritten transcriptions, one dating to 1882 and the other undated, though probably 19th century. Published in the New York Gazette, the letter is largely autobiographical, talling how his brother John persuaded him to become ordained and to accompany him and James Oglethorpe to Georgia. There, John took charge in Savarrath while he worked in Frederica. While waiting for an opportunity to preach to the Indians he served as secretary to Oglethorpe and also secretary of Indian Affairs. Ill health residing from opposure forced him back to England within some months; John returned the next year. He goes on to describe his work in the Methods Society he had founded at Oxford, discusses how he and John tried to provent breaking with the Church of England, and respect the separation that eventually took place.

View Images



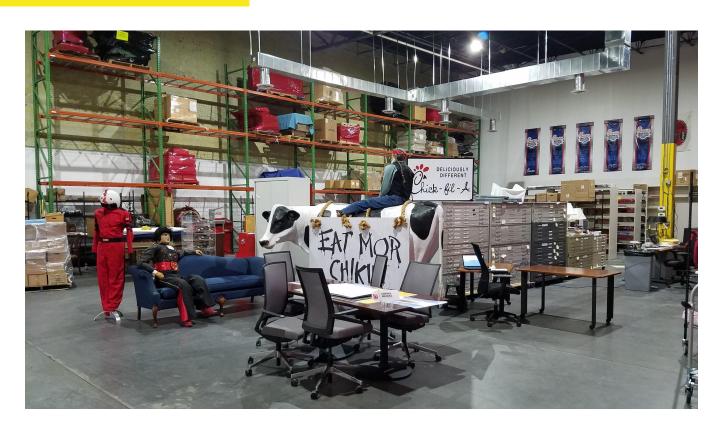
Wesley, John, [?], to [?], London, 1787 Jan. 17 [Original missing; no use copy.]

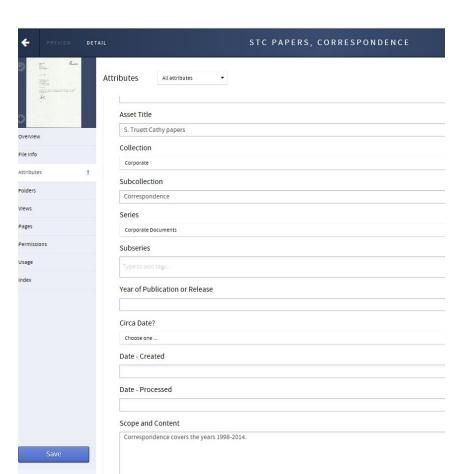
Box 1 Folder 15

Box 1

Folder 14

### **Jennifer: Introduction**









### **Greg: What are Finding Aids?**

- Finding Aids and Archival Description
- A system to deliver archival description in the form of a document.
  - o Paper
  - Three ring binder
  - o EAD
  - XSLT-created HTML
- Developed by National Archives in mid-1900s
- Codified further with MARC-AMC, EAD
- This information is complex

### **Making Complex Systems Usable**

• User-centered design, User Experience (UX)

"...when I look at a Web page it should be self-evident. Obvious. Self-explanatory", Steven Krug, *Don't Make Me Think*, p. 11

 Users must be able to immediately discern where they are and what they are looking at

Bearman and Lytle's "Provenance Method of Retrieval"

"The Power of the Principle of Provenance," Archivaria 21 (Winter 1985-86)

### Finding Aids Conflict with Usability Tenants

- Huge blocks of text with important stuff somewhere
- WAY too much scrolling
- Separate "finding aids systems" with different branding
- Precise, unintuitive language

Formatted as a document using esoteric practices

- Indented lists
- Specialized language



### **Make Archival Description Familiar**

- "Finding aid" is jargon, it keeps archives different
- Make web applications for delivering archival description
- Open tools with APIs (ArchivesSpace!)
- Culture favors sharing and standardization
- Need better understanding of user experience
  - Guerrilla user testing



# **Small Groups Discussion**

(20 minutes)

- 1. What's good about a finding aid? What's bad?
- 2. What belongs in a finding aid? What doesn't belong?
- 3. Take notes and select someone to report out.

## Large Group Discussion

(20 minutes)

- 1. What's possible vs. impossible if we stop using finding aids?
- 2. What do we gain vs. what do we lose with finding aids?
- 3. What are some technology gaps archivists face, and how can we close them as a community?
- 4. What other technologies and tools are people already using, beyond the finding aid?
- 5. Google doc to view notes and comment: http://bit.ly/2vnNXkU