

**Baldwin Coolidge (1845-1928)
Photograph Collection, 1889**

Photograph Collection, PH-2

One linear foot (2 containers)

Biographical Sketch: Baldwin Coolidge was born in Woburn, Massachusetts on July 7, 1845. He was the son of Mary (Manning) and Benjamin Coolidge and the great-grandson of Loammi Baldwin, Revolutionary War patriot and engineer for the Middlesex Canal. Coolidge grew up in Lawrence and became that city's first engineer at age 33 before he changed careers and opened up his first photography studio in Boston in 1878. The photographer returned to live in a Baldwin family home in Woburn in 1889, around the time that the photographs of the Woburn Public Library were taken, living there through 1908. At the same time he continued to maintain a studio in Boston. He died in California in 1928; his ashes are interred in Woodbrook Cemetery in Woburn.

Scope and Contents Note: The collection consists largely of exterior and interior photographs of the Woburn Public Library. One group of images is mounted in an album; the second group consists of matted prints. According to the Librarian's report of 1889 (City of Woburn Annual Reports, p. 188) Baldwin Coolidge "was employed by the Trustees to perform the work of making these pictures....The pictures were about 30 in number" and were taken for the 1889 Paris Exposition.

Coolidge used gelatin dry-glass plates for his exposures and "Aristo Commercial" printing-out papers for making prints, a printing process that gives his images a sepia tone and matte finish. The photographs were taken in 1889 and the prints were made subsequently by his studio. Each original matted print is numbered according to the order that Coolidge took the photographs.

The album was later used (in 1898) to mount additional photographs, titled "Other Woburn Views", by an unidentified photographer(s). These include images of a Company G, 5th MA Regiment Encampment, historical scenes in Woburn and a photograph of the Count Rumford statue in Munich that served as the prototype for the Library's. These images are not actually part of the Baldwin Coolidge collection and so are not listed with this collection.

Acquisition: The Baldwin Coolidge album was acquired from the photographer on June 6, 1889. The date of acquisition of the individual matted images is unknown.

Access: See Archivist for restrictions.

Copyright: Historic New England holds the glass plate negatives for all of Baldwin Coolidge's images. It is recommended that researchers contact Historic New England for copies and for permission to use the images.

Preferred Citation: Baldwin Coolidge Photograph Collection

Woburn Public Library
Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives
Manuscript Finding Aid
October 17, 2014

Processor: Thomas R. Doyle

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Photograph Collection, 1889**

Series I: Baldwin Coolidge Album, 1889

Image no.	Description
2501	Distant view of Woburn Public Library and town, looking northeast
2500	Exterior view of library, looking southwest
2505	Exterior view of library, looking southwest to west
2523	Exterior view of library, looking southeast
2525	Exterior view of library, looking south to southwest and showing adjacent building
2528	Exterior view of library, looking northwest
2532	Exterior view of library, looking northeast
2529	Exterior view of library, detail of entry, looking northwest
2531	Exterior view of library, detail of entry, looking southwest
2530	Exterior view of library, looking in entry, looking northwest
2508	Interior view of stacks, looking north
2503	Interior view of stacks, looking southwest
2521	Interior view of reading room, looking southwest
2512	Interior view of stacks, looking northeast from fireplace
2527	Interior view of stacks, looking west
2502	View of marble bust
2517	View of marble bust and painting
2519	Interior view of picture gallery, looking south
2513	Interior view of picture gallery, looking southwest
2520	Interior view of picture gallery, looking west
2504	Interior view of museum, looking north
2524	Interior view of museum, looking south
2442	View of Count Rumford birthplace

Series 2: Matted prints, 1889

Image no.	Description
2500	Exterior view of library, looking southwest
2502	View of marble bust, 3 copies
2503	Interior view of stacks, looking southwest, 3 copies
2504	Interior view of museum, looking north, 3 copies
2508	Interior view of stacks, looking north

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Image no.	Description
2512	Interior view of stacks, looking northeast from fireplace, 6 copies
2513	Interior view of picture gallery, looking southwest, 3 copies
2517	View of marble bust and painting, 4 copies
2520	Interior view of picture gallery, looking west, 3 copies
2521	Interior view of reading room, looking southwest
2523	Exterior view of library, looking southeast
2424	Interior view of museum, looking south
2528	Exterior view of library, looking northwest
2529	Exterior view of library, detail of entry, looking northwest
2531	Exterior view of library, looking in entry, looking northwest, 2 copies
2532	Exterior view of library, looking northeast, 2 copies

Folder	
1	Modern print copies