Guide to the Robert B. Sweet Collection, ca. 1807-1959

Collection number: Mss 156

Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Robert B. Sweet Collection,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1807-1959
Collection Number: Mss 156
Collector: Sweet, Robert Ballantine
Extent: 4.5 linear feet (2 record center containers, 1 document box, and 2 oversize boxes)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical Location: Del Sur (Boxes 1-3) and Del Sur Oversize (Boxes 4-5).
Language: English.
Access Restrictions
None.
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Acquisition Information
Gift of Helen Sweet Keener and Clyde Keener, 1976.

Biography
Robert Ballantine Sweet (1876-1956) was born in Iowa, but spent most of his life in California. He was a physician (eye and ear specialist), longtime resident of Long Beach, and an avid book collector and bibliophile, with a wide diversity of interests.
The donors of the collection were Helen E. Sweet Keener, daughter of Robert Sweet, and Clyde Keener, her husband. Helen Sweet Keener (1906-1984) was Dean of Women and Associate Professor of Biology at UCSB. Clyde Keener (1903-1995) was Professor of Industrial Arts at UCSB.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Sweet manuscript collection is a very small part of a much larger personal library, all of which was donated to UCSB. Included in the manuscript section is correspondence, a diary, photos (Robert B. Sweet and others), scrapbooks, volumes of engravings, and a set of stereo slides.

The book collection reflects Sweet's far-ranging interests and includes anthropology, the arts, biography, the Civil War, history, humor, literature, medicine, philosophy, psychology, racism, sexuality, sociology, travel, and women. The vast majority are 20th century U.S. imprints, but there are important earlier 16th-19th century works (especially early medical, religious, and historical texts), and first, signed, and other significant editions of authors such as William Blake, Theodore Dreiser, Robert Frost, Lafcadio Hearn, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Elbert Hubbard, Aldous Huxley, Robinson Jeffers, D. H. Lawrence, Sinclair Lewis, Jack London, Henry Miller, Robert Service, Upton Sinclair, John Steinbeck, Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, H. G. Wells, Walt Whitman, and John Greenleaf Whittier. The books have been cataloged separately and can be searched on Pegasus, the UCSB Libraries online catalog.

At the time of the donation in 1976, this collection of more than 8,000 books was the second largest gift the UCSB Library had ever received, exceeded only by the William Wyles gift (the first 'special collection' at Santa Barbara).

**Series 1. General**

- Box 1: 1  
  *Benjamin List of Books for Private Library Builders, 1935*
- Box 1: 2  
  *Book -- text cut out for storage of small items, 1807*
- Box 1: 3  
  *Diary (apparently of a photographer in the Washington, D.C. area), 1845*
- Box 1: 4  
  *Keener, Clyde -- A Study of the General Education Contributions of Industrial Arts (UCLA dissertation), 1959*

**Series 2. Laid-in Materials**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series consists of items removed from cataloged volumes in Sweet Collection.

- Box 1: 5  
  *Birth Control -- correspondence and pamphlets, mainly British, ca. 1920s-1930s*
- Box 1: 6  
  *Lloyd, J. W. -- correspondence (also W. L. Lloyd), ca. 1929-1940*

**Series 3. Photographs**

- Box 1: 7  
  *Photograph Album -- Sweet family, ca. late 19th century*
- Box 1: 8  
  *Lloyd, J. W. - inscribed by friend J. Johnston, ca. latter 19th century*
- Box 1: 9  
  *Sweet, Robert B. -- 2 b/w, later in life*
- Box 1: 10  
  *Picture Postcard -- Pikes Peak*

**Series 4. Scrapbooks**

- Box 1: 11  
  *Cards (color, mostly Christmas and advertising), ca. late 19th century*
- Box 1: 12 - 13  
  *Clippings, typescript and handwritten passages, 2 volumes (mainly poetry and literary excerpts), ca. late 19th-early 20th century*
- Box 2: 1  
  *Jennie Roberts (mainly clippings, glued into volume of Congressional Record), ca. late 19th century*
- Box 2: 2  
  *Recipes, household hints, ca. mid 19th century*
- Box 3: 1 - 6  
  *Stereographic Library -- Tour of the World (Keystone View Co., 12 vols. in 6 boxes)*

**Series 5. Oversize**

- Box 4: 1  
  *Studio portrait (b/w) of Robert Sweet, n.d.*
- Box 4: 2  
  *Steel Engravings -- bound volume (R. Hinshelwood, W. Wellstood, and others), ca. mid 19th century*
- Box 4: 3  
  *Italian Posters - bound volume (Off. G. Ricordi & C. Milano), ca. late 19th century*
- Box 5: 1  
  *Landacre, Paul -- Black Stallion (prospectus for Woodcut Society publication), 1940*
- Box 5: 2  
  *Scrapbook - mainly 19th century engravings*