

## Subseries 1A. Annual Meetings, 1754-1881, undated

### Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to the annual meetings of the Library Company of Philadelphia, typically held in May of each year. The bulk of these records are lists of electors and vote tallies for the meetings, though this subseries also includes proxies for shareholders who could not attend in person and a few reports from the board of directors to shareholders.

Items of interest include a 1754 list of elected directors recorded in Benjamin Franklin's hand (Box 1, Folder 1), a volume that lists electors and election results from 1772-1832 (Volume 177), and an 1819 petition to open the library for the whole day and related materials about that debate (Box 1, Folder 60).

Also of interest is a shareholder petition submitted in May 1793 (Box 1, Folder 26) proposed to raise prices for purchasing new shares and annual payments for existing shares. The subsequent special meetings held in August 1793 (Box 1, Folders 27-29) coincided with a devastating Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia. The first attempted meeting, held on August 1, 1793, did not have enough members to meet quorum. A second meeting was held successfully on August 30, 1793. A dire note on the August 30, 1793 meeting records' wrapper (Box 1, Folder 29) indicates that many of the people who attended later died, but research raises questions about that statement.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>List of elected directors (9014.F), 1754-05-06</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>In Franklin's hand</p>	<p>box 1      folder 1 (MSS00270)</p>
<p>Proxies for special meeting to consider building new library (7438.F.4.b, 992.F.47, 960.F.8), 1771-10-04</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>Items 960.F.8 and 992.F.47 were previously individually cataloged as sm# Am 1771 Phi Lib. An undated photocopy of a fourth 1771 proxy from Benjamin Rush is available in Box 2, Folder 38.</p>	<p>box 1      folder 2 (MSS00270)</p>
<p>Lists of electors and election results 1772-1832. Lists of members and home addresses 1869-1872. (2961.F), 1772-1872</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>Account of the election of officers of the Library Company from 1772 to 1832, including the names and number of votes for each candidate, and lists of members with their addresses for each year from 1869 to 1872. Previously cataloged as Miscellaneous-7.</p>	<p>volume 177 (2961.F)</p>
<p>List of elected directors, list of electors, and vote tallies (7438.F.13), 1780-05-01</p>	<p>box 1      folder 3 (MSS00270)</p>