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Peter Spicer notebook, 1805-1806

2011

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Libraries
Title:	Peter Spicer notebook
Date:	1805-1806
Identifier:	SIL-DL.qMSS001770
Creator:	Spicer, Peter, 1795-1873
Extent:	1 Volume (53 pages ; 33 cm.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Notebook kept by Peter Spicer for recording arithmetical concepts and exercises as a young student, with an emphasis on business and bookkeeping-related skills. Some of the topics covered include: Federal money; simple interest; brokerage; insurance; compound interest; annuities; loss and gain; conjoined proportion; vulgar fractions; decimal fractions; arithmetical progression; and geometrical progression; among others.

Biographical Note

Born in Preston, Conn. on 7 Dec. 1795, and died in Westminster, Conn. on 24 June 1873. Carpenter, wheelwright, soldier in the War of 1812, innkeeper and local postmaster.

General

Handwritten in black, red, and green inks, with some small doodles throughout.

General

"Began to cipher the 10th day of December, A.D. 1805, Preston, in the county of New London [Connecticut]"--p. 1; "Peter Spicer's ciphering book, January 13th, 1806, Preston"--P. 19.

Local Notes

SCDIRB copy 39088014409213 has water stains, primarily on the upper third of the volume, somewhat affecting the legibility of the handwriting.

SCDIRB copy has bookplate: Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Gift of Mr. Stephen Harper.

SCDIRB copy has the original paper cover made from pages of a contemporary newspaper that have been glued and stitched together. Housed in an archival envelope for preservation.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Arithmetic -- Early works to 1900
Arithmetic -- Problems, exercises, etc.
Bookkeeping