

***“Blazing New Trails”* drawings and other material**

RITArt.0004

A collection of original sketches

Blazing New Trails is the biography of a pioneer in education by George Wilson Hoke; the pioneer being the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, founded in 1829. The book was published in 1937 and sold for \$1.50. The author traces the history of the Institute from the formation of the Rochester Literary Company in 1822. He shows how other organizations have merged their strength and resources with those of the pioneer body, until today, the school represents the contributed talents of no less than nine separate groups.

Mr. Hoke had spent most of his life in education. When the United States entered the World War, he went to Washington D.C. as a member of the Committee on Education and Special Training. He was placed in charge of developing general education in soldiers. In his army work, he became associated with John Randall, who later became president of Mechanics Institute and who enlisted Mr. Hoke's interest in writing the book. Of even greater importance and significance is that the aim of the founders has not changed, "to equip young people with self-sustaining skills."

Most notable, are the series of 78 original drawings in this collection, which were done by students, each of them illustrating some passage of the text of the book.

Box 1

Folder 1: Afterword, 1937, *Expanding Frontiers*

-1 copy of "Blazing New Trails", 1937 Afterword, 5 pages. *Expanding Frontiers*.

Folder 2: Clippings

-*An Educational Departure*, an article on Institute Biographer, George Wilson Hoke.[n.d. source unknown]

-The Journal of Higher Education Review, *The Biography of an Institution*, a book review by Ben D. Wood, Columbia University. [n.d.]

-Museum Service: Bulletin of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, April-May 1939, *Blazing New Trails*, book review, page 96. [2 copies]

Folder 3: Miscellaneous

-Original cover of an envelope from E.R. Andrews Printing Company, Aqueduct Building, Rochester, New York, labeled *History Drawings*.

-3 reproductions of original sketches from *Blazing New Trails*.

78 original sketches follow in original order