

The New York Public Library - Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Arthur Bonner papers

1980-1996

MssCol 333

Compiled by Lea Jordan, May 2011

Summary

Creator: Bonner, Arthur

Title: Arthur Bonner papers, 1980-1996

Size: 1.26 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Oriental Division, 2002

Abstract: Arthur Bonner is an author and former radio and television journalist. The Arthur Bonner papers consist of transcripts and facsimile images of original material used to write his book *Alas! What brought thee hither?: The Chinese in New York, 1800-1950*.

Access: Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.

Preferred citation: Arthur Bonner papers., Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note

Collection of transcriptions merged with the acquisition of facsimile images, finding aid created.

Creator history

Arthur Bonner is an author and former radio and television journalist. Bonner started his career in journalism with CBS when he was 19, after dropping out of school. Over his lifetime he worked in radio, television and print media. His main interests lie in studying social movements and the institution of democracy in the United States and India. Along with his book *Alas! What brought thee hither?: The Chinese in New York, 1800-1950* (1997) he is also the author of *Democracy in India: A Hollow Shell* (1994), and *Jerry McAuley and His Mission* (1990).

Scope and content note

The Arthur Bonner papers consist of transcripts and facsimile images of original material used to write his book *Alas! What brought thee hither?: The Chinese in New York, 1800-1950*. The transcripts are drawn primarily from microfilms and newspapers. At times, the texts are paraphrased. If no source a transcription is indicated, it was taken from The New York Times; otherwise Bonner listed the publication information. The volumes are arranged by date or in some instances by subject. Articles all pertain to Chinatown or the question of Chinese immigration, and include police reports, obituaries, and human interest pieces dating from 1808 to 1949. The facsimile images consist of over 200 clear reproductions of illustrations, engravings, and political cartoons covering both sides of Chinese immigration issues. Images range from printed advertisements announcing P.T. Barnum's "living Chinese family" exhibit, to racist political images of Chinese immigrants as well as cartoons depicting lady liberty protecting the Chinese from persecution. Some reproductions of articles, menus, and photographs are also included in the material. While Bonner arranged some of the facsimiles by subject, there are also three files of general material which should be consulted as there is material related to all subjects in the general files.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by subject.

Key terms

Subjects

Chinatown (New York, N.Y.) -- History

Chinese Americans -- New York (State) -- History

New York (N.Y.) -- Emigration and immigration

Names

Bonner, Arthur

Foo, Wong Chin

Special formats

Transcripts

Container list

- b.1 f.1 Bibliography
- Facsimiles
- b.1 f.2 Early Immigration
- b.1 f.3 Gambling
- b.1 f.4-6 General
- b.1 f.7 Laundry
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- b.1 f.9 Scenes
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- b.1 f.11 Tourists and Charity Work
- b.1 f.12 Wong Chin Foo
Founder of the weekly newspaper *Chinese American*
- b.1 f.13 Used in Book
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- b.2 v.1 1808-1870
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