



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Bard & Calkins records

1876-1960 [bulk 1901-1933]

MssCol 6198

Compiled by Heather Lember, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Bard & Calkins

Title: Bard & Calkins records

Date: 1876-1960 [bulk 1901-1933]

Size: 76.52 linear feet (183 boxes)

Source: Donated by the Estate of Albert S. Bard, 1963.

Abstract: Bard & Calkins was a New York City law firm that practiced corporate and estate law. The firm's records date from 1876 to 1960, and consist of case records, correspondence files, and financial information. The collection provides insight into the clients and organizations Bard & Calkins represented, and details about specific cases, legal proceedings, and the firm's financial activities.

Preferred citation: Bard & Calkins records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

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Creator History

Bard & Calkins was a New York City law firm that specialized in corporate and estate law. The firm, which was located at 25 Broad Street in lower Manhattan, was founded in 1901 by Albert S. Bard (1866-1963) and Leighton Calkins (1868-1955), who met while attending Harvard Law School. The firm represented such clients as the American Wood Working Machine Company, Barbour & Company, Fanchon Royer Pictures, the Jacob Ahles Brewing Company, Otis Elevator Company, the Pilgrim Paper Company, and the private estates of numerous clients. Additionally, Bard & Calkins served as legal counsel to the United States Finishing Company, a cotton and textile company which formed in 1899 from a consolidation of the Norwich Bleaching, Dyeing, and Printing Company; the Dunnell Manufacturing Company; and the Reid and Barry Company. Albert Bard's father, Charles Bard, who was a prominent banker in Norwich, Connecticut, served as director of the United States Finishing Company until 1913, and remained involved as an officer until his death in 1921. Bard & Calkins provided legal support for the company's acquisitions of the Sterling Dyeing and Finishing Company; Silver Spring Bleaching and Dyeing Company; Apponaug Print Works; and the Queen Dyeing

Company.

In addition to his legal work with Bard & Calkins, Albert Bard was a civic activist and preservationist. He was a co-founder of the Citizen's Union, a government watch dog group that was initially formed as a political party in 1897. Bard was also a member of the City Club of New York City, the Honest Ballot Association, the Fine Arts Federation of New York, and the Municipal Arts Society of New York. Bard successfully organized in opposition to the Brooklyn-Battery Bridge project, was a key figure in the preservation of Castle Clinton, and because of his interest in protecting city streets from billboard advertisements, served as legal counsel for the Mayor's Billboard Advertising Commission. Bard is most well-known for his role in the passage of the Bard Act in 1956, which enabled cities in the State of New York to pass laws protecting landmarks.

Leighton Calkins served as Mayor of Plainfield, New Jersey from 1915 to 1920, as well as president of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. An avid golfer, Calkins is notable for having invented the handicap system and coining the term "par," which he devised for the Plainfield Country Club in 1904.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1876 to 1960 (bulk dates 1901-1933), and contains the records of the law firm of Bard & Calkins. The majority of the files are case records, which reveal the clients that Bard & Calkins represented, and the legal matters the firm's partners handled. The collection also holds professional correspondence and financial records.

Key Terms

Occupations

Bankers
Executives
Lawyers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Contracts
Correspondence
Deeds
Financial statements
Legal files
Maps (documents)
Minutes (administrative records)

Subjects

Corporation law
Estates (Law)
Executors and administrators
Law firms -- New York (N.Y.)
Litigation
Real estate business -- Law and legislation -- United States

Geographic Names

Manhattan -- New York (N.Y.)
Norwich (Conn.)

Names

Bard, Albert Sprague, 1866-1963

Bard, Charles, 1827-1921

Calkins, Leighton, 1868-1955

Barbour and Company

Fanchon Royer Pictures

Otis Elevator Company

United States Finishing Company

Container List

Series I: Case Records 1876-1960 (157 boxes 66 linear feet)

Series I contains files of cases litigated by Bard & Calkins, as well as legal matters in which the firm's partners were involved. The files hold agreements, attorney work product, background research, contracts, correspondence, court papers, legal filings, and wills. These papers detail the legal work done by the firm, and provide insight about the clients they represented. The files address individual estate cases, and the proceedings of large companies the firm represented. A large portion of these files are dedicated to Bard & Calkins' work with the United Finishing Company, which offer insight into the American Cotton and Textile industry in the first half of the twentieth century, and document various mergers, acquisitions, and corporate restructuring. All files in this series are arranged alphabetically by client name or subject matter. The original file names were preserved.

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b. 182 f. 4-6	1899-1914
b. 133 f. 15	1904
b. 180	1904-1935
b. 181	1904-1935
b. 183	1904-1935
b. 134 f. 1-5	1913-1935
	Taxation
b. 134 f. 6-7	1899-1900
b. 135 f. 1-12	1900-1935
b. 136 f. 1-9	1919-1935
b. 136 f. 10	Todd v. Smith 1927-1931
b. 136 f. 11	Vaill, Edward Breck 1924
b. 136 f. 12	VanDeman v. Special Machine 1917
b. 137 f. 1	Wade, Franklin 1919-1924
b. 137 f. 2	Walth v. Boyle 1917
b. 137 f. 3	Washburn Wire Company 1903
b. 137 f. 4	Washington Life Insurance 1897
b. 137 f. 5	Watson, Emanuel -- Estate 1903
b. 137 f. 6	Weeks, Mattie R 1904-1907
	Wells Financial Company
b. 138 f. 1-6	1910-1939
b. 181	1912-1917
b. 138 f. 7	West, William N 1926-1930
	Wetter v. Moses
b. 138 f. 8-10	1941
b. 139 f. 1-4	1942-1948
b. 139 f. 5	Wheeler, H. Herbert 1942-1944
	Whiton, John M

Series I: Case Records (cont.)
Whiton, John M (cont.)

- b. 139 f. 6-10 1897-1908
- b. 140 f. 1 1907-1914
- b. 140 f. 2 Wilkinson, Henry L 1898-1903
- b. 140 f. 3 Willes, Oliver 1920
- Williams, Daniel F
- b. 140 f. 4-5 1902-1907
- b. 141 f. 1-2 1903-1912
- Willson, Albert D
- b. 141 f. 3-7 1890-1904
- b. 142 f. 1-6 1902-1938
- b. 143 f. 1-7 1912-1957
- b. 144 f. 1 Winges v. Wetzel 1913
- b. 144 f. 2 Wollman Memorial 1928
- b. 144 f. 3 Wood, Harry 1918
- b. 144 f. 4 Woodlawn Cemetery Company 1903-1913
- b. 144 f. 5 Wright, Joseph H 1909
- b. 144 f. 6 Young, Frederick Pentz 1909-1952
- b. 144 f. 7 Young v. Cedar 1918
- b. 144 f. 8 Zinkeisen & Company 1905-1915

Series II: Correspondence 1899-1953 (22 boxes 9.17 linear feet)

Series II is arranged chronologically, and holds Bard & Calkins' incoming and outgoing business and professional correspondence. These correspondence files address the day-to-day operations of the firm, as well as communications with clients. The majority of the correspondence is bound in letter books that were assembled by Bard & Calkins. Each book contains an alphabetical index of individuals and corporations whose letters are held in the volume.

- b. 145 f. 1-5 1899-1911
- b. 146 f. 1-6 1902-1922
- b. 147 f. 1-5 1913-1953
- Letter Books
- b. 149 1901-1903
- b. 150 1903-1904
- b. 151 1904-1906
- b. 152 1906-1907
- b. 153 1907-1908
- b. 154 1908-1909
- b. 155 1909-1910
- b. 156 1910-1911
- b. 157 1911
- b. 158 1911-1912
- b. 159 1912-1913
- b. 160 1913-1914
- b. 161 1914-1915

Series II: Correspondence (cont.)
Letter Books (cont.)

- b. 162 1915-1916
- b. 163 1917-1920
- b. 164 1920-1923
- b. 165 1923-1924
- b. 166 1926-1930

Series III: Financial Records 1901-1937 (4 boxes 1.67 linear feet)

The Bard & Calkins financial records contain bill books, cash books, journals, ledgers, financial statements, tax information, and trial balance sheets. These files address the firm's finances, operating costs, billing information, and accounting practices. The financial records are arranged chronologically by format.

- b. 167 Bill Books 1901-1925
- b. 168 Cash Books 1901-1931
- b. 169 Journals and Ledgers
- b. 169 1901-1907
- b. 170 1901-1908
- b. 171 1903-1913
- b. 172 1913-1927
- b. 173 1925-1937
- b. 147 f. 6-7 Statement of Office Accounts 1901-1911
- b. 147 f. 8-9 Taxes 1901-1916
- Trial Balance Sheets
- b. 147 f. 10-17 1903-1908
- b. 148 f. 1-14 1909-1922