



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Ignaz Anton Pilat papers

1842-1879 [bulk 1859-1870]

MssCol 2427

Summary

Creator: Pilat, Ignaz Anton, 1820-1870

Title: Ignaz Anton Pilat papers

Date: 1842-1879 [bulk 1859-1870]

Size: .31 linear feet (1 box)

Abstract: The Ignaz Anton Pilat Papers contain correspondence, official documents, newspaper clippings, booklets and pamphlets, and photographs and other graphics. The largest series is correspondence, chiefly between Pilat and other individuals involved in the construction of Central Park. There are manuscripts by Pilat describing the progress of work, as well as a letter from Frederick Law Olmsted detailing Pilat's gardening duties. Other original documents date from Pilat's residence in Austria and include a letter to Ferdinand I, in which Pilat requests the position of imperial gardener, certificates of employment and education, and Pilat's passport. Most of the newspaper clippings refer to the building of Central Park, although there are galley proofs of gardening columns Pilat apparently wrote for New York newspapers

Access: Advance notice required.

Physical Location: MssCol 2427

Alternative Form Available: Letters from William Cullen Bryant are photocopies. The originals are in the Bryant Library, Roslyn, New York

Preferred citation: Ignaz Anton Pilat papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Ignaz Anton Pilat (1820-1870) was the first landscape gardener of Central Park. A native of Austria, he trained as a gardener's assistant in the gardens of the Earldom of Karrach in Aschach on the Danube, 1841-1842, and at the Imperial Royal Court Plant Gardens, Schonbrunn, 1843-1846, and was assistant gardener at the Royal University Botanical Garden, Rennwege, 1846-1850. It is believed he arrived in the United States in 1857, assuming his position at Central Park within two years. As landscape

gardener, he supervised the planting of all park foliage and had special responsibility for the creation of the picturesque "Ramble" area.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Central Park (New York, N.Y.) -- History -- Sources

Subjects

Gardens -- Austria -- Vienna

Germans -- United States

Landscape gardening -- History -- Sources

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Maps (documents)

Passports

Photographs

Names

Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878

Olmsted, Frederick Law, 1822-1903