



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Silas W. Burt papers**

1886-1900

MssCol 438

## Summary

**Creator:** Burt, S. W. (Silas Wright), 1830-1912

**Title:** Silas W. Burt papers

**Date:** 1886-1900

**Size:** .4 linear feet (1 v.)

**Source:** Gift, National Civil Service League, 1952

**Abstract:** Silas Wright Burt (1830-1912) was an American civil engineer, militia officer, and promoter of the merit system in the civil service. He served as a colonel and Assistant Inspector General in the New York State militia, Chief Examiner of the New York State Civil Service Commission from 1883 to 1885, and Commissioner from 1895 to 1900. He was an officer and founder of the Civil Reform Association of New York and the National Civil Service Reform League. Collection consists of writings by Burt and printed matter. Includes unpublished manuscript for a book on the history of civil service reform and the merit system in the United States; an essay entitled "A Brief History of the Civil Service Reform Movement in the United States;" and manuscript of a history of New York politics with special reference to patronage and civil service reform, and the role of Chester A. Arthur in civil service reform. Also, miscellaneous notes and newsclippings concerning civil service reform.

**Alternative Form Available:** Entire collection available on microfilm; New York Public Library

**Preferred citation:** Silas W. Burt papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

Silas Wright Burt (1830-1912) was an American civil engineer, militia officer, and promoter of the merit system in the civil service. He served as a colonel and Assistant Inspector General in the New York State militia, Chief Examiner of the New York State Civil Service Commission from 1883 to 1885, and Commissioner from 1895 to 1900. He was an officer and founder of the Civil Reform Association of New York and the National Civil Service Reform League.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Collection consists of writings by Burt and printed matter. Includes unpublished manuscript for a book on the history of civil service reform and the merit system in the United States; an essay entitled "A Brief History of the Civil Service Reform Movement in the United States;" and manuscript of a history of New York politics with special reference to patronage and civil service reform, and the role of Chester A. Arthur in civil service reform. Also, miscellaneous notes and newsclippings concerning civil service reform.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Civil service -- United States

Civil service reform -- United States

Patronage, Political -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Geographic Names**

New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- To 1898

United States -- Politics and government -- 1885-1889

### **Occupations**

Reformers

### **Names**

Burt, S. W. (Silas Wright), 1830-1912

Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886