



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

James Arthur Clock and Watch Collection

NMAH.AC.0130

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	James Arthur Clock and Watch Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0130
Date:	1743-1967.
Creator:	New York University Arthur, James, 1842-1912 ((machine shop owner))
Extent:	15 Cubic feet (32 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by New York University, 1964.

Ownership and Custodial History

Arthur's collection of clocks and watches was administered by New York University (NYU) until 1964, when the collection was sent to the Smithsonian on a permanent loan.

Processing Information

Collection partially processed by Archives Center staff. A container list for series 1-4 available. Series 5 to 10 are unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

James Arthur Clock and Watch Collection, 1743-1967, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Lent by New York University.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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Biographical Note

James Arthur owned and operated a New York machine shop for patent models. He came to the United States from Scotland in 1871. Fourteen years later he established Arthur Machine Works in New York City for the construction of original and special machinery. He was a skillful, ingenious, highly trained mechanic. While not technically a clockmaker or a watchmaker, he was especially interested in horology

and timekeeping devices. From boyhood, clocks and watches were his hobby and he was a discriminating collector.

For more than forty years, he collected watches and clocks from many countries and periods. Arthur was quick to recognize any features of a clock or watch that gave it a distinctive character. His fondness for the fine points of the machinery did not blind him to distinctions of form and beauty in the cases, to originality in the maker, or to the historical significance of the work. He was devoted to the science no less than to the art of timekeeping. Arthur's collection contained some 1,200 watches, 300 clocks, and numerous accessories.

Scope and Contents

These records contain material on the Arthur collection of clocks and watches. Includes publications, inventories, manuscripts, reports, photographs, advertisements, catalogues, newspaper clippings, patents, and business records; correspondence files of NYU curators concerning the administration of the collection; a watch record book of sales of Ezekiel Jones, carried on bookkeeping, 1822 and 1825; and a copy of the Smithsonian-NYU permanent loan agreement, 1964.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into 10 series.

Series 1, Correspondence, 1937-1964 (bulk 1950-1957)

Series 2, Subject Files

Series 3, Organizations

Series 4, The Arthur Collection at New York University, 1930-1968

Series 5, Patent Specification (Unprocessed)

Series 6, Horological Pamphlets and Articles, 1743-1947 (Unprocessed)

Series 7, Miscellaneous, 1825-1966 (Unprocessed)

Series 8, Clock Makers Directory, 15 volumes (Unprocessed)

Series 9, Press Clippings about watches and clocks (Unprocessed)

Series 10, Photographs (Unprocessed)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Clocks and watches
- Collectors and collecting
- Horology
- Models (Patents)
- Watches

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Business records -- 19th century

Clippings
Inventories
Manuscripts -- 19th century
Patents
Photographs -- 1850-1900
Photographs -- 20th century
Press releases
Publications
Reports
Sales catalogs

Names:

Jones, Ezekiel

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence

Subseries 1.1: Alphabetical by correspondent, 1937-1964 (bulk 1950-1957)

Box 1, Folder 1	Adam, Professor Thomas R., 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 2	American Antiquarian Society, 1951-1953
Box 1, Folder 3	American Book Company, 1952
Box 1, Folder 4	The American Horologist and Jeweler, 1953
Box 1, Folder 5	Avery, Amos, 1954-1955
Box 1, Folder 6	Anderson, Gunnar B., 1952
Box 1, Folder 7	Antiques Journal, 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 8	Antiquarian Horological Society, 1954-1955
Box 1, Folder 9	Associated Merchandising Corporation, 1951
Box 1, Folder 10	Attinson, Bernard, 1952
Box 1, Folder 11	Miscellaneous "A", 1952-1957
Box 1, Folder 12	Baer, Dean William B., 1951-1953
Box 1, Folder 13	Barny, (Mr.), 1951-1953
Box 1, Folder 14	Barr, Miss Jean B., 1951-1953
Box 1, Folder 15	Benis, Dr. Anthony, 1951-1956
Box 1, Folder 16	Bedini, Silvio A., 1950-1955
Box 1, Folder 17	Bertele, Dr. H. Von, 1953-1957
Box 1, Folder 18	Bird, Harrison K., General, 1952-1955
Box 1, Folder 19	Birnbaum, Harry, 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 20	Brandt, Bernard W., 1951-1953

Box 1, Folder 21	Bulova Watch Company, 1951-1956
Box 1, Folder 22	Miscellaneous "B", 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 23	Official Calendar, 1951
Box 1, Folder 24	Cannici, Harry S., 1951
Box 1, Folder 25	Chalifoux, Elizabeth, 1955-1956
Box 1, Folder 26	Chase, Chancellor Harry Woodburn, 1950
Box 1, Folder 27	Cherkenzian, Nazaret, 1950-1951
Box 1, Folder 28	Clark, Melville, 1952
Box 1, Folder 29	Coleman, J.E., 1951-1954
Box 1, Folder 30	Collins, John F., 1951
Box 1, Folder 31	Connecticut Historical Society, 1951
Box 1, Folder 32	Cossaart, Mollie, 1951
Box 1, Folder 33	Cossidente, Alfred G., M.D., 1951-1955
Box 1, Folder 34	Miscellaneous "C", 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 35	Clock and Watch Description, correspondence regarding, 1939-1964
Box 1, Folder 36	Darlington, Dr. Henry, 1952-1954
Box 1, Folder 37	Dennis, Faith, 1954
Box 1, Folder 38	Dess & Talan Co., Inc., 1950
Box 1, Folder 39	Drake, Dean Ormond J., 1952-1956
Box 1, Folder 40	Drake, L.F., 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 41	DuPignac, Sarah S., 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 42	Eisen, A.W., 1951
Box 1, Folder 43	Eisenhardt, Emil H., 1951
Box 1, Folder 44	Ezekiel, Edwin N., Jr., 1952

Box 1, Folder 45	Miscellaneous "E", 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 1	Farewell, Frank S., 1952
Box 2, Folder 2	Ferguson, Frank S., 1952
Box 2, Folder 3	Field, Sampson R., 1952
Box 2, Folder 4	Franks, Robert, 1951-1952
Box 2, Folder 5	Fried, Henry B., 1951-1955
Box 2, Folder 6	Fuchs, J.S., 1951-1953
Box 2, Folder 7	Miscellaneous "F", 1953-1957
Box 2, Folder 8	Garner, Malcolm, 1952-1956
Box 2, Folder 9	Gearn, Helen ver Nooy, 1951
Box 2, Folder 10	Geller, Max A., 1950-1952
Box 2, Folder 11	Gimbel Brothers, 1951-1955
Box 2, Folder 12	Goldsmith, Elsworth H., 1952-1953
Box 2, Folder 13	Greenberg, E., 1951-1953
Box 2, Folder 14	Greenfield, Dr. Alfred H., 1952
Box 2, Folder 15	Grolier Society, 1953
Box 2, Folder 16	Miscellaneous "G", 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 17	Hacker, Hans., 1952-1954
Box 2, Folder 18	Halpern, Barnett., 1951
Box 2, Folder 19	Hamilton Watch Company, 1951
Box 2, Folder 20	Heald, Henry T., 1952-1957
Box 2, Folder 21	Heed, Jack N., 1951-1953
Box 2, Folder 22	Hendershot, W. Raymond, 1951-1953
Box 2, Folder 23	Henry, David D., 1953

Box 2, Folder 24	Hering, Doris W., 1952
Box 2, Folder 25	Hoffacker, Ethel, 1952-1953
Box 2, Folder 26	Horological Journal, 1954
Box 2, Folder 27	Horan, Joseph J., 1955
Box 2, Folder 28	Hubschman, Adolph S., 1950
Box 2, Folder 29	Hudson, Anne L., 1950-1953
Box 2, Folder 30	Hyde, James Hazan, 1951-1952
Box 2, Folder 31	Miscellaneous "H", 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 32	Ingraham Company, 1951
Box 2, Folder 33	Ives, Norman, 1952
Box 2, Folder 34	Ivezic, Isabella, 1955
Box 2, Folder 35	Miscellaneous "I", 1954-1957
Box 2, Folder 36	Jenkins, Philip M., 1951
Box 2, Folder 37	Miscellaneous "J", undated
Box 2, Folder 38	Kavanaugh, Edward, 1951
Box 2, Folder 39	Kendrick, Martin J., 1954
Box 2	Kennedy, Janet, 1952
Box 2, Folder 41	Kiddle, Alfred M.F., 1951
Box 2, Folder 42	Kimball, LeRoy E., 1951-1956
Box 2, Folder 43	Kingsland, Frances R., 1951
Box 2, Folder 44	Kissinger, R.G., 1, 954
Box 2, Folder 45	Krohn, August and Christina,, 1951
Box 2, Folder 46	Krownn Bookbinding, 1953-1954
Box 2, Folder 47	Miscellaneous "K", undated

Box 2, Folder 48	Labberton, John M., 1951
Box 2, Folder 49	Landis, C.E., 1947-1951
Box 2, Folder 50	Lang, Oscar T., 1951
Box 2, Folder 51	Lux Clock Manufacturing Co., 1951-1953
Box 2, Folder 52	Miscellaneous "L", 1953-1956
Box 3, Folder 1	McMillan Company, 1951-1952
Box 3, Folder 2	Macy's, 1951
Box 3, Folder 3	Madden, James L., 1951
Box 3, Folder 4	Mandlebaum, Mrs., 1951
Box 3, Folder 5	Marshall Field and Co., 1952
Box 3, Folder 6	Masson, Dean Henry, 1951-1953
Box 3, Folder 7	McEntee, James, 1952-1953
Box 3, Folder 8	Meister, Sara, 1951
Box 3, Folder 9	Merrill, Douglas K., 1951
Box 3, Folder 10	Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1951-1953
Box 3, Folder 11	Milham, Professor Willis I., 1951
Box 3, Folder 12	Music Box Hobbyists, correspondence with, 1952-1954
Box 3, Folder 13	Miscellaneous "M", 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 14	Morgan Library, 1951
Box 3, Folder 15	National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, 1952-1954
Box 3, Folder 16	Nelson, Ira T., 1951
Box 3, Folder 17	Neumann, Paul J., 1950-1953
Box 3, Folder 18	Newcomb, Richard, 1951-1953
Box 3, Folder 19	New Haven Watch and Clock Company, 1950-1951

Box 3, Folder 20	Miscellaneous "N", 1953-1957
Box 3, Folder 21	Overseas Publishers Representatives, 1952-1953
Box 3, Folder 22	Miscellaneous "O", n.d.
Box 3, Folder 23	Park, Dean Joseph H., 1951-1955
Box 3, Folder 24	Peacock, Mary T., 1937-1953
Box 3, Folder 25	Partridge, Albert L., 1951-1953
Box 3, Folder 26	Pousland, Dr. Edward, 1953
Box 3, Folder 27	Publicity, correspondence regarding, 1946-1953
Box 3, Folder 28	Miscellaneous "P", 1951-1957
Box 3, Folder 29	Miscellaneous "Q", 1951
Box 3, Folder 30	Rawlings, Dr. Arthur L., 1952-1957
Box 3, Folder 31	Reference inquiries, 1953
Box 3, Folder 32	Roberts Publishing Company, 1952
Box 3, Folder 33	Miscellaneous "R", 1953-1957
Box 4, Folder 1	Saville, Dean Thorndike, 1952-1956
Box 4, Folder 2	Schenck, Gerret R., 1955
Box 4, Folder 3	Seff, Herman, 1951-1952
Box 4, Folder 4	Shermund, Ralph C., 1952
Box 4, Folder 5	Shirk, Amy Pope, 1952
Box 4, Folder 6	Short, Winthrop A., 1952
Box 4, Folder 7	Smith, Professor E.C., n.d.
Box 4, Folder 8	Stephens, W. Barclay, 1951-1953
Box 4, Folder 9	Stern Watch Agency, 1952
Box 4, Folder 10	Sternfeld, Joseph, 1951-1956

Box 4, Folder 11	Strickler, Earl T., 1953-1956
Box 4, Folder 12	Swauger, Jean, 1952-1953
Box 4, Folder 13	Swiss Watch Repair Parts Information Bureau, Inc., 1951-1954
Box 4, Folder 14	Miscellaneous "S", 1952-1957
Box 4, Folder 15	Taley, Franz, 1951-1953
Box 4, Folder 16	Tedori, Miss., 1952-1956
Box 4, Folder 17	Tokyo University of Commerce, 1950
Box 4, Folder 18	Tournier, Dr., 1952
Box 4, Folder 19	Treadway, Charles T., 1951-1952
Box 4, Folder 20	Miscellaneous "T", 1951-1955
Box 4, Folder 21	Van Heilbrun, Mr., 1950
Box 4, Folder 22	Vogel, Mrs. Peter, 1951
Box 4, Folder 23	Vorrhis, Dr. Harold O., 1950-1952
Box 4, Folder 24	Wadleigh, William, 1953-1955
Box 4, Folder 25	Washburn, Earle L., 1950
Box 4, Folder 26	Whelden, C.M., 1953
Box 4, Folder 27	Williams, William A., 1953
Box 4, Folder 28	Woodhull, R.F., 1952-1956
Box 4, Folder 29	World Calendar Association, 1951-1953
Box 4, Folder 30	Wormser, Richard S., 1952-1953
Box 4, Folder 31	Miscellaneous "W", 1952-1957
Box 4, Folder 32	Yale University, 1951
Box 4, Folder 33	Miscellaneous "Y" and "Z", undated

Box Unknown,
Folder Unknown

1.2: Miscellaneous correspondence, undated

Box 5, Folder 1	General business correspondence, 1931 - June, 1936
Box 5, Folder 2	General business correspondence, 1936-1939
Box 5, Folder 3	De Zafra, Carlos, 1938-1945
Box 5, Folder 4	Orders, supplies, etc., 1935-1945
Box 5, Folder 5	Letters of inquiry, 1936-1950

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Series 2: Subject files, undated

Box 5, Folder 6	Books, undated
Box 5, Folder 7	Clock and watch makers, undated
Box 5, Folder 8	Notes on Horology by E.G. Yalden, undated
Box 5, Folder 9	Stencils, undated
Box 5, Folder 10	Watches, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Watch Papers, undated
Box 6, Folder 1	Miscellaneous, undated

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Series 3: Organizations, undated

Box 6, Folder 2	National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors – Members, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors – The Mart, undated

Series 3: National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors – The Mart, undated

Box 6, Folder 4

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Series 4: Arthur Collection at New York University, undated

Box 6, Folder 5	Accessions, 1954-1968
Box 6, Folder 6	Articles about the Arthur Collection, 1940-1941
Box 6, Folder 7	Miscellaneous articles, 1946
Box 6, Folder 8	Articles in Hobbies, 1939-1944
Box 6, Folder 9	Miscellaneous articles, 1930-1945
Box 6, Folder 10	Annual lecture, 1933-1940
Box 6, Folder 11	Annual report, 1951
Box 6, Folder 12	Auction catalog, 1942
Box 6, Folder 13	Exhibits, off-campus, undated
Box 6, Folder 14	Mailing list for Arthur Collection, undated
Box 6, Folder 15	Manuscripts to be published, undated
Box 6, Folder 16	Press releases, 1953-1954
Box 6, Folder 17	Visitors register, 1944-1965
Box 6, Folder 18	Vouchers, undated
Box 6, Folder 19	Arthur collection, general, committees, etc., undated

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Series 6: Horological Pamphlets and Articles (Unprocessed) , 1743-1946

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