



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

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| Repository: | Archives Center, National Museum of American History |
| Title: | James Arthur Clock and Watch Collection |
| Date: | 1743-1967 |
| Identifier: | NMAH.AC.0130 |
| Creator: | New York University Arthur, James, 1842-1912 (machine shop owner) |
| Extent: | 15 Cubic feet (32 boxes) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | A collection of diverse archival materials on the subject of watches and clocks assembled by James Arthur (1842-1912). |

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.

Conditions Governing Use

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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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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 |

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| Box 3, Folder 20 | Miscellaneous "N", 1953-1957 |
| Box 3, Folder 21 | Overseas Publishers Representatives, 1952-1953 |
| Box 3, Folder 22 | Miscellaneous "O", undated |
| 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., undated |
| 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 |

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| 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 |

1.2: Miscellaneous correspondence, undated

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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 5: Patent Specification (Unprocessed)

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

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Series 7: Miscellaneous (Unprocessed) , 1825-1966

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

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