



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the American Bank Note Company Records

NMAH.AC.1285

NMAH Staff

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	American Bank Note Company Records
Date:	1860-1987
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1285
Creator:	American Bank Note Company (Creator)
Extent:	4 Cubic feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by the AB Note Company of Fort Lee, New Jersey in 2012.

Provenance

In 2003, the American Bank Note Company contacted the National Museum of American History about surplus objects such as dies, printing plates and other three-dimensional objects, regarding a possible deaccession, and inquiring whether the National Numismatic Collection was interested in acquiring these items. NMAH volunteer Peter Huntoon surveyed the items proposed for deaccession, and acquired a large number of objects for the NNC. Along with these objects, Mr. Huntoon was also allowed access to archival materials, and brought back this collection of correspondence, business files, photographs and photograph albums, and a motion picture film.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

American Bank Note Company Records, undated, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but the films are 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

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

First founded in 1795 as Murray, Draper, Fairham & Company, the American Bank Note Company developed into the United States' foremost high security engraving and printing firm in the years prior to the Civil War. It produced paper money, postage stamps, stock and bond certificates. After the Civil War, it produced paper money and stamps for foreign governments, including Canada and Haiti. In 1879, it merged with the National Bank Note and Continental Bank Note companies.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes correspondence with various banks and foreign governments, especially those of Canadian provinces, regarding their banknotes or postal stamps; client files, mostly with various companies that contracted with American Bank Note Company to engrave their stock certificates, but also including files regarding two engravers, Herman Ochs and Charles Brooks, who worked for ABNC; framed items including photographs and letters of appreciation; photographs and photograph albums, showing interior scenes of the ABNC's plants, shop floors with employees at work in various aspects of production, plant facilities such as the cafeteria and the hospital, plant expansion or renovation, and exteriors of the plants.

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence Files

Box 1, Folder 1	Banking House of Bishop & Co., Honolulu, 1890s
Box 1, Folder 2	Republic of Hawaii, 1880s-1900s
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence relating to postal stamps
Box 1, Folder 4	Hawaii postal stamps, 1880 - 1927
Box 1, Folder 5	Bank of Nova Scotia, 1890s
Box 1, Folder 6	Domion of Canada, postal stamps, 1890s
Box 1, Folder 7	Newfoundland, 1894 - 1900
Box 1, Folder 8	Bank of Nova Scotia, re: bank notes, 1889 - 1901
Box 1, Folder 9	Canadian Bank Note Company, 1948
Box 1, Folder 10	Newfoundland, re: bank notes and stamps, 1900 - 1908
Box 1, Folder 11	Republic of Liberia, re: stamps, 1934 - 1940
Box 1, Folder 12	Burland, Lafricain & Co., re: Canada stamps and bonds, 1860 - 1866
Box 1, Folder 13	Canadian Pacific Railway Co., re: stock certificates, 1891 - 1893
Box 1, Folder 14	Dominion Bank, re: bank notes, 1887-1903 (bulk 1887-1893)
Box 1, Folder 15	Imperial Paper Mills of Canada Ltd., re: letterhead and checks, 1903 - 1904
Box 1, Folder 16	Merchants Bank of Halifax, re: bank notes, 1888 - 1900
Box 1, Folder 17	Bank of Ottawa, 1880 - 1903
Box 1, Folder 18	Bank of British Columbia, re: bank notes, 1893 - 1900
Box 1, Folder 19	Banque des Iles St. Pierre et Miquelon, re: bank notes, 1894 - 1895
Box 1, Folder 20	Canadian Bank of Commerce, re: bank notes, 1888 - 1893
Box 1, Folder 21	People's Bank of Halifax, 1890 - 1898

Box 1, Folder 22	Bank of Toronto, re: bank notes, 1890 - 1892
Box 1, Folder 23	Bank of British Columbia, re: bank notes, 1893 - 1900
Box 1, Folder 24	Banque des Iles St. Pierre et Miquelon, re: bank notes, 1894 - 1895
Box 1, Folder 25	Canadian Bank of Commerce, re: bank notes, 1888 - 1893
Box 1, Folder 26	People's Bank of Halifax, re: bank notes, 1890 - 1898
Box 1, Folder 27	Bank of Toronto, re: bank notes, 1890 - 1892
Box 1, Folder 28	Bank of Montreal, re: bank notes, 1890-1899 (bulk 1890-1893)
Box 1, Folder 29	Dominion of Canada, re: stamps, 1881 - 1901
Box 1, Folder 30	Canadian Bank Note Company, general, 1935 - 1939
Box 1, Folder 31	Dominion of Canada, re: war savings stamps and certificates, 1940 - 1942
Box 1, Folder 32	Dominion of Canada, re: stamps, 1952 - 1953
Box 1, Folder 33	Canada, Post Office Department, orders, 1897
Box 1, Folder 34	Dominion of Canada, re: stamps, 1937 - 1942
Box 1, Folder 35	Dominion of Canada, re: bank notes, 1882 - 1903

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Series 2: Client Files

Box 2, Folder 1	Entenman's, re: stock certificates, 1976
Box 2, Folder 2	European Atomic Energy Community, re: stock certificates, 1970s
Box 2, Folder 3	European Investment Bank, 1970s
Box 2, Folder 4	Knott Hotels Corporation, 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 5	Lane Bryant, re: stock certificates, 1978 - 1979
Box 2, Folder 6	Lane Bryant, re: stock certificates, 1974
Box 2, Folder 7	Lane Bryant, re: stock certificates, 1950 - 1962
Box 2, Folder 8	Lane Bryant, re: stock certificates, 1961
Box 2, Folder 9	Kubota, Ltd., re: stock certificates, 1976 - 1982
Box 2, Folder 10	Kubota, Ltd., re: stock certificates, 1966 - 1971
Box 2, Folder 11	Leaseway Transportation Corporation, re: stock certificates, 1974
Box 2, Folder 12	Banco Central de Reserva del Peru
Box 2, Folder 13	Banco Central De El Salvador, 1969 - 1975
Box 2, Folder 13	Herman Ochs, script engraver, multiple clients, 1979 - 1987
Box 2, Folder 14	Republic of Haiti, re: bank notes, 1970 - 1980
Box 2, Folder 15	Republic of Haiti, re: bank notes, 1981
Box 2, Folder 16	Seatrains lines, Inc., re: stock certificates, 1947 - 1968
Box 2, Folder 17	Charles Brooks, engraver, various clients, 1946 - 1967

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Series 3: Framed Items

Box 3, Frame 1	Photograph of Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., plant New Malden, Surrey, England
Box 3, Frame 2	Letter of thanks from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, December 31, 1943
Box 3, Frame 3	Illustration of Ottawa plant
Box 3, Frame 4	Letter of thanks from New York Clearing House Association for ABNC's help during banking emergency, March 24, 1933
Box 3, Frame 5	Group photograph of employees, Ottawa, 1922
Box 3, Frame 6	Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, thankig ABNC for services rendered during the reorganization of the Bureau of Engraving, December 6, 1919

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Series 4: Photographs and Photograph Albums

Box 3, Volume 1	Photograph album, mostly documenting the paper making process, 1978
Box 4	Loose photographs, some black and white, some color, various sizes. Most depict various aspects of image creation and engraving of images. Other images are of plant exteriors., ca. 1930s - 1970s
Box 4, Volume 1	Photograph album, contains image of plant, shop floors, employee cafeteria and infirmary, 1912
Box 4, Volume 2	Album of photographs, some of same images as in Volume 1, Bronx plant, 1912
Box 4, Folder 1	Folder of photographic portraits and the engravings based on them, probably for currency
Box 5, Volume 1	Album with "D.E. Woodhull" tooled on the cover. Contains images of Bronx plant under construction, or possibly the addition of a wing
Box 5, Volume 2	Album, containing images of Security Banknote Building expansion, 1948 - 1949
Box 5, Volume 3	Album with title "Photo Prints, Bronx Plant, ABNCo". Some of same images as in Volume 2 and 3 of Box 4., 1912

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Series 5: Motion Picture, 1912

1 Motion picture film

Language: English.

Reel 1

[American Bank Note Film], 1912

1 Motion picture film (black and white silent print edge code date: 1923 cement splices copy probably made from circa 1912 original nitrate negative which no longer exists; 35mm)

Notes: Preservation: 35mm black and white silent duplicate negative, 3 reels Protection: 35mm black and white check print, 3 reels Reference: DVD

Produced from the archival original 35mm black and white silent print by Colorlab in 2013

Reference DVD available.

The footage in the American Bank Note Film matches the images in the photograph albums. The filming date of 1912 was determined by comparing the film to the photographs. The 35mm black and white silent print donated to the Archives Center has an edge code date of 1923. It was probably printed from the original 35mm black and white negative which no longer exists. The film appears to have been minimally edited with cement splices throughout and intertitles.

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