Collection Summary

Title: Wharton Barker Papers
Span Dates: 1864-1921
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1887-1896)
ID No.: MSS11783
Creator: Barker, Wharton, 1846-1921
Extent: 7,000 items
Extent: 27 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 9 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78011783

Summary: Financier, publicist, and politician. Correspondence, letterbooks, photographs, pamphlets, printed matter, and scrapbooks reflecting Barker’s broad interests in American and foreign business matters especially in Russia and China, bimetallism, and politics.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Baird, George--Correspondence.
Barker, Wharton, 1846-1921.
Carroll, William, 1788-1844--Correspondence.
Cullom, Shelby M. (Shelby Moore), 1829-1914--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901--Correspondence.
Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893--Correspondence.
Higgins, Anthony, 1840-1912--Correspondence.
Hoyt, Henry Martyn, 1856-1910--Correspondence.
Kelley, William D. (William Darrah), 1814-1890--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
MacKenzie, Alexander--Correspondence.
Mitchell, John Inscho, 1838-1907--Correspondence.
Mitkiewicz, Eugene Stanislaus Kostka de, Count, 1849-1901--Correspondence.
Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921--Correspondence.
Platt, Orville Hitchcock, 1827-1905--Correspondence.
Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910--Correspondence.
Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.
Smith, Goldwin, 1823-1910--Correspondence.
Wanamaker, John, 1838-1922--Correspondence.
White, Andrew Dickson, 1832-1918--Correspondence.

Organizations
Democratic Party (U.S.)
Populist Party (U.S.)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

Subjects
Banks and banking--China.
Banks and banking--Russia.
Provenance

The papers of Wharton Barker, financier, publicist, and politician, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Rodman Barker, in 1931.

Processing History

The papers of Wharton Barker were arranged and described in 1964. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides


Transfers

Some maps have been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Wharton Barker is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions

The papers of Wharton Barker are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Wharton Barker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1846, May 1</td>
<td>Born, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Married Margaret Corlies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Founded <em>Penn Monthly</em>; published under title <em>The American</em>, 1880-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Appointed special financial agent of the Russian government; traveled to Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Published <em>Surplus Revenue and Canadian Relations</em>. Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Populist candidate, president of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Published <em>The Great Issues: Reprints of Some Editorials from The American, 1897-1900</em>. Philadelphia: Wharton Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921, Apr. 9</td>
<td>Died, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Wharton Barker (1846-1921) span the years 1864-1921, with the bulk of the material dating from 1887 to 1896. The collection includes correspondence, letterbooks, telegrams, legal papers and documents, scrapbooks and clippings, prospecti and pamphlets, financial records, and manuscripts and printed copies of speeches, articles, and books by Barker. The papers are organized in the following series: General Correspondence; Letterbooks; Business Records; Subject File; Speech, Article, and Book File; Printed Matter; Miscellany; Scrapbooks; and Oversize.

The papers relate to United States presidential campaigns from 1876 to 1900, in which latter year he was himself the unsuccessful candidate of the Anti-Fusion Populists; University of Pennsylvania trusteeship matters, 1880-1921; the weekly periodical, *The American*, edited by Barker, 1880-1891 and 1894-1900; financial reforms primarily banking and tariff; financial, railway, and real estate enterprises; and peace movements during the early years of World War I. Also included in the collection are papers relating to Chinese and Russian trade and railway, telephone, telegraph, banking, and mining concessions; international affairs, with special emphasis on Russian-American relations; and Canadian annexation. There is very little material covering the 1900 campaign. Some family correspondence, generally concerned with business matters, is included in the General Correspondence.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- General Correspondence, 1870-1921
- Letterbooks, 1879-1888
- Business Records, 1878-circa 1891
- Subject File, 1886-1918
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1880-1919
- Printed Matter, circa 1886-circa 1916
- Miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1913
- Scrapbooks, 1864-1917
- Oversize, 1878-1890
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-13</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1870-1921</strong></td>
<td>Incoming and outgoing letters. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 20</td>
<td><strong>Business Records, 1878-circa 1891</strong></td>
<td>Bills, invoices, receipts, a bound volume, and legal papers. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 21</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1886-1918</strong></td>
<td>Files on organizations, a railroad, and projects. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization or topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 22-23</td>
<td><strong>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1880-1919</strong></td>
<td>Manuscript and printed copies of speeches, articles, and books by Barker. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24-25</td>
<td><strong>Printed Matter, circa 1886-circa 1916</strong></td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1913</strong></td>
<td>Biographical material, calling cards, addresses, and photographs. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 26-27</td>
<td><strong>Scrapbooks, 1864-1917</strong></td>
<td>Scrapbooks of newspapers clippings. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1878-1890</strong></td>
<td>Bound volume of business records. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-13  | **General Correspondence, 1870-1921**  
Incoming and outgoing letters.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | 18 Aug. 1870-21 Dec. 1882  
(20 folders) |
| BOX 2     | Jan. 1883-Apr. 1887  
(19 folders) |
| BOX 3     | 2 May-7 Nov 1887  
(15 folders) |
| BOX 4     | 9 Nov. 1887-Aug. 1888  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Sept. 1888-Dec. 1890  
(18 folders) |
| BOX 6     | Jan. 1891-Dec. 1892  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 7     | Jan. 1893-June 1894  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 8     | July 1894-Dec. 1895  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 9     | Jan. 1896-Dec. 1904  
(19 folders) |
| BOX 10    | Jan. 1905-Dec. 1911  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 11    | Jan. 1912-Mar. 1914  
(19 folders) |
| BOX 12    | Apr. 1914-Dec. 1916  
(16 folders) |
| BOX 13    | Jan. 1917-Feb. 1921, undated  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 14-19 | **Letterbooks, 1879-1888**  
Bound, letter press copies of outgoing correspondence.  
Arranged chronologically. |
<p>| BOX 14    | Aug. 1879-Sept. 1881 |
| BOX 15    | June 1880-Nov. 1884 |
| BOX 16    | Apr. 1881-June 1883 |
| BOX 17    | Dec. 1883-Nov. 1886 |
| BOX 18    | Feb. 1886-July 1887 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19</td>
<td>Mar.-Oct. 1888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 20    | **Business Records, 1878-circa 1891**  
Bills, invoices, receipts, a bound volume, and legal papers.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 20    | Bills, invoices, and receipts, circa 1887-circa 1888  
(8 folders) |
| BOX 20    | Bound volume, 1878-1890 *See Oversize* |
| BOX 20    | Legal papers, circa 1887-circa 1891 |
| BOX 20    | China  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 20    | General |
| BOX 20    | Russia  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 21    | **Subject File, 1886-1918**  
Files on organizations, a railroad, and projects.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of organization or topic. |
| BOX 21    | American-Chinese Association, 1918 |
| BOX 21    | American-Russian Association, undated |
| BOX 21    | Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad, 1886-1890  
(11 folders) |
| BOX 21    | Chinese and American Trusts, 1898 |
| BOX 21    | Chinese projects, 1888, 1895  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 21    | Declaration of Principles, 1896 |
| BOX 21    | Oriental-American Association, 1905 |
| BOX 22-23 | **Speech, Article, and Book File, 1880-1919**  
Manuscript and printed copies of speeches, articles, and books by Barker.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 22    | 1880-1906  
(8 folders) |
| BOX 23    | 1907-1919, undated  
(8 folders) |
| BOX 24-25 | **Printed Matter, circa 1886-circa 1916**  
Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other material.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 24    | Miscellaneous  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 24    | Newspaper clippings  
(10 folders) |
<p>| BOX 25    | (10 folders) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>Pamphlets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 25    | **Miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1913**  
Biographical material, calling cards, addresses, and photographs.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 25    | Biographical material |
| BOX 25    | Calling cards and addresses |
| BOX 25    | General |
| BOX 26-27 | **Scrapbooks, 1864-1917**  
Scrapbooks of newspapers clippings.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 26    | 1864-1896  
(3 vols.) |
| BOX 27    | 1898-1917  
(2 vols.) |
| BOX OV 1  | **Oversize, 1878-1890**  
Bound volume of business records.  
Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed. |
| BOX OV 1  | Business Records |
| BOX OV 1  | Bound volume, 1878-1890 (Container 20) |