Dudley Buck Papers

Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2017570067

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu023017

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Jada Twitty, 2023 October
Collection Summary

Title: Dudley Buck Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1861-1939
Call No.: ML31.B83
Creator: Buck, Dudley, 1839-1909
Extent: approximately 500 items
Extent: 7 containers
Extent: 4.5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English, German, and Italian.
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2017570067

Summary: Dudley Buck (born Dudley Buck Jr.) was an American composer, pianist, and organist, as well as founder and director of the Apollo Club, a men's chorus and organization in Brooklyn, New York. This collection consists of correspondence, manuscript and printed music, and biographical materials related to Buck's personal life and career.

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
Buck family--Correspondence.
Buck, Dudley, 1839-1909--Archives.
Buck, Dudley, 1839-1909.
Buck, Dudley, 1869-1941--Correspondence.
Buck, Dudley, 1869-1941.
Lanier, Sidney, 1842-1881--Correspondence.
Lanier, Sidney, 1842-1881.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882--Correspondence.

Subjects
Authors, American--Correspondence.
Choruses, Sacred.
Choruses, Secular.
Composers--United States--Biography.
Composers--United States--Correspondence.
Musical sketches.
Operas--Scores.
Organ music.
Songs with piano.

Form/Genre
Anthem.
Art music.
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Biographies.
Business correspondence.
Cantatas.
Musical settings.
Musical sketches.
Operas.
Personal correspondence.
Psalms (Music)
Scores.
Songs.
Woodcarvings (Visual works)

**Acquisition Information**

The Dudley Buck Papers consist of four gifts made between April 1975 and December 1977 by Dudley B. Blossom of Greenwich, Connecticut, grandson of Dudley Buck. The collection of autographs, which includes one from Abraham Lincoln, was gathered by Buck's daughter, Madeline Buck, and donated by Blossom along with the other collection materials.

**Accruals**

No further accruals are expected.

**Processing History**

Jessica Grimmer and Jada Twitty processed the Dudley Buck Papers in 2022 and 2023. Twitty created the finding aid in 2023.

**Related Material**

The [Samuel P. Warren Collection](#) contains a small quantity of correspondence with Dudley Buck.

**Materials Cataloged Separately**

Holograph scores by Dudley Buck are cataloged in ML96.B86. These materials can be requested in the Performing Arts Reading Room.

A large portion of the collection was formerly cataloged in ML94.B9. This call number is no longer applicable.

**Transfers**

An autograph book containing Abraham Lincoln's signature, among others, has been transferred to the Manuscript Division. This volume was assembled by Buck's daughter Madeline.

**Copyright Status**

Materials from the Dudley Buck Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

**Access and Restrictions**

The Dudley Buck Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions on using or copying materials may apply.
Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Dudley Buck Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Dudley Buck was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on March 19, 1839. His father, Dudley Buck Sr., discouraged his son's early interest in music, preferring that he enter the family's successful shipping business. At age sixteen, Buck took his first piano lessons, and his rapid progress convinced his father to allow the boy to pursue a musical career. In 1858, Dudley moved to Leipzig to study with leading German musicians, including Moritz Hauptmann, Johann Schneider, and Ignaz Moscheles. In 1860, he pursued further organ study with Schneider in Dresden, and, after a year in Paris, Buck returned to his native Hartford to become organist at the North Congregational Church. He also began touring as a concert organist, dedicated to elevating the taste of the American public through concerts featuring symphonic transcriptions and premieres of works by Mendelssohn and Bach. In 1865 he married Mary Elizabeth Van Wagner. They had three children: Edward (1866-1913), Dudley (1869-1941), and Madeline (1871-?).

After a two-year tenure at St. James's Episcopal Church in Chicago, where many of his manuscripts were lost in the fire of 1871, Buck returned to Boston. He accepted the post of organist for the Music Hall Association and joined the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music. In 1875 he moved to New York to serve as assistant conductor of the Theodore Thomas Orchestra's Central Park Garden Concerts, another educational venture. Two years later, Buck assumed the position of organist/choirmaster at Brooklyn's Church of the Holy Trinity. In the same year, he began his tenure as founding director of the Brooklyn Apollo Club's male chorus.

Buck's sacred compositions include large-scale works, four cantatas, 55 anthems and 20 sacred songs. He played a central role in the development of organ and choral music in the United States. His first Motette Collection (1869) supplied American church choirs with much-needed literature. He wrote the first American organ sonata and educational texts such as Illustrations in Choir Accompaniment with Hints on Registration (1877) and The Influence of the Organ in History (1882).

Buck's large-scale works exhibit an attention to practicality. His secular cantata The Legend of Don Munio (1874) sets a Washington Irving text for small chorus and orchestra and was popular in cities with limited resources. Two of his cantatas for male chorus, The Nun of Nidaros, op. 83 (1879) and King Olaf's Christmas (1881) set H. W. Longfellow texts for chorus, soloists, piano obligato, reed organ, and string quartet ad libitum. His twelve secular cantatas received more reported performances than any other American choral works during the 1880s. Buck was able to strike a successful balance between popular taste and his high musical ideals.

In 1898, Buck was honored by election to the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Eleven years later, on October 6, 1909, the composer died at age seventy.

Bibliography


Scope and Content Note

The Dudley Buck Papers span the period 1861 to 1939 and consist of correspondence, manuscript and printed scores, biographical materials, and one wood carving. These materials relate to and describe Buck's personal life and career as a composer, organist, and founder and director of the Apollo Club in Brooklyn, New York.

Correspondence in the collection consists mainly of handwritten letters between Buck, his son Dudley, and other members of the family. Also included are correspondence and autographs from various colleagues, friends, and notable figures such as Sidney Lanier and Abraham Lincoln. The Music is comprised of holograph manuscripts for works composed by
Buck and printed scores for voice and piano or organ. **Biographical Materials** include obituaries, tributes, biographies, publications, photographs, and a scrapbook that details Buck's career as a composer and musician.

**Organization of the Dudley Buck Papers**

The collection is arranged in four series:

- **Correspondence, 1876-1914**
- **Music, 1872-1905**
- **Biographical Materials, 1861-1939**
- **Psalm 133 Wood Carving, undated**
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<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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| BOX 1-2, 6 | **Correspondence, 1876-1914**
Handwritten letters between Dudley Buck, the Buck family, friends, colleagues, and other notable figures. The letters are chiefly from Buck to his son Dudley, many of which can be found in the letterbook in this series, along with letters from other family members. Other correspondents include Edmund Clarence Stedmund, L. Rowley Phillips, George Whitefield Chadwick, Sidney Lanier, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William Mason, and Abraham Lincoln.
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. |
| BOX 3-5 | **Music, 1872-1905**
Holograph and printed scores and sketches for original compositions by Buck. Manuscripts include full scores of orchestral works, works for SATB and TTBB chorus and orchestra, and an opera. Published works include sacred music as well as popular songs. Some materials contain inscriptions by Buck, as well as notes detailing provenance.
Arranged alphabetically by title. |
| BOX 2, 7 | **Biographical Materials, 1861-1939**
This series consists of clippings, biographies, tribute books, photographs, programs, a map, and a genealogy of the Buck family. Also included is a scrapbook of correspondence, programs, and various materials related to the Apollo Club. *Buck's New and Complete Dictionary of Musical Terms*, written by Dudley Buck, and *The Complete Dudley Buck Bibliography* are also present.
Arranged alphabetically by subject or material type. |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/2 | **Psalm 133 Wood Carving, undated** |
## Container List

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Correspondence, 1876-1914

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BOX 3-5

Music, 1872-1905

Holograph and printed scores and sketches for original compositions by Buck. Manuscripts include full scores of orchestral works, works for SATB and TTBB chorus and orchestra, and an opera. Published works include sacred music as well as popular songs. Some materials contain inscriptions by Buck, as well as notes detailing provenance. Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX-FOLDER 3/1

46th Psalm, 1872
Printed scores for various instrumentations

BOX-FOLDER 4/1

Album of Twelve Songs by Dudley Buck, 1877
Printed scores for voice and piano

Contents:
- Creole Lover's Song
- Crossing the Bar
- Fear Not Ye, O Israel
- One Sweetly Solemn Thought
- Spring's Awakening
- Sunset
- There's a Merry Brown Thrush
- The Silent World Is Sleeping
- The Tempest
- When Life Hath Sorrow Found
- Where Did You Come From?
- Where the Lindens Bloom

LCCN: 2009546751
Canzonetta et bolero, undated

LCCN: 93729830
Centennial Cantata, 1876

Words by Sidney Lanier
Holograph full score for SATB chorus and orchestra

LCCN: 2009546752
Concert Variations on the "Last Rose of Summer," 1875
Holograph score for string quintet
## Dudley Buck Papers

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| BOX-FOLDER 4/2 | Dudley Buck Songs, Volume I, circa 1905  
Bound volume of printed scores for various instrumentations |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/3 | Dudley Buck Songs, Volume II, circa 1905  
Bound volume of printed scores for various instrumentations |
| LCCN: [2022560142](https://lccn.loc.gov/2022560142) | Festival Hymn, op. 57, 1872  
Holograph full score for SATB chorus, orchestra, and organ |
| LCCN: [2009546753](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546753) (bound) | Festival Overture, undated  
Holograph full score |
| LCCN: [m60001860](https://lccn.loc.gov/m60001860) | Festival Overture on "The Star-Spangled Banner," undated  
Holograph score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/1 | Hymn to Music, circa 1877  
Printed score for SATB chorus and piano |
| LCCN: [2007562693](https://lccn.loc.gov/2007562693) | Magnificat; Nunc Dimittis, circa 1887  
Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ |
| LCCN: [2009546755](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546755) (bound) | Marmion, undated  
Holograph full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/2 | Marmion, undated  
Sketches |
| LCCN: [2007562694](https://lccn.loc.gov/2007562694) | O Ye That Hear and Understand, undated  
Holograph score for baritone or bass voice and organ |
| LCCN: [2007563576](https://lccn.loc.gov/2007563576) | Praise Ye the Lord, For He Is Good, 1884  
Holograph score for TTBB chorus and organ |
| LCCN: [2009546757](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546757) | Romanza and Scherzo, undated  
Holograph score |
| LCCN: [2009546758](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546758) | Romanza for Four French Horns, undated  
Holograph full score |
| LCCN: [2009546754](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546754) (bound) | *Scenes from Longfellow's Golden Legend*, undated  
Holograph full score |
| LCCN: [2009546756](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546756) | *Scenes from Longfellow's Golden Legend*. My Redeemer and My Lord, undated  
Holograph score for contralto and piano |
| LCCN: [2009546759](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546759) (bound) | *Serapis*, undated  
Holograph full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/3 | Seven Songs, 1905  
Printed scores for baritone or contralto and piano  
*Note:* Inscribed from Dudley Buck to L. Rowley Phillips  
*Laid in:* Note from Dudley B. Blossom describing provenance  
*Contents:*  
- Spring Song: "It Was a Lover and His Lass"  
- Consolation  
- De Gray Owl  
- My Dream  
- The Tempest  
- A Life-Picture  
- Hamlet's Soliloquy: "To Be, or Not to Be" |
Music, 1872-1905

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| BOX-FOLDER 3/2 | Six Cantatas for Men's Voices, 1905  
Printed scores for tenor and bass voices, piano, and organ  
*Note:* Inscribed from Dudley Buck to Dudley Buck III |
| LCCN: [2007563567](https://lccn.loc.gov/2007563567) | Three Character Songs. No. 2, Sleep, Kentucky Babe!, undated  
Words by Richard Henry Buck  
Holograph score for voice and piano |
| LCCN: [2007563574](https://lccn.loc.gov/2007563574) | Three Character Songs. No. 3, Go Sleep, Ma Honey, undated  
Words by Edward D. Barker  
Holograph score for voice and piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/4 | To the Poet, Bedtime, undated  
Words by Burges Johnson  
Sketches |
| LCCN: [2009546760](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546760) | The Triumph of David, undated  
Holograph score for voice and organ; libretto |
| LCCN: [2007562695](https://lccn.loc.gov/2007562695) | Virgin's Lullaby, circa 1895  
Printed score for alto and organ |
| LCCN: [2009546761](https://lccn.loc.gov/2009546761) | The Warrior's Death, undated  
Holograph score for TTBB chorus |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/4 | Unidentified works, undated  
Sketches |

**BOX 2, 7**  
**Biographical Materials, 1861-1939**

This series consists of clippings, biographies, tribute books, photographs, programs, a map, and a genealogy of the Buck family. Also included is a scrapbook of correspondence, programs, and various materials related to the Apollo Club. *Buck's New and Complete Dictionary of Musical Terms*, written by Dudley Buck, and *The Complete Dudley Buck Bibliography* are also present.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or material type.

| BOX-FOLDER 2/38 | Apollo Club, 1903  
Dudley Buck retirement tribute book |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/37 | Apollo Club, 1909  
Dudley Buck memorial service book |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/39 | Blossom, Dudley Buck, undated  
Genealogy |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/40 | Buck, Dudley, 1939 and undated  
Biographies  
*Includes:* The Dudley Buck Centenary |
| BOX 7 | Buck, Dudley. Correspondence, programs, and the Apollo Club, 1861, 1880-1894, and undated  
Scrapbook |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/41 | *Buck's New and Complete Dictionary of Musical Terms*, 1901 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/42 | Clippings 1908-1909 and undated  
Obituaries and tributes |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/43 | *Dudley Buck Complete Bibliography*, circa 1906 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/44 | Organ recital programs, 1878 May 22 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/45 | Photographs, undated  
*Contents include:* Dudley Buck and Mary E. Buck [Mrs. Dudley Buck] |
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<td>Voyage map annotated by Dudley Buck</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Score for voice and piano carved into wooden plaque</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Note:</em> Inscription reads &quot;Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Amen.&quot;</td>
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