

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://lcn.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, 1839-1909. Centennial meditation of Columbia.

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.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882.

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

Anthems.

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. There 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

"Banks - Miller Family Tree," s.v. "Dudley Buck" (1839-1909), *Ancestry.com*.

Moses, Karen. "Dudley Buck (1839-1909)." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200153247/>.

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](#)

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1-2, 6

Series
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

Container	Contents
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-FOLDER 1/1	aus der One, Adele, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Barrett, Wilson, undated Buck, Dudley
BOX-FOLDER 1/3-18	Miscellaneous, 1884-1909
BOX-FOLDER 1/19-24	Phillips, L. Rowley, 1903-1909 <i>Laid in:</i> Letter and inventory by Dudley B. Blossom Buck family
BOX-FOLDER 1/25	Buck, Edward T. ("Ned"), 1891-1892
BOX-FOLDER 1/26	Buck, Madeline ("Lot"), 1882-1895
BOX-FOLDER 1/27	Buck, Mary E., 1886-1898
BOX-FOLDER 1/28	Buck, Mary E. [Mrs. Dudley I], 1900-1908
BOX 6	Miscellaneous family members, 1890-1891 Letterbook
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Calvé, Emma, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Chadwick, George Whitefield, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Crawford, F. Marion, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	De Koven, Reginald, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Denzer, S., 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Eames, Emma, circa 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Foote, Arthur, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	J?, Francesca Kausseuer, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Juch, Emma, circa 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	Lanier, Sidney, 1876
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Lassalle, Jean-Louis, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	Lincoln, Abraham, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/13	Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1879
BOX-FOLDER 2/14	Mason, William, 1888, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/15	Maurel, Victor, 1895
BOX-FOLDER 2/16	McCrackan, J. H., undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/17	McLewes, Frederick, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/18	Melba, Nellie, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/19	Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/20	National Institute of Arts and Letters, 1909
BOX-FOLDER 2/21	Navarro, Rafael, 1909

Correspondence, 1876-1914

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/22	Parker, Horatio, 1914
BOX-FOLDER 2/23	Parry, Michael, 1897
BOX-FOLDER 2/24	Parsons, Charles H., 1906
BOX-FOLDER 2/25	Plançon, Pol, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/26	Reszke, Édouard de, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/27	Rousbey, Arthur, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/28	Saunderson, Sybil, 1895
BOX-FOLDER 2/29	Stedman, Edmond C., 1877-1879
BOX-FOLDER 2/30	Sterner, Albert E., undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/31	Terry, Ellen, 1893
BOX-FOLDER 2/32	Tours, B., 1896
BOX-FOLDER 2/33	Vannuccini, Luigi, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 2/34	Weber, E. H., 1909
BOX-FOLDER 2/35	Willard, E. O., 1893
BOX-FOLDER 2/36	Unidentified, 1894-1895
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 <i>Contents:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 (bound)	Canzonetta et bolero, undated Holograph full score
LCCN: 93729830 (bound)	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

Music, 1872-1905

Container

Contents

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	Festival Hymn, op. 57, 1872 Holograph full score for SATB chorus, orchestra, and organ
LCCN: 2009546753 (bound)	Festival Overture, undated Holograph full score
LCCN: 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	Magnificat; Nunc Dimittis, circa 1887 Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2009546755 (bound)	Marmion, undated Holograph full score
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	Marmion, undated Sketches
LCCN: 2007562694	O Ye That Hear and Understand, undated Holograph score for baritone or bass voice and organ
LCCN: 2007563576	Praise Ye the Lord, For He Is Good, 1884 Holograph score for TTBB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2009546757	Romanza and Scherzo, undated Holograph score
LCCN: 2009546758	Romanza for Four French Horns, undated Holograph full score
LCCN: 2009546754 (bound)	<i>Scenes from Longfellow's Golden Legend</i> , undated Holograph full score
LCCN: 2009546756	<i>Scenes from Longfellow's Golden Legend. My Redeemer and My Lord</i> , undated Holograph score for contralto and piano
LCCN: 2009546759 (bound)	<i>Serâpis</i> , undated Holograph full score
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	Seven Songs, 1905 Printed scores for baritone or contralto and piano <i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Dudley Buck to L. Rowley Phillips <i>Laid in:</i> Note from Dudley B. Blossom describing provenance <i>Contents:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Six Cantatas for Men's Voices, 1905 Printed scores for tenor and bass voices, piano, and organ <i>Note:</i> Inscribed from Dudley Buck to Dudley Buck III
LCCN: 2007563567	Three Character Songs. No. 2, Sleep, Kentucky Babe!, undated Words by Richard Henry Buck Holograph score for voice and piano
LCCN: 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	The Triumph of David, undated Holograph score for voice and organ; libretto
LCCN: 2007562695	Virgin's Lullaby, circa 1895 Printed score for alto and organ
LCCN: 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. <i>Buck's New and Complete Dictionary of Musical Terms</i> , written by Dudley Buck, and <i>The Complete Dudley Buck Bibliography</i> 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 <i>Includes:</i> The Dudley Buck Centenary
BOX 7	Buck, Dudley. Correspondence, programs, and the Apollo Club, 1861, 1880-1894, and undated Scrapbook
BOX-FOLDER 2/41	<i>Buck's New and Complete Dictionary of Musical Terms</i> , 1901
BOX-FOLDER 2/42	Clippings 1908-1909 and undated Obituaries and tributes
BOX-FOLDER 2/43	<i>Dudley Buck Complete Bibliography</i> , circa 1906
BOX-FOLDER 2/44	Organ recital programs, 1878 May 22
BOX-FOLDER 2/45	Photographs, undated <i>Contents include:</i> Dudley Buck and Mary E. Buck [Mrs. Dudley Buck]

Biographical Materials, 1861-1939

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/46	Travel information, undated Voyage map annotated by Dudley Buck
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	Psalm 133 Wood Carving, undated Score for voice and piano carved into wooden plaque <i>Note:</i> Inscription reads "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Amen."