

Wharton Barker Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Audrey Walker
Revised by Melinda K. Friend



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010284>

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; 27 containers plus 1 oversize; 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: 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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

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 Birchard, 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, Count--Correspondence.

Penrose, Boies, 1860-1921--Correspondence.

Platt, Orville Hitchcock, 1827-1905--Correspondence.

Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

Smith, Goldwin, 1823-1910--Correspondence.

Teller, Henry Moore, 1830-1914--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.

Bimetallism.

Commercial agents, Russian--United States.

Finance, Public--United States.
Mines and mineral resources--Russia.
Railroads--China.
Railroads--Russia.
Telegraph--China.
Telegraph--Russia.
Telephone--China.
Telephone--Russia.

Places

China--Commerce--United States.
China--History.
Mines and mineral resources--China.
Russia--Commerce--United States.
Russia--History--1801-1917.
United States--Commerce--China.
United States--Commerce--History--19th century.
United States--Commerce--Russia.

Occupations

Capitalists and financiers.
Politicians.
Publicists.

Administrative Information

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

The Wharton Barker Papers are described in *Report of the Librarian of Congress for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, p. 43-44.

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1846, May 1	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
circa 1862-circa 1865	Served in militia, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
1866	Graduated, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
1867	Married Margaret Corlies
1869	Founded <i>Penn Monthly</i> ; published under title <i>The American</i> , 1880-1900
1878	Appointed special financial agent of the Russian government; traveled to Russia
1887	Published <i>Surplus Revenue and Canadian Relations</i> . Philadelphia
1896	Published <i>Bimetallism: or the Evils of Gold Monometallism and the Benefits of Bimetallism</i> . Philadelphia: Barker Publishing Co.
1900	Populist candidate, president of the United States
1902	Published <i>The Great Issues: Reprints of Some Editorials from The American, 1897-1900</i> . Philadelphia: Wharton Barker
1921, Apr. 9	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

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](#).

Correspondents include George Baird, William Carroll, Moses E. Clapp, Shelby M. Cullom, James A. Garfield, Nikolai Karlovich Girs, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Anthony Higgins, Henry Martyn Hoyt, Marshall Jewell, William D. Kelley, Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), Alexander MacKenzie, William McKinley, Wayne MacVeagh, S. P. Makietchang, John Inscho Mitchell, Count Mitkiewicz, Boies Penrose, Orville Hitchcock Platt, Thomas Collier Platt, Konstantin Petrovich Pobedonostev, Theodore Roosevelt, L. P. Semetschkin, John Sherman, Goldwin Smith, Henry Moore Teller, John Wanamaker, Andrew Dickson White, and John Russell Young (1840-1899).

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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-13	<u>General Correspondence, 1870-1921</u> Incoming and outgoing letters. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 14-19	<u>Letterbooks, 1879-1888</u> Bound, letter press copies of outgoing correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 20	<u>Business Records, 1878-circa 1891</u> Bills, invoices, receipts, a bound volume, and legal papers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 21	<u>Subject File, 1886-1918</u> Files on organizations, a railroad, and projects. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization or topic.
BOX 22-23	<u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1880-1919</u> Manuscript and printed copies of speeches, articles, and books by Barker. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 24-25	<u>Printed Matter, circa 1886-circa 1916</u> Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 25	<u>Miscellany, circa 1865-circa 1913</u> Biographical material, calling cards, addresses, and photographs. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 26-27	<u>Scrapbooks, 1864-1917</u> Scrapbooks of newspapers clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize, 1878-1890</u> Bound volume of business records. Arranged and described according to the series, container, and folder from which the item was removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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.
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

Letterbooks, 1879-1888

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 19	Mar.-Oct. 1888
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 <i>See Oversize</i>
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)
BOX 25	(10 folders)

Printed Matter, circa 1886-circa 1916

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 25	Pamphlets
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)