

Lake Forest College Archives and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Edward H. Bennett Collection (SC/002)

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Lake Forest College Archives and Special Collections

555 N. Sheridan Road

Lake Forest

IL

United States

60045

[Email: thomason@lakeforest.edu](mailto:thomason@lakeforest.edu)

<https://www.lakeforest.edu/library/archives/>

<http://archives.lakeforest.edu/index.php/edward-h-bennett-collection-1870-1954>

Edward H. Bennett Collection

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Summary information

Repository: Lake Forest College Archives and Special Collections

Title: Edward H. Bennett Collection

ID: SC/002

Date: 1870-1854 (date of creation)

Physical description: 12.00 boxes

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Edward Herbert Bennett (1874-1954) was born in southwestern England the son of a clipper ship's master and was educated in Bristol schools before coming to the U.S. in 1890, to California where after trying ranching he found employment in architectural offices. There he came to the attention of notable architect Bernard Maybeck (1862-1957), who arranged for him to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, funded by Phoebe Hearst (1842-1919; Phoebe Hearst Architectural Plan for the University of California), ca. 1898-1902. Another protégé of Maybeck's and Hearst's, and friend of Bennett's was Arthur Brown, Jr. (1874-1957), who also graduated from the Ecole, in 1901 and returned to California to practice. A notable work of Brown's is Stanford's iconic Hoover Tower (1941). Brown also worked with Bennett on the Federal Triangle, Washington, DC. Bennett, like Brown, received his Ecole diplome, a relatively unusual achievement for students from the U.S.

Bennett took two major Mediterranean trips focused on architecture, one ca. 1900-01 and another in 1910. For the first there is a small group of photos recording this trip with at least one Ecole friend. For the second, to Egypt with his sister Helen, there is both a larger photo album collection and a travel diary. After a brief stint in the offices of architect George B. Post (1837-1913) in New York, Ecole friend and Chicago Burnham design partner W. Peirce Anderson (1870-1924) recommended him to Daniel Burnham to assist on a West Point competition plan. Though not successful in winning the contract there, Burnham took him on to work on a plan of San Francisco, 1905. By 1905-06, though, Burnham was urging Bennett to leave his adopted home state of California and promotion of that Plan to return to Chicago to take up work by 1906-07 on a plan for Chicago, published in 1909, the Plan of Chicago. On the Plan Bennett worked closely with French artists and Ecole comrades Jules Guerin and Fernand Janin (1880-1912), the latter the artist of a portrait of Bennett as a student; another American Ecole (Paris) five-year alum Carl F. Gould (1873-1939); Plan editor Charles Moore (also later Burnham's biographer, 1921), and Plan chair Charles Dyer Norton, also a Lake Forest College neighbor (550 E. Deerpath) and College trustee (1903-11) responsible for the 1906 campus plan.

Bennett started his own national practice, after 1910. Early work included a Portland (Oregon) plan and a lakefront plan for Lake Forest (Illinois), 1911. Bennett served as consulting architect for the Chicago

Plan Commission, 1913-30. He designed the 1920 Michigan Avenue bridge (conceived as two levels during the 1907-09 process), Grant Park and the 1920s Buckingham Fountain, thus fulfilling some of the 1909 Plan's projected key features. From 1927 to 1937 he led work on the Washington, DC, Plan, and in particular the Federal Triangle. From the late 1920s through the early 1930s he played a leading role in the 1933-34 Century of Progress exposition in Chicago, responsible for the design of several buildings in the new French version of International style, Art Deco, and reflecting the influence of Le Corbusier in this country then.

Bennett led partnerships after practicing on his own: Bennett and Parsons, 1919-22; Bennett Frost and Thomas, 1922-24; and Bennett Parsons and Frost, 1924-38. Through the 1920s the City of Lake Forest outsourced its planning work to local resident Bennett's firm, with its first zoning ordinance, 1923, and creation of a Plan Commission in 1929; Bennett served as the inaugural Lake Forest Plan Commission's first chair with a five-year term (records, AIC Burnham Library). He closed his practice in 1944.

Bennett had arrived in Lake Forest in 1906, attending events, etc. at Onwentsia, joined the club and was a summer resident in 1907, and married Catherine Jones in 1912, daughter of capitalist and Lake Forest University/College board of trustees president David B. Jones, 1903-04 (trustee 1896-1915; secretary 1896-98). The couple built their home Bagatelle on the southwest corner of Deerpath and Green Bay Road, 1915-16, to Bennett's designs, including garden planting plans. This was a corner of David B. Jones' estate and near his home, Pembroke Lodge (1895, Henry Ives Cobb). In the same period Bennett designed the landscape and gardens of Jones' villa Pepper Hill (1916, David Adler) at Montecito, Santa Barbara, CA. In 1930 he also built for himself in his garden a new brick studio, in the International Style he employed in his Century of Progress work.

Catherine Jones Bennett died in the 1925 and he remarried, Olive Holden Mead. The Bennett family beginning in the 1930s enjoyed a farm in present-day Mettawa, west of Lake Forest and Ghost Ranch, in the southwest, where Edward H. Bennett designed an adobe home. In his last decade he built a retirement home in Tryon, North Carolina (Paul Schwieckher [1903-1997], ca. 1948-49; landscape by Bennett), and he pursued his work with watercolors, which he had employed as a student and on the 1909 Plan.

Edward and Catherine Bennett had one son, Edward H. Bennett, Jr., a Harvard-educated architect and planner, the founding president in 1976 of the Lake Forest Foundation for Historic Preservation. For his Harvard thesis EHB, Jr. designed an International Style union railroad terminal for west of the Chicago River, in the mode of the 1960 Naess & Murphy O'Hare Field air terminal. Among EHB, Jr.'s residential designs is a 1957 International Style house for George and Rosemary D. Hale, 270 Butler Dr., Lake Forest, in the mode of the Lemke house (1932) by Mies van der Rohe and 1940s and 1950s houses by Philip Johnson (Lemke house photos and Johnson material in Schulze collection; Hale house plans in the library's Hale collection).

Edward H. Bennett, Jr.'s one son and also only child, Edward H. Bennett III, is a Lake Forest College alumnus, Class of 1971; he was president of the Lake Forest Foundation for Historic Preservation, 1999-2001. Edward H. Bennett III's older son, Christopher E. Bennett, also is an alumnus, Class of 1992, and he resides in Chicago. Mr. Bennett's younger son, Timothy R. Bennett, AIA, ALA, carries on the family architectural tradition and resides in Highland Park.

In 1953, in the year prior to his 1954 passing, Edward H. Bennett donated a large collection of his papers, largely professional materials, to the Burnham Library, Art Institute of Chicago. The remaining papers, photos, etc. stayed in EHB Jr.'s house (the former Jones stable block) on the 1895 Jones compound to 2004, when they were transferred to EHB III's house further west on Deerpath in Lake Forest. Much of this family archive relating to EHB's work on the 1909 Plan of Chicago and subsequent planning career made up the body of this 2008 donation.

Scope and content

The collection consists of personal and professional papers of the architect Edward H. Bennett. The collection is arranged into two series. Series 1 includes correspondence, drafts, and plans from throughout Bennett's career. The most significant part of the collection is the correspondence between Daniel Burnham and Bennett, that reveals some of Burnham's thoughts regarding the 1909 Plan of Chicago. There are letters with other professional colleagues as well. The photographs span both the professional and personal realms, including many photographs of three generations of the Bennett family and many photographs Bennett took or acquired to inform his architectural projects. There are several sketchbooks and scrapbooks and also several books of study photographs.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donation

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:158
-

Access points

- Guérin, Jules Vallée, 1866-1946 (subject)
- Hearst, Phoebe Apperson, 1842-1919 (subject)
- Brown, Arthur, 1874-1957 (subject)
- École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (France) (subject)
- Burnham, Daniel Hudson, 1846-1912 (subject)
- Business correspondence (documentary form)
- Records (Documents) (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Architectural drawings (documentary form)
- Sketchbooks (documentary form)
- Albums (Books) (documentary form)
- Notebooks (documentary form)
- Ephemera (documentary form)
- Portraits (documentary form)
- Architecture. (subject)

- Architecture--Illinois--Chicago--History--20th century. (subject)
- Architecture--Planning. (subject)
- City planning--20th century. (subject)
- City planning--Illinois--Chicago--History. (subject)
- City planning--Washington (D.C.) (subject)
- City planners--United States. (subject)
- Architects--Education--France. (subject)
- Architects--United States. (subject)
- City planning--California--San Francisco. (subject)
- Chicago (Ill.) (place)
- Washington (D.C.) (place)
- Grant Park (Chicago, Ill.)--History. (place)
- San Francisco (Calif.) (place)
- Paris (France). (place)

Series descriptions

Series SC/002-1: Correspondence, Plans, and Drafts

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
SC/002-1-B02/F01	Otherlevel - Planning Notebook	1908?		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F02	Otherlevel - City Plan for Chicago	1906-1907		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F03	Otherlevel - Inter-Urban Roadways	1908		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F04	Otherlevel - Plan of Chicago	1910		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F05	Otherlevel - West Side Post Office	1915		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F06	Otherlevel - South Water Street	1917		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F07	Otherlevel - Chicago Railway Terminal Commission	1921		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F08	Otherlevel - South Water Street Facts	1922		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F09	Otherlevel - Wacker's Manual of the Plan of Chicago	1916		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F010	Otherlevel - Major Traffic Artery on the West Side	1935		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B02/F011	Otherlevel - Handbook of Chicago Parks	1936		SC/002 Box 2
SC/002-1-B03/F01	Otherlevel - Report on San Francisco	1905		SC/002 Box 3
SC/002-1-B03/F02	Otherlevel - That Was a Dream Worth Building	1916		SC/002 Box 3
SC/002-1-B03/F03	Otherlevel - Camp Las Casas, Porto Rico	1918		SC/002 Box 3
SC/002-1-B03/F04	Otherlevel - Camp Knox	1919		SC/002 Box 3
SC/002-1-B05/F01	Otherlevel - Daniel Hudson Burnham			SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F02	Otherlevel - D.H. Burnham	1905-1910		SC/002 Box 5

SC/002-1-B05/F03	Otherlevel - Jules Guerin	1908-1912	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F04	Otherlevel - Paris, London-Phoebe Hearst	1898-1899	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F05	Otherlevel - Notebook France	1923	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F06	Otherlevel - Arthur Brown		SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F07	Otherlevel - Friends		SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F08	Otherlevel - General Considerations on Town Planning with Special Reference to Washington D.C.		SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F09	Otherlevel - Address Book		SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F10	Otherlevel - Report on Plan of San Francisco	1905	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F11	Otherlevel - "Improvement A53 h.S.F" Notes		SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F12	Otherlevel - Civic Planning draft	1920's-1930's	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F13	Otherlevel - Letters to Phoebe Hearst	1898-1904	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F14	Otherlevel - Chicago Bennett Notebook		SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B05/F15	Otherlevel - Correspondence with D.H. Burnham, various notes	1905	SC/002 Box 5
SC/002-1-B06/F01	Otherlevel - Sketches/Plans	1915-1916	SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F02	Otherlevel - Ephemera		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F03	Otherlevel - Invitations		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F04	Otherlevel - Study Plans-Chicago	1915	SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F05	Otherlevel - Study Plans-Nimumpohis		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F06	Otherlevel - Study Plans-Pnttaud		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F07	Otherlevel - Studio Caubeua (Australia)		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F08	Otherlevel - Study Plans- Washington		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F09	Otherlevel - Sketches/Plans-barn, Tryon, Ne		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F10	Otherlevel - Sketch Book Packet-1 dishboard sketch book (37 sheets)		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F11	Otherlevel - Clippings-Personal		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F12	Otherlevel - Clippings-The Plans		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F13	Otherlevel - Clippings-Washington D.C. Planning		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F14	Otherlevel - Articles		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F15	Otherlevel - Clippings-France-American Committee with E.H.B.		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F16	Otherlevel - Clippings-other plans		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F17	Otherlevel - Chicago planning clippings after 1909		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F18	Otherlevel - Clippings-Century of Progress		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F19	Otherlevel - Architect & City Planner, Art Institute March 4-July 4	1874-1954	SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F20	Otherlevel - John Wellborn Root Guest Editorial		SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F21	Otherlevel - Correspondence from Page to Bennett	1905	SC/002 Box 6
SC/002-1-B06/F22	Otherlevel - Commerce	1934	SC/002 Box 6

Series SC/002-2: Photographs and Art

<u>Publication status:</u>				
Published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
SC/002-2-B01/F01	Otherlevel - Photographs and Negatives of Michigan Avenue Bridges, river, and and railyards			SC/002 Box 1
SC/002-2-B01/F02	Otherlevel - Postcards	undated		SC/002 Box 1
SC/002-2-B01/F03	Otherlevel - Certificate of Appreciation from American Society of Planning Officials to Edward Herbert Bennett	1953		SC/002 Box 1
SC/002-2-B01/F04	Otherlevel - Grant Park Photographs, Pictures, and Negatives	1909-1920		SC/002 Box 1
SC/002-2-B01/F05	Otherlevel - Photographs, family candid	mostly undated		SC/002 Box 1
SC/002-2-B01/F06	Otherlevel - Photographs, colleagues and work related	mostly undated		SC/002 Box 1
SC/002-2-B04/F01	Otherlevel - French Monument: Place de la Concorde Obelisk			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F02	Otherlevel - Esplanade Unknown Location: Place de la Concorde view towards Arc de Triomphe			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F03	Otherlevel - Same French Monument: Place de la Concorde Obelisk close			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F04	Otherlevel - Unknown Gardens Paris?- French Style park			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F05	Otherlevel - Road with colorful houses, street scene, houses with Mansard roofs, US? Fr?			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F06	Otherlevel - Classical Home, petite trimon, Versailles			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F07	Otherlevel - Plan of Chicago, Main street arteries			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F08	Otherlevel - Plan of Chicago, proposal place of arteries railway			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F09	Otherlevel - Glass lantern slide of Plan of Ottawa			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F10	Otherlevel - Possible view of Ottawa, Pierce Jules Geunum			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F11	Otherlevel - Plan of Pasadena			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F12	Otherlevel - Pasadena Arts Center, Plan of Pasadena			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F13	Otherlevel - Plan of Pasadena Garden			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F14	Otherlevel - Garden with Urn			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F15	Otherlevel - Plan of Chicago street and subway, alternate possibly not in POC			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F16	Otherlevel - Avenue Beau Artes style, Hotel des Invalides			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F17	Otherlevel - Garden			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F18	Otherlevel - Empty Box- Union Photographique Industrielle			SC/002 Box 4
SC/002-2-B04/F19	Otherlevel - San Francisco Notes	1904		SC/002 Box 4

SC/002-2-B07/F01	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 7
SC/002-2-B07/F02	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 7
SC/002-2-B07/F03	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 7
SC/002-2-B08/F01	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F02	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F03	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F04	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F05	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F06	Otherlevel - European Phtographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F07	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F08	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F09	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B08/F10	Otherlevel - European Photographs	SC/002 Box 8
SC/002-2-B09/F01	Otherlevel - General Specifications for 1956 George E. Hale house	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I01	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I02	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I03	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I04	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I05	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I06	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I07	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I08	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I09	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I10	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I11	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I12	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I13	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I14	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B09/I15	Item - Portraits of family	SC/002 Box 9
SC/002-2-B10/I01	Item - Photograph Scrapbook of 1902 1902 trip to Mediterranean	SC/002 Box 10
SC/002-2-B10/I02	Item - Sketchbook	SC/002 Box 10
SC/002-2-B10/I03	Item - Photograph scrapbook	SC/002 Box 10
SC/002-2-B10/I04	Item - Northwestern University General 1927 Plan of Development of the campus	SC/002 Box 10
SC/002-2-B10/I05	Item - Sketch of Grant Park, Edward 1915 Bennett	SC/002 Box 10
SC/002-2-B10/I06	Item - Scrapbook circa 1905	SC/002 Box 10
SC/002-2-B11/I01	Item - Notebook of plans	SC/002 Box 11
SC/002-2-B12/I01	Item - Study Books	SC/002 Box 12
SC/002-2-B12/I02	Item - Study Books	SC/002 Box 12
SC/002-2-B12/I03	Item - Study Books	SC/002 Box 12
SC/002-2-B13/I01	Item - Study Books 4-7	SC/002 Box 13

SC/002-2-B13/I02	Item - Study Books 4-7	SC/002 Box 13
SC/002-2-B13/I03	Item - Study Books 4-7	SC/002 Box 13
SC/002-2-B13/I04	Item - Study Books 4-7	SC/002 Box 13
SC/002-2-B14/I01	Item - Study Books 8-10	SC/002 Box 14
SC/002-2-B14/I02	Item - Study Books 8-10	SC/002 Box 14
SC/002-2-B14/I03	Item - Study Books 8-10	SC/002 Box 14