

# Guide to the Edward Eberstadt & Sons Records

WA MSS S-2698



by Lisa Conathan

2011. Revised: February 2023.

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-2698

**CREATOR:** Edward Eberstadt & Sons

**TITLE:** Edward Eberstadt & Sons records

**DATES:** 1910-2018

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 16.34 linear feet (46 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The records document the business activity of Edward Eberstadt and include records from three of his firms: Hudson Book Company, Edward Eberstadt, and Edward Eberstadt & Sons. While some material dates to Eberstadt's early years in business, most of the collection documents Eberstadt's business relationship with William Robertson Coe (Eberstadt was Coe's agent), and the formation of the Coe Collection of Western Americana. Records include financial records, acquisition records, correspondence between Eberstadt and Coe and between Eberstadt and other dealers, and descriptions of rare books and manuscripts, including some transcripts of manuscripts.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.eberstadt>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.eberstadt>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Edward Eberstadt, 1959, and of Charles F. Eberstadt, 1974.

November 2018 acquisition: Gift of Michael D. Heaston, 2018.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Edward Eberstadt & Sons Records is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Edward Eberstadt & Sons Records. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection was partially processed in 2011. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Former call numbers: Uncat WA MS Coe, Uncat WA MS Eberstadt

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## Related Materials

Thomas W. Streeter collection of Hudson Book Company, Edward Eberstadt, and Edward Eberstadt & Sons catalogs (WA MSS S-2588). Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Edward Eberstadt & Sons

Edward Eberstadt & Sons was a bookselling business in New York City, specializing in rare books and manuscripts related to the history of the American West. The business was started by Edward Eberstadt (1883-1958) as The Latin American Book Company, and later the Hudson Book Company in Tarrytown, NY, circa 1910, specializing in Latin Americana. The business later became Edward Eberstadt and, finally, Edward Eberstadt & Sons. Edward's sons Charles and Lindley Eberstadt joined the firm in the late 1930s and continued the business until Charles's death in 1974 and Lindley's death in 1985.

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## **William Robertson Coe (1869-1955)**

William Robertson Coe was born in Staffordshire, England, and immigrated to Pennsylvania at the age of 14. He began working in the insurance business soon thereafter, and by 1910 had risen to become the president of Johnson and Higgins Insurance Co. He was among the foremost collectors of Western Americana in the early twentieth century, and his gifts of rare books and manuscripts became the foundation of the Yale Collection of Western Americana at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The records document the business activity of Edward Eberstadt and include records from three of his firms: Hudson Book Company, Edward Eberstadt, and Edward Eberstadt & Sons. While some material dates to Eberstadt's early years in business, most of the collection documents Eberstadt's business relationship with William Robertson Coe (Eberstadt was Coe's agent), and the formation of the Coe Collection of Western Americana, which was donated to Yale in the 1940s. Records include financial records, acquisition records, correspondence between Eberstadt and Coe and between Eberstadt and other dealers, and descriptions of rare books and manuscripts, including some transcripts of manuscripts.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into seven series: I. Financial Records, 1910-1945. II. Correspondence, 1920-1954. III. Appraisal Records, 1943-1953. IV. Acquisition Files, circa 1920-circa 1950. V. Catalog Files, 1942-1951, undated. VI. Other Papers, 1930-1945. VII. November 2018 Acquisition, circa 1929-2018, undated.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Financial Records, 1910-1945

0.84 linear feet (7 boxes)

Series I consists of records relating to the purchase of rare books and manuscripts, and to business expenses, and bills to William R. Coe for acquisitions on his behalf.

Organized into two subseries: Accounting Records and Coe Collection Bills.

#### Accounting Records (6 volumes and 1 folder)

Arranged roughly chronologically.

b. 1	Account book	1908
b. 2	Account book	1910-1915
b. 3	Account book	1910-1913
b. 4	Account book	1911-1916
b. 5	Account book	1917-1920
b. 6	Account book	1914-1916
b. 7	"Purchases by Hudson Book Company"	1920
Coe Collection Bills		
b. 7	Bills 2 Folders	1920-1928
b. 7	Bills 2 Folders	1920-1934
b. 7	Bills	1936-1945
b. 7	Bills	1937-1939
b. 7	Bills	1940-1941
b. 7	Bills	1944

**Series II: Correspondence, 1920-1954***1.88 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Series II consists of Edward Eberstadt's business correspondence, incoming and retained outgoing copies. Much of the correspondence is between Eberstadt and William R. Coe, or relates to acquisitions for the Coe collection. A small amount of William R. Coe's correspondence (letters to and from people other than Eberstadt) is interfiled.

Organized into two subseries: General Correspondence (Chronological) and General Correspondence (Alphabetical).

## General Correspondence (Chronological)

b. 8	General correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1920-1921
b. 8	General correspondence	1921-1922
b. 8	General correspondence	1921-1930
b. 8	General correspondence	1923-1932
b. 9	General correspondence	1923-1945
b. 9	General correspondence	1925-1937
b. 9	General correspondence	1930s
b. 9	General correspondence	1932-1940
b. 9	General correspondence	1932-1943
b. 9	General correspondence	1934-1938
b. 9	General correspondence	1937
b. 9	General correspondence	1939
b. 9	General correspondence	1940
b. 10	General correspondence	1943-1948
b. 10	General correspondence	1943-1952
b. 10	General correspondence	1943-1953
b. 10	General correspondence	1945
b. 10	General correspondence	1945-1950
b. 10	General correspondence	1945-1951
b. 10	General correspondence	1949-1950
b. 10	General correspondence	1951
b. 11	General correspondence	1952
b. 11	General correspondence	1952-1954

## General Correspondence (Chronological) (continued)

b. 11	General correspondence	1953
b. 11	General correspondence	1954-1955
General Correspondence (Alphabetical)		
b. 11	"Birds"	1948-1952
b. 11	Buffalo Bill Museum Association	1931-1939
b. 11	Crocker, Charles Templeton	1921
b. 11	Hanna, Archibald	1960-1967
b. 11	Holliday, Jim	1952
b. 11	Yale University	1944-1945
b. 12	Yale University <i>2 Folders</i>	1948-1949



**Series III: Appraisal Records, 1943-1953***4.8 linear feet (12 boxes)*

Series III consists of descriptions and monetary appraisals of material in the Coe Collection, chiefly at the time of donation of the material to Yale University.

Organized into two subseries: Coe Collection of Western Americana and Other Appraisal Records.

## Coe Collection of Western Americana

Organized under two headings: Drafts and Completed Volumes.

## Drafts

Arranged chronologically.

b. 13	"Volume I: Manuscripts," draft <i>4 Folders</i>	1943
b. 14	"Volume I," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1944
b. 14	"Volume II," draft <i>2 Folders</i>	1944
b. 15	"Volume III," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1944
b. 15	"Volume I," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1945
b. 16	"Volume II," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1945
b. 16	"Volume III," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1945
b. 17	"Volume I," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1946
b. 17	"Volume II," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1946
b. 17	"Volume III," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1946
b. 18	"Volume I," draft <i>3 Folders</i>	1947
b. 18	"Volume II," draft <i>2 Folders</i>	1947
b. 18	"Volume II," draft	1947
Completed Volumes		
Arranged chronologically.		
b. 19	Volume 1, Original Manuscript	1943
b. 19	Volume II, Historical Works	1944

## Coe Collection of Western Americana &gt; Completed Volumes (continued)

b. 19	Volume III, Historical Works	1944
b. 20	Volume IV, Plains and Rockies, Idaho, and British Columbia Imprints	1945
b. 20	Volume V, Plains and Rockies, Idaho, and British Columbia Imprints	1945
b. 20	Volume VI, Plains and Rockies, Idaho, and British Columbia Imprints	1945
b. 21	Volume VII, Historical Works	1946
b. 21	Volume VIII, Historical Works	1946
b. 22	Volume IX, Historical Works	1946
b. 22	Volume X, Historical Works	1947
b. 22	Volume XI, Historical Works	1947
b. 23	Western Americana (no volume number)	1949
b. 23	Volume XIII, Historical Works	1951
b. 23	Historical Works (no volume number)	1952-1953
Other appraisal records Arranged roughly chronologically.		
b. 24	Appraisal records <i>3 Folders</i>	1944-1966, undated
b. 24	Ed Lazare appraisal records <i>3 Folders</i>	1951-1952
b. 24	Notes, including appraisal records	1952
b. 24	Records of gifts <i>2 Folders</i>	1953, undated

**Series IV: Acquisition Files, circa 1920-circa 1950***2.92 linear feet (7 boxes)*

Series IV consists of files that document the purchase and sale of material by Edward Eberstadt's firms, as well as research carried out by employees. Files often include transcripts of manuscripts. Dates have not been supplied for the files, reflecting the fact that they are undated and may have been compiled or revised over time.

Arranged alphabetically by author, subject or other main entry.

b. 25	Anderson, William Marshall <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 25	Astor, John Jacob
b. 25	Audubon, _____
b. 25	Ball, John
b. 25	Barnes, James S.
b. 25	Belden, Josiah
b. 25	Bell, Josias Fendall
b. 25	Bierce, Ambrose
b. 25	Bordman, Philip(?)
b. 25	Brown, David L. <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 26	Brown, Joseph W.
b. 26	Bryant, Edwin and J. Quinn Thornton
b. 26	Burch, John Chilton
b. 26	Campbell, Robert
b. 26	Clark, Major Meriwether Lewis
b. 26	Clover, Isaac M.
b. 26	Colgate, J.C.
b. 26	Colgrow, David
b. 26	Comfort, Aaron Ivins
b. 26	Coon, Homer
b. 26	Crooks, Ramsey
b. 26	Crump, R.P.
b. 26	Davidson, William Mitchell
b. 26	Dellenbaugh, Frederick S.

b. 26	Dowdon, Richard
	Dunbar, William Stored in: Oversize Box 40.
b. 26	Ellsworth, Henry L.
b. 26	Emmons, George F.
b. 26	English, W.L.
b. 26	Estados Unidos Mexicanos
b. 27	Everts, F.D.
b. 27	Freeman, Henry
b. 27	Gee, Perry
b. 27	Green, George W.
b. 27	Haller, Granville O.
	Holts, _____ Stored in: Oversize Box 40.
b. 27	Hosmer, John Allen
b. 27	Ingalls, Eleaser S.
b. 27	Jackson, Alonzo C. <i>3 Folders</i>
b. 27	Jacobson, _____
b. 27	Johnson Family
b. 28	Johnson, George A.
b. 28	Jones, Evan O.
b. 28	Kingsbury, James M.
b. 28	Lathrop, George
b. 28	Lewis, Meriwether and William Clark <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 28	Lincoln, Abraham <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 28	MacKinlay, James
b. 28	Mann, Stephen H.
b. 28	Meetch, J.B.
b. 28	<i>National Atlas and Tuesday Morning Mail</i>

b. 28	Nez Perces <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 28	Pike, Z.M.
b. 28	"Overland Fakes"
b. 29	Pittman, Anna Maria
b. 29	Reed, Gardner K.
b. 29	Rothwell, William R.
b. 29	<i>Saint Joseph Gazette</i>
b. 29	Sharp, Thomas C.
b. 29	Shuart, Jesse H. <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 30	Shunk, William Findlay
b. 30	Sinclair, James
b. 30	Smith, Emma
b. 30	Smith, Joseph
b. 30	Strachan, John <i>2 Folders</i>
b. 30	Stuart, James Ewell Brown
b. 30	Stuart, Robert
b. 30	Sully, Alfred
b. 31	Tiffany, P.C.
b. 31	Walker, J.G.
b. 31	Wickliffe, Charles A.
b. 31	Unidentified <i>6 Folders</i>

**Series V: Catalog Files, 1942-1951, undated***2.92 linear feet (7 boxes)*

Series V consists of catalog cards and slips documenting the Coe Collection and containing descriptions of material, bibliographic information, and prices.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 32	"Mss cat"	1942
b. 32	"Coe catalog slips"	undated
b. 32	Wyoming catalog	1951
b. 32	Catalog files	undated
b. 33	Catalog cards	undated
b. 34	Catalog cards	undated
b. 35	Catalog cards	undated
b. 36	Catalog cards	undated
b. 37	Catalog cards	undated
b. 38	Catalog cards	undated

**Series VI: Other Papers, 1930-1945, undated**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Series VI consists of drafts of writings by Edward and Charles Eberstadt, and unsorted business papers, consisting chiefly of notes.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 39, f. #1	"The Brothers Nine," by Edward Eberstadt, drafts	1945
b. 39, f. #1	"On Colorado Guidebooks of '59," by Charles Eberstadt, draft	undated
b. 39, f. #3	Unsorted papers	1930-1940, undated

**Oversize Material**

*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 40, f. #1	Dunbar, William (Series IV)
b. 40, f. #1	Holts, _____ (Series IV)



**Series VII: November 2018 Acquisition, circa 1929-2018, undated***2.52 linear feet (6 boxes)*

This series contains catalogs, inventories, and other papers relating to Edward Eberstadt &amp; Sons

Gift of Michael D. Heaston, 2018.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 41	California Collection	undated
b. 41	American Railroad Collection	1970
b. 41	Collection of Confederate Imprints	undated
b. 41	Oregon Territory	undated
b. 41	Manuscript Collection Calendar Volume I	undated
b. 41	Maps of America Collection, Volume I	undated
b. 41	Maps of America Collection, Volume II	undated
b. 41	Maps of America Collection, Volume III	undated
b. 42	Texas Collection	undated
b. 42	Collection of files on Mexico and Southwestern US	undated
b. 42	Louisiana Collection	circa 1959
b. 42	Indian and Oklahoma Territory Collection, Volume I	undated
b. 42	Indian and Oklahoma Territory Collection, Volume II	undated
b. 42	Indian and Oklahoma Territory Collection, Volume IV	undated
b. 42	Collection of Indian Treaties	1957-1970
b. 43	Collection of Overland Narratives Occurring Before 1865, But Published After That Date, Volume I	undated
b. 43	Collection of Overland Narratives Occurring Before 1865, But Published After That Date, Volume II	undated
b. 43	Collection of Overland Narratives [Keyed to Wagner-Camp's Plains and Rockies Bibliography] (1 of 2)	undated
b. 43	Collection of Overland Narratives [Keyed to Wagner-Camp's Plains and Rockies Bibliography] (2 of 2)	undated
b. 43	Mexican War Collection	undated
b. 43	Mexican War One	undated
b. 43	Mexican War Two	undated
b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--A-C, Nos. 1-154	undated

b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--D-J, Nos. 155-317	undated
b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--K-M, Nos. 318-479	undated
b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--N-P, Nos. 480-621	undated
b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--Q-Sheet, Nos. 622-821	undated
b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--Shep-T, Nos. 822-964	undated
b. 44	The Mexican War and Conquest of California and the Southwest--U-Z, Nos. 965-1032	undated
b. 45	Collection of records on presidential estates (1 of 2)	circa 1930-1943
b. 45	Collection of records on presidential estates (2 of 2)	circa 1930-1948
b. 45	Recapitulation of Stock	undated
b. 45	The Eberstadt Collection of Rare and Important Historical Western Photographs (1 of 2) (2 folders)	1972
b. 45	The Eberstadt Collection of Rare and Important Historical Western Photographs (2 of 2)	1972
b. 45	Collection of materials on presidential acquisition	circa 1957
b. 45	Charles' Copy, Private, Catalogue 140 Americana	circa 1957
b. 45	Alaska and the Northwest Coast 148	circa 1959
b. 45	Columbiana	circa 1950s
b. 45	West Indies Collection	circa 1970s-2018
b. 46	Americana, Special Quotation List "A" and Columbus lawsuit papers	undated
b. 46	Americana advance lists	circa 1931-1937
b. 46	Assorted copies of letters (1 of 2)	circa 1929-1949
b. 46	Assorted copies of letters (2 of 2)	circa 1929-1949

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## 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.

### Subjects

Acquisition of manuscripts -- United States  
Antiquarian booksellers  
Antiquarian booksellers -- United States  
Book auctions -- United States  
Book collecting -- United States  
Book collectors -- United States  
Book collectors -- United States  
Book industries and trade -- United States  
Booksellers and bookselling -- United States  
Books -- Prices  
Bookstores -- United States  
Cataloging of manuscripts -- United States  
Libraries and booksellers -- United States  
Manuscripts, American -- United States  
Rare books -- United States

### Geographic Names

West (U.S.) -- Bibliography

### Names

Coe, William Robertson, 1869-1955  
Eberstadt, Charles F. (Charles Francis),  
1912-1974  
Eberstadt, Edward, 1883-1958  
Eberstadt, Lindley

### Corporate Bodies

Edward Eberstadt (Firm)  
Edward Eberstadt & Sons  
Hudson Book Company  
Yale Collection of Western Americana