

Guide to the O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers

GEN MSS 1155



by Karen Spicher

2014 August

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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: GEN MSS 1155

CREATOR: Gilman, O. B. (Osmon B.), approximately 1868-

TITLE: O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman papers

DATES: 1880s-1962

BULK DATES: 1915-1947

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.05 linear feet (17 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers contain correspondence, including incoming letters and outgoing carbons relating to O. B. Gilman's businesses, 1915-1920s, and to Idahurst Kennels, the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, and other dog breeding organizations, 1930s-1947, including correspondence with Leon F. Whitney, veterinarian, executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society, and donor of taxidermy mounts of show dogs to Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History; accounts and other papers relating to O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer, 1915-1919, the United Soda Fountain Company, 1920-1931, and the V. A. Nielsen Company, 1919-1927; breeding records, pedigrees, awards, and other records of Idahurst Kennels, 1890s-1940s; accounts, records of meetings, membership pins, award ribbons, and other papers relating to the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s, including printed catalogs and other records of shows, 1925-1944; show catalogs and newsletters of the American Spaniel Club and other dog breeding organizations, circa 1920s-1960s; photographs of the Gilmans and of dog shows, circa 1930s, and circa 150 photographs and drawings of cocker spaniels bred by the Gilmans and others, many annotated, circa 1880s-1940s; clippings, most relating to the Gilmans, Idahurst Kennels, and the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s; and other papers including glass negative photographic reproductions from Edward Topsell, *Historie of foure-footed beasts* (London: Iaggard, 1607).

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

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.gilmanob>.

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.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Osmon B. Gilman, 1959, and Leon F. Whitney, 1965.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers 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.

Preferred Citation

O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: MS Vault Shelves Gilman and MS Vault Gilman. In 2014, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. The collection was reclassified under one call number, and containers were renumbered. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donors, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

O. B. (Osmon B.) Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman

Osmon B. Gilman (also spelled Osman), born circa 1868, was a businessman and cocker spaniel breeder in Boston, Massachusetts. During the 1910s-1920s, Gilman was a stockholder in the Goodwin Car and Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of steel freight cars, New York City; owner of O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer, Boston; treasurer of the United Soda Fountain Company, later United-American Soda Fountain Company, Boston; and president of V. A. Nielsen Company, automotive electrical engineers. Gilman began breeding cocker spaniels in the 1880s and with his wife Sarah Dow Gilman (also called Sally), born circa 1866, he operated Idahurst Kennels in Dedham and other locations in Massachusetts, circa 1890s-1940s. The Gilmans were members and officers of the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, Boston, Massachusetts, 1890s-1940s.

Scope and Contents

The O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers contain correspondence, including incoming letters and outgoing carbons relating to O. B. Gilman's businesses, 1915-1920s, and to Idahurst Kennels, the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, and other dog breeding organizations, 1930s-1947, including correspondence with Leon F. Whitney, veterinarian, executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society, and donor of taxidermy mounts of show dogs to Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History; accounts and other papers relating to O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer, 1915-1919, the United Soda Fountain Company, 1920-1931, and the V. A. Nielsen Company, 1919-1927; breeding records, pedigrees, awards, and other records of Idahurst Kennels, 1890s-1940s; accounts, records of meetings, membership pins, award ribbons, and other papers relating to the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s, including printed catalogs and other records of shows, 1925-1944; show catalogs and newsletters of the American Spaniel Club and other dog breeding organizations, circa 1920s-1960s; photographs of the Gilmans and of dog shows, circa 1930s, and circa 150 photographs and drawings of cocker spaniels bred by the Gilmans and others, many annotated, circa 1880s-1940s; clippings, most relating to the Gilmans, Idahurst Kennels, and the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s; and other papers including glass negative photographic reproductions from Edward Topsell, *Historie of foure-footed beasts* (London: Iaggard, 1607).

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence, 1915-1947. II. Business Records, 1915-1931. III. Cocker Spaniel Breeding, 1880s-1962. IV. Other Papers, 1931-1937.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1915-1947

1.68 linear feet (4 boxes)

Some letters enclose photographs of dogs or dog fur samples.

See also: Series III. Cocker Spaniel Breeding

Arranged chronologically.

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1915 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1916 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1917 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1918 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1920-1922 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1923-1925 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1926-1928 |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1929 January-October |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1929 October-1930 August |
| b. 1 | Correspondence 3 Folders | 1930 September |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1930 September-October |
| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1930 October-December |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1931 January-February |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1931 March |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1931 April-June |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1931 October-December |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1932 January-October |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1932 October-December |

| | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1933 January-1934 June |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1934 July- November |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1934 November- December |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1935 January- February |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1935 February- March |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1935 March- April |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1935 May- August |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1935 September- October |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1935 October- November |
| b. 2 | Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i> | 1935 November |
| b. 3 | Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i> | 1935 December |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1936 January- June |
| b. 3 | Correspondence <i>3 Folders</i> | 1936 June |
| b. 3 | Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i> | 1936 July |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1936 August |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1936 August- September |
| b. 3 | Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i> | 1936 October |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1936 November |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1936 November- December |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1937 January- July |

| | | |
|------|----------------|----------------------------|
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1937 July |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1937 July- August |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1937 August- November |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1941 January- May |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1941 August |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1941 September |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1941 October- November |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1941 November- December |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1942 January- March |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1942 April |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1942 May |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1942 June-July |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1942 October |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | [1942?] |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1943-1947 |

Series II: Business Records, 1915-1931, undated*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Goodwin Car and Manufacturing Company | | |
| b. 5 | Printed material | undated |
| O. B. Gilman, Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer | | |
| b. 5 | Accounts and receipts | 1915-1919, undated |
| b. 5 | Printed material | undated |
| b. 5 | Other papers | 1917-1919, undated |
| United Soda Fountain Company | | |
| b. 5 | Bylaws | undated |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1920 September- December |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1921 January- June |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1921 July- December |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1922 January- June |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1922 September- December |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1923 January- June |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1923 July- December |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1924 January- February |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1924 March- April |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1924 May-June |
| b. 5 | Accounts | 1924 July- August |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1924 August- October |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1925 |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1926 |

United Soda Fountain Company (continued)

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1927-1928 |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1929 |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1930-1931 |
| b. 6 | Other financial papers | 1923-1925, undated |
| b. 6 | Printed material | undated |
| V. A. Nielsen Company | | |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1919-1920 |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1921 |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1922 |
| b. 6 | Accounts | 1923-1927 |
| b. 6 | Other papers | 1920-1925, undated |

Series III: Cocker Spaniel Breeding, 1880s-1962, undated*3.32 linear feet (10 boxes)*

Some materials are accompanied by correspondence.

| Idahurst Kennels | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| b. 6 | American Kennel Club stud book registrations | 1921-1931, undated |
| b. 6 | Awards | 1904-1922 |
| b. 14 (Oversize) | Awards | 1890-1907 |
| b. 7 | Breeding certificates <i>4 Folders</i> | 1920s-1940s |
| b. 7 | "Guest register" | 1936-1938 |
| b. 7 | Pedigrees | 1928-1937, undated |
| b. 7 | Pedigrees and other papers (removed from binder) <i>3 Folders</i> | 1917-1953, undated |
| b. 7 | Printed material | undated |
| b. 7 | Unidentified | 1890s-1930s |
| Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England | | |
| b. 8 | Account book | 1921-1933 |
| b. 8 | Accounts | 1929-1934 |
| b. 8 | Accounts | 1936 |
| b. 15 | Award to O. B. Gilman | 1944 |
| b. 8 | Bylaws and incorporation | 1921-1934 |
| b. 8 | Meetings (dinner menus) <i>2 Folders</i> | 1923-1934, undated |
| b. 8 | Meetings (reports) | 1931-1936, undated |
| b. 8 | Meetings (roll book) | 1945-1947 |
| b. 8 | Membership lists | 1930-1932, undated |
| b. 15 | Membership pins | undated |
| b. 8 | Shows (award ribbons) | 1925 |
| b. 8 | Shows | 1928 |
| b. 9 | Shows | 1929 |

Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England (continued)

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| b. 9 | Shows | 1930-1931 |
| b. 9 | Shows | 1932 |
| b. 9 | Shows | 1934-1937 |
| b. 9 | Shows | 1939 |
| b. 9 | Shows | 1941 |
| b. 14 (Oversize) | Shows | 1942 |
| b. 9 | Shows | 1943-1944 |
| b. 9 | Shows | undated |
| b. 9 | Other papers <i>3 Folders</i> | 1928-1936, undated |
| Other Organizations | | |
| b. 10 | American Spaniel Club <i>2 Folders</i> | 1930-1962 |
| b. 10 | Dog show catalogs <i>3 Folders</i> | 1928-1929 |
| b. 10 | Printed material <i>2 Folders</i> | 1931-1960, undated |
| Photographs and Drawings See also: Series I. Correspondence. | | |
| b. 11 | Cocker spaniels (photographs) <i>10 Folders</i> | [1880s-1940s] |
| b. 12 | Cocker spaniels (photographs) <i>2 Folders</i> | [1880s-1940s] |
| b. 16 (Oversize) | Cocker spaniels (photographs) | [1880s-1940s] |
| b. 12 | Cocker spaniels (drawings) | [1880s-1940s] |
| b. 16 (Oversize) | Cocker spaniels (drawings) <i>2 Folders</i> | [1880s-1940s] |
| b. 15 | Cocker spaniel (plaque) | undated |
| b. 12 | Cocker spaniel shows (photographs) | [circa 1930s] |
| b. 12 | Gilman, O. B.; Gilman, Sarah Dow; and cocker spaniels (photographs) | [circa 1930s] |
| b. 12 | Other people and cocker spaniels (photographs) <i>3 Folders</i> | [1880s-1940s] |
| b. 12 | Trumbull, John; and Tumbull, Harriet (photographs of paintings) | 1911, undated |
| b. 12 | Unidentified people (photographs) | [1880s-1940s] |

Photographs and Drawings (continued)

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------------------|
| b. 12 | Unidentified places (photographs) <i>2 Folders</i> | [circa 1930s] |
| b. 16 (Oversize) | Unidentified places (photographs) | [circa 1930s] |
| | Clippings | |
| b. 13 | Clippings (scrapbook) | 1920s-1930s |
| b. 13 | Clippings | 1927 |
| b. 13 | Clippings <i>2 Folders</i> | 1928 |
| b. 13 | Clippings | 1929 |
| b. 13 | Clippings | 1930 |
| b. 13 | Clippings | 1931 |
| b. 13 | Clippings | 1933-1936 |
| b. 13 | Clippings, unsorted <i>2 Folders</i> | [circa 1920s-1940s] |

Series IV: Other Papers, 1931-1937, undated

0.21 linear feet (1 box) + 2 folders

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 13 | Printed material and notes <i>2 Folders</i> | 1931-1937, undated |
| b. 17 | Edward Topsell, Historie of foure-footed beasts (London: Iaggard, 1607) (excerpts; undated glass negative reproduction) | |

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

Automobiles -- Design and construction
Bakeries -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Businessmen -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Cocker spaniels
Cocker spaniels -- Breeding
Cocker spaniels -- Pedigrees
Cocker spaniels -- Pictorial works
Dog breeders -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Dogs -- Breeding -- Societies, etc.
Dog shows -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Soda fountains -- Design and construction

Genres / Formats

Accounts -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Awards -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Buttons (information artifacts) -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Cabinet photographs -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Drawings (visual works) -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Glass negatives -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Pedigrees -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Photographs -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Plaques (flat objects) -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Visiting cards -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century

Occupations

Businessmen -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century
Dog breeders -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 19th century
Dog breeders -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century

Names

Gilman, O. B. (Osmon B.), approximately 1868-
Gilman, Sarah Dow, approximately 1866-
Whitney, Leon F. (Leon Fradley), 1894-1973

Corporate Bodies

American Kennel Club
American Spaniel Club
Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England
Goodwin Car and Manufacturing Company
Idahurst Kennels
O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer
United Soda Fountain Company
V. A. Nielsen Company

Contributors

Gilman, O. B. (Osmon B.), approximately 1868-
Gilman, Sarah Dow, approximately 1866-
Topsell, Edward, 1572-1625? (Historie of foure-footed beastes)