

J.H. & C.S. ODELL COLLECTION

MS 4
1859-1960

Finding aid prepared by Bynum Petty
November 9, 2016

Organ Historical Society Library and Archives

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository	Organ Historical Society Library and Archives
Creator	J.H. & C.S. Odell & Co.
Title	J.H. & C.S. Odell Collection
Date	1859-1960
Extent	6 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The collection consists of organ contracts, a small amount of

correspondence associated with individual instruments, service/maintenance ledger, descriptive sales leaflets, and an opus list.

Provenance The collection was donated to the Organ Historical Society Library and Archives by Edward Odell in October 1995.

HISTORY

The firm was established in New York City in 1859 as a partnership between John Henry and Caleb Sherwood Odell, who were joined by Thomas and William Robjohn, two English-born organ builders. Late in the nineteenth century, the firm was managed by William H. Odell. In 1928, the firm relocated to Mount Vernon, N.Y., and to Yonkers, N.Y. in 1940. Although the firm ceased making new organs in 1960, service work continued into the 1980s, under the direction of Harry E. Odell. The firm was re-established in 1993 by Edward Odell, a fifth-generation descendant of the founders, and remains active in 2016.

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ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged into the following series. Series 1: Contract files. Series 2: Ledgers. Series 3: Descriptive sales leaflet. Series 4: Opus list.

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CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Genre(s)

- Archival resources
- Business records
- Manuscripts

Personal Name(s)

- Odell, Caleb S., 1827-1892
- Odell, Edward
- Odell, Harry E., 1919-1998
- Odell, John H., 1830-1899
- Odell, William H.
- Robjohn, Thomas, 1809-1874
- Robjohn, William, 1803-1878

Subject(s)

- J.H. & C.S. Odell—Archives
- J.H. & C.S. Odell—Business records
- J.H. & C.S. Odell—History
- Organ builders—New York—New York
- Organ (Musical instrument)—Construction
- Organ (Musical instrument)—History

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Contracts	Box
Contract files 1-149 (1859-1875); many early numbers missing	1
Contract files 151-254 (1876-1888)	2
Contract files 255-324 (1888-1894)	3
Contract files 326-364 (1894-1899)	4
Contract files 365-404 (1899-1904)	5

Contract files 405-439 (1904-1908)	6
Contract files 440-479 (1908-1912)	7
Contract files 480-519 (1912-1919)	8
Contract files 520-549 (1919-1922)	9
Contract files 550-574 (1922-1926)	10
Contract files 575-609 (1927-1954)	11
Contract files 610-641 (1954-1975)	12

Series 2: Ledgers	Box
Ledger of service/maintenance accounts (missing)	13

Series 3: Descriptive sales leaflets	Box	Folder
Sales leaflets, organ models A - H	14	1
Sales leaflets, organ models 1 - 31	14	2
Sales leaflets, organ models 50 - 69	14	3

Series 4: Opus list	Box	Folder
Odell opus list, 1904	14	4