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
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.

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**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**


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**CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS**

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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

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C O L L E C T I O N   I N V E N T O R Y

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series 1: Contracts</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract files 1–149 (1859–1875); many early numbers missing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract files 151–254 (1876–1888)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract files 255–324 (1888–1894)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract files 326–364 (1894–1899)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract files 365–404 (1899–1904)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract files</td>
<td>Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>405–439 (1904–1908)</td>
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<tr>
<td>440–479 (1908–1912)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480–519 (1912–1919)</td>
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<tr>
<td>520–549 (1919–1922)</td>
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<tr>
<td>550–574 (1922–1926)</td>
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<td>575–609 (1927–1954)</td>
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**Series 2: Ledgers**

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**Series 3: Descriptive sales leaflets**

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<tr>
<td>Sales leaflets, organ models 1 – 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales leaflets, organ models 50 – 69</td>
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**Series 4: Opus list**

<table>
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