

George Ashdown Audsley Papers
MS 7
1908-1925

Finding aid prepared by Bynum Petty
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Organ Historical Society Library and Archives

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository	Organ Historical Society Library and Archives
Creator	Audsley, George Ashdown, 1835-1925
Title	George Ashdown Audsley Papers
Date	1908-1925
Extent	0.5 linear foot
Language	English
Abstract	The collection consists of correspondence between Audsley and organ builders William Schuelke and Philipp Wirsching.

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Provenance

Charles P. Wirsching, Wirsching's grandson, donated the collection of papers to the Organ Historical Society Library and Archives in 1986.

BIOGRAPHY

George Ashdown Audsley was an accomplished architect, artist, writer, and pipe organ designer. Audsley's interest in the pipe organ was largely sparked by early experiences hearing W. T. Best at St. George's Hall, Liverpool. Audsley wrote numerous magazine articles on the organ, and as early as the 1880s was envisioning huge instruments with numerous divisions each under separate expression, in imitation of the symphony orchestra. The Los Angeles Art Organ Co. (successors to the Murray M. Harris Organ Company) had Audsley design the world's largest organ they were building for the St. Louis Exposition of 1904, and included him on the paid staff. This instrument was produced just as his book on *The Art of Organ-Building* was being published. This great pipe organ eventually was purchased for the John Wanamaker Store in Philadelphia, PA, where it is today known as the Wanamaker Organ. In 1905, Audsley published the monumental two-volume *The Art of Organ Building* as an attempt to position himself as the pre-eminent organ designer in the US. The lavish work includes numerous superb drawings done by Audsley and is still consulted today although organ fashions have evolved in many directions in the ever-fluid, passion-driven world of music.

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ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged into the following series. Series 1: Wirsching Correspondence.
Series 2: Schuelke Correspondence.

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CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Genre(s)

- Correspondence

Personal Name(s)

- Audsley, George Ashdown, 1835-1925
- Schuelke, William, 1849-1902
- Wirsching, Philipp, 1858-1926

Subject(s)

- Organ (Musical instrument)—United States

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Wirsching Correspondence	Box	Folder
Audsley to Wirsching, July 16, 1908	1	1
Audsley to Wirsching, May 20, 1909	1	2
Audsley to Wirsching, December 18, 1913	1	3
Audsley to Wirsching, September 10, 1917	1	4
Wirsching to Audsley, September 11, 1917	1	5
Wirsching to Audsley, September 12, 1917	1	6
Wirsching to Audsley, September 21, 1917	1	7

Audsley to Wirsching, August 16, 1920	1	8
Audsley to Wirsching, October 5, 1920	1	9
Audsley to Wirsching, October 15, 1920	1	10
Audsley to Wirsching, November 12, 1920	1	11
Audsley to Wirsching, February 24, 1921	1	12
Wirsching to Audsley, February 25, 1921	1	13
Audsley to Wirsching, March 10, 1921	1	14
Wirsching to Audsley, March 14, 1921	1	15
Audsley to Wirsching, March 17, 1921	1	16
Wirsching to Audsley, March 24, 1921	1	17
Audsley to Wirsching, March 25, 1921	1	18
Audsley to Wirsching, March 26, 1921	1	19
Audsley to Wirsching, March 29, 1921	1	20
Audsley to Wirsching, April 2, 1921	1	21
Audsley to Wirsching, April 12, 1921	1	22
Audsley to Wirsching, April 13, 1921	1	23
Wirsching to Audsley, April 15, 1921	1	24
Wirsching to Audsley, April 15, 1921	1	25
Audsley to Wirsching, April 13, 1925	1	26
Audsley to Wirsching, n.d.	1	27
Audsley to Wirsching, n.d.	1	28

Series 2: Schuelke Correspondence	Box	Folder
Audsley to Schuelke, November 1, 1924	1	29