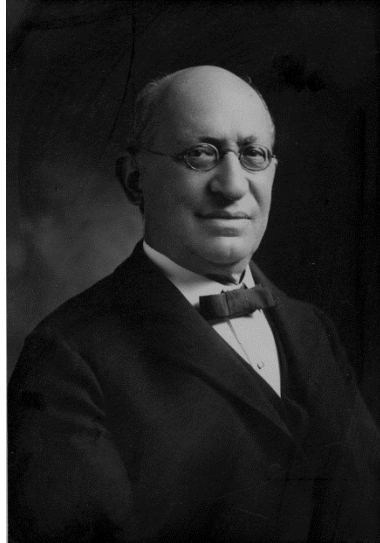




THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Bernhard Bettmann Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 473**



Collection Summary

Title	Bernhard Bettmann Papers
Dates	1846-1945
Collection Number	MS-473
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Bettmann, Bernhard, 1834-1915
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Bernhard Bettmann was born August 29, 1834 in Weidnitz, Bavaria, the youngest of six children of Jacob and Jeanette Bettmann. He received advanced education at Bamberg, Bavaria. At the age of 15 he immigrated to the United States, arriving in Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 5, 1850.

In 1856, after several years as a shop clerk, Bettmann established a wholesale men's clothing business in partnership with his brother-in-law, S. Schohl. Bettmann's success as a clothier continued after Schohl's death in 1866 under the name B. Bettmann & Co. By 1886 he was president of the Ohio Valley National Bank of Cincinnati.

Politically, Bettmann was a Republican and quite active. He was high in the councils of his party and often presided over Republican city and county conventions. Beginning in 1884 he served fourteen consecutive years on the School Board for the Seventeenth Ward of Cincinnati. He was appointed in 1897 as Collector of Internal Revenue for the first district of Ohio by President William McKinley and retained the post until 1913 (with a sabbatical in 1905-1907 to make a trip abroad) under two other presidents, Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft.

Bettmann was also active in Jewish communal life of Cincinnati. Only five years after arriving in Cincinnati, Bettmann was appointed as the first secretary of the Zion Collegiate Association, an organization founded by Rabbi Isaac M. Wise. In 1875, Bettmann was among the founders of Hebrew Union College (HUC). He served as president of the HUC Board of Governors from 1875-1910. Among his many other Jewish communal activities, Bettmann served as a founder and member of the executive board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, president and treasurer (1884-1910) of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, the first president of the United Jewish Charities of Cincinnati (1896-1903) and for twenty-two years was a member of the Talmud Yelodim Institute.

A master Mason, Bettmann was one of the charter members of Hanselmann Lodge No. 208, F.&A.M., joining in 1857. He translated rites into German (German Ritual for Masonic Lodges) and was also a member of the Scottish Rite. Bettmann's other literary accomplishments included authorship of many poems, essays and articles for magazines and newspapers. He was also a popular speaker and debater.

On October 26, 1859, Bettmann married Tillie Wald of New York City. They produced seven children of whom three sons and one daughter survived: Miss Florence Bettmann; Dr. Henry Wald Bettmann (1868-1935), Cincinnati physician and faculty member of the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati and nationally known as an authority on internal medicine; Edgar Bettmann, a prominent Cincinnati businessman (shoe manufacturer, Bettmann-Dunlap Co.); and Morris L. Bettmann. Bernhard Bettmann died at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 18, 1915 at the age of 81.

Scope and Content

Collection consisting of correspondence, business agreements, news articles, obituaries, poetry, invitations, certificates, memorial booklets, and testimonials to Bettmann on the occasion of his 70th birthday and 50th wedding anniversary.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into three (3) series: A. Bernhard Bettmann, 1846-1915; B. Bettmann Family, 1857-1945; C. Certificates, 1896-1909.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Bernhard Bettmann Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-473. Bernhard Bettmann Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Florence Bettmann, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Richard Allen, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 1990.

Processing Information Processed by Tammy Topper, Kevin Proffitt, and Kathleen L. Spray, April 1998.

Index Terms

Subjects Freemasonry / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati

Personal Names Bettmann, Bernhard, 1834-1915

Series A. Bernhard Bettmann, 1846-1915

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of 5 folders of correspondence, business papers, obituaries, programs, a newsletter, speeches and miscellaneous. Some letters are written in the German language.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence and miscellaneous.

Box 1. Folder 2. Obituaries and condolence letters, 1915 June

Box 1. Folder 3. United States Internal Revenue Collector correspondence and miscellaneous [see also certificates in Flat Files], 1913, undated

Box 1. Folder 4. Hanselmann Lodge No. 208 programs, newsletter, talks by Bettmann and Jubilee book, 1901-1907, undated

Box 1. Folder 5. Testimonials for 70th birthday and memorial, 1909, 1915

Series B. Bettmann Family, 1857-1945

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of 4 folders of correspondence, news articles, menus, invitations, testimonials and obituaries and miscellaneous materials. The bulk of the material in this series pertain to Bernhard and Tillie Bettmann's 50th wedding anniversary. Obituaries for two of their sons, Henry and Edgar are also filed in this series.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 6. Wedding and anniversaries, news articles, menus, invitations and dance card, 1857-1909

Box 1. Folder 7. 50th wedding anniversary scrapbook, 1859-1909

Box 1. Folder 8. Golden anniversary celebration testimonials, 1909

Box 1. Folder 9. Obituaries for Henry and Edgar Bettmann, 1935, 1945

Series C. Certificates, 1896-1909

Scope and Content Note Consists of 5 certificates filed in the AJA Flat File. The certificates identify several of Bernhard Bettmann's political activities.

Box and Folder Listing

Box FF. Folder C5/D13. Certificate of election as an Elector of the U.S. President and Vice-President for the State of Ohio signed by Governor Asa S. Bushnell, 1896 December 1

Folder "Certificate designating Bettmann as U.S. Delegate to the International Congress of.

Box FF. Folder C5/D13. Chambers of Commerce and Commercial and Industrial Corporations at Liege", 1905 May 2

Folder "Three certificates of appointment as collector of Internal Revenue signed by President.

Box FF. Folder C5/D13. Theodore Roosevelt", 1907-1909