Records of Bernard J. S. Cahill, ca. 1889-1938

Joanne Miller
Environmental Design Archives
College of Environmental Design
230 Wurster Hall #1820
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-1820
Phone: (510) 642-5124
Fax: (510) 642-2824
Email: designarchives@berkeley.edu
http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/
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Records of Bernard J. S. Cahill, ca. 1889-1938

Collection number: 19XX-3

Environmental Design Archives
University of California, Berkeley
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Joanne Miller
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Bernard J. S. Cahill records
Dates: 1889-1938
Collection number: 19XX-3
Creator: Cahill, B. J. S. (Bernard J. S.), 1867-1964
Collector: Environmental Design Archives
Collection Size: 3 manuscript boxes, 5 oversize folders, 1 flat box, 2 artifacts
Repository: Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley, California
Physical location: Environmental Design Archives University of California Berkeley, California, 94720-1820
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Curator.
Preferred Citation
Biographical Note
Bernard Joseph Stanislaus Cahill was born in London, England in 1866. He is known for his cemetery architecture and for the design of the San Francisco Civic Center. He was also the architect for a number of other commercial buildings, including the Multnomah Hotel in Portland, Oregon and various buildings in Vancouver, B. C.
Cahill arrived in the United States in 1888. He was married to Lida Boardman Hall in 1897, and to Laura Georgiana McClune in 1907. He and his second wife had one son, Bernard James Alban.
At the start of his professional career in 1896, Cahill participated in the Phoebe Hearst competition for the design of the U. C. Berkeley campus. He was elected an Associate Member of the A.I.A. in 1899. He wrote articles for the "California
Architect and Building News" and later for "The Architect and Engineer." An early advocate of city planning, Cahill helped to define the concept of a "civic center" with his 1904 design of the San Francisco Civic Center, which he felt was the basis for the plan adopted by the city in 1912. He continued to be involved in the plan for the city, and wrote letters to the editor and articles expressing his ideas on the proper plan.

A specialist in mausoleum design and mortuary architecture, Cahill designed the catacombs and columbarium for the Cypress Lawn Cemetery, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (San Francisco), Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Memorial Building (Oakland), the St. Mary's Cemetery mausoleum (Sacramento), and the Diamond Head Memorial Park in Honolulu. He was listed in the San Francisco city directory under the partnership of Stone and Cahill from 1894-1895, and then starting in 1907 with architects George A. Wright and George Rushforth (in the firm Wright, Rushforth, and Cahill). He subsequently designed buildings (such as the Multnomah Hotel in Portland) as part of the team of Gibson and Cahill.

In addition to designing buildings, Cahill invented the butterfly map, an octahedral system of projection for meteorology, geography, and geophysics. The map was designed to eliminate exaggeration at the top and bottom and distortion at the edges and sides found in traditional maps. The surface of the globe was represented by eight equilateral triangles. Cahill founded The Cahill World Map Co., which sold shares and promoted the map for educational and other uses.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Bernard J. S. Cahill collection is organized in five series: Personal Papers, Professional Papers, Office Records, Project Records, and the Cahill World Map Company.

The bulk of the collection consists of Cahill's office records, which include photographs, clippings and scrapbooks that illustrate his completed projects. Project records primarily relate to funerary commissions, but letters and clippings about the San Francisco Civic Center are also included. The collection also contains a small number of records from the Cahill World Map Company, and personal and professional writings by Cahill.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Mausoleums.
Architects--California.
Architecture--California.
Cahill World Map Co.

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Architectural records.
Scrapbooks.
Architectural drawings.
Architectural photographs.

**Project Index**

The following is a list of architectural projects from the Records of Bernard J. S. Cahill collection. For instructions on interpreting the Project Index, see The Guide to the Project Index at http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/pindex/guide.htm.

The Project Index list is arranged alphabetically by Project/Client Name and contains information, where available, about the location, date, project type, collaborators, photographers, and formats for each project in the collection.

**Project/Client Name (location, date, project type) Collaborator (role), Photographer [Format - Ms=Manuscripts, Dr=Drawings, Ph=Photographs]**

- Brewery Design (Hong Kong; commercial) [Dr]
- Calkins Newspaper Syndicate Building (San Francisco, CA; commercial) [Ph]
- Civic Center "Plan to Beautify Market Street" (San Francisco, CA; 1899-1912; planning) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Coleman Crypt (funerary) [Ph]
- Curtis Crypt (funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ph]
- Cypress Hill Memorial Park (Petaluma, CA; 1924; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Cypress Lawn (Colma, CA; 1918-1920; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- De la Montagna Mausoleum at Cypress Lawn (San Francisco, CA; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ph]
- Diamond Head Memorial Park (Honolulu, HI; 1928-1930; funerary) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
Records of Bernard J. S. Cahill, ca. 1889-1938

Title: Bernard Joseph Stanislaus Cahill Papers, ca. 1900-1944
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library

Boxes 1

I. Personal Papers n.d., 1929
Series Scope and Content Summary
Contains typescript autobiography, photo of Cahill, and a bookplate. The incomplete autobiography primarily discusses his childhood.

- Dohrmann Crypt (funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ph]
- Evergreen Cemetery (Oakland, CA; 1916-1933; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr, Ph]
- Guittard Company Building (San Francisco, CA; 1909; commercial) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Ms]
- Haller Crypt (funerary) [Ph]
- Halsten & Co. Building (commercial) [Dr]
- Henry, C.K. Marble Skyscraper (Portland, OR; 1910; commercial) Collaborator: Gibson & Cahill [Dr]
- Hewes Crypt (funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ph]
- IOOF Alisal Lodge Crematory, Office, and Columbarium (Salinas, CA; 1935; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- IOOF Columbarium and Crematorium (San Francisco, CA; 1894; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill & T.P. Ross [Ph]
- IOOF Home (San Jose, CA; recreational) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Kohler & Chase Building (San Francisco, CA; commercial) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Dr]
- Magnavox Company Building (Oakland, CA; ca. 1919; commercial) [Ph]
- McKinley, William Memorial (San Francisco, CA; cultural) Collaborator: Cahill [Ph]
- Meads Poultry Farm (Hayward, CA; commercial) Collaborator: Cahill [Ms, Ph]
- Memorial Terrace Mausoleum (Glendale, CA; funerary) [Ph]
- Multnomah Hotel (Portland, OR; 1911-1912; commercial) Collaborator: Gibson & Cahill [Dr, Ph]
- Native Sons of the Golden West Building Design (1895; recreational) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Norton, B.W. Manufacturing Company (Hayward, CA; 1920; commercial) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Pacific Mausoleum-Columbarium (Oakland, CA; 1933; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Pashmore, Sir Francis Residence (San Francisco, CA; 1936; residential) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- San Francisco City Hall Competition (San Francisco, CA; governmental) Cahill [Dr]
- San Francisco City Hall Temporary Building (San Francisco, CA; governmental) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Dr]
- Santa Cruz Mausoleum (Santa Cruz, CA; 1928; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ms, Ph]
- Seamen's Institute (San Francisco, CA; recreational) [Ph]
- Skaggs, M.B. Residence (Piedmont, CA; residential) [Ph]
- St. Mary’s Mausoleum (Sacramento, CA; ca. 1930; funerary) [Ms, Ph]
- Sunset View Cemetery (Berkeley, CA; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Terbush Hotel at Powell & Clay Streets (San Francisco, CA; 1907; commercial) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Ms, Ph]
- Unidentified Church (religious) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Ph]
- Unidentified Church (religious) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Ph]
- Unidentified Columbarium (Fresno, CA; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Unidentified Library (1909; educational) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Dr]
- University of California Phoebe Hearst Architectural Competition (CA; educational) Collaborator: [Dr]
- Vancouver City Hall (Vancouver, WA; governmental) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Ph]
- West Coast Soap Company Plant (Oakland, CA; 1919; commercial) Collaborator: Cahill [Dr]
- Woodlawn Memorial Park (Colma, CA; 1932; funerary) Collaborator: Cahill [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- Wright, Rushforth & Cahill Office at 571 California St. (San Francisco, CA; commercial) Collaborator: Wright, Rushforth & Cahill [Dr]
I. Personal Papers n.d., 1929

A. Biographical Information

B. Photographs

C. Ephemera

Boxes 1

II. Professional Papers n.d., 1932

Series Scope and Content Summary
Contains articles written by Cahill on the plan for San Francisco and on memorial buildings.

A. Writings

Boxes 2-3

III. Office Records 1889-1917

Series Scope and Content Summary
Contains scrapbooks, clippings, and photographs related to Cahill's projects, primarily his funerary architecture.

A. Photographs

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Consists of project photographs, including photographs of Woodlawn Memorial Park, unidentified projects, and others.

B. Clippings and Scrapbooks

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Consists of clippings, photographs, and ephemera--loose or contained within scrapbooks. Includes two volumes of scrapbooks featuring Cahill's work, as well as a copy of a third deconstructed scrapbook and the material that was removed from it. Also includes issues of the California Architect and Building News that feature the Phoebe Hearst Architectural Competition.

Boxes 1, 4, Flat Files Flat Files 1-4

IV. Project Records 1909-1938

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by project, within subseries.

Series Scope and Content Summary
Contains specifications, correspondence, photographs, and drawings of projects, including the Cypress Abbey Cemetery in San Francisco, the Diamond Head Cemetery in Honolulu, St. Mary's Cemetery Mausoleum in Sacramento. The only residential project in the collection is the Skaggs residence in Piedmont (2 photographs). Includes material written and collected by Cahill on the San Francisco Civic Center, including a 1909 letter of protest sent to the San Francisco Chronicle (but not published) opposing the opening of the Civic Center design contest to architects worldwide instead of limiting it to west coast architects.

A. Drawings

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Consists of project drawings by Cahill and contributors, including a sketch for the Phoebe Hearst Architectural Competition for the University of California, a sketch of the plan to beautify San Francisco, the I.O.O.F. cemetery buildings in Salinas, and others.
IV. Project Records 1909-1938

A. Drawings

B. Files

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Consists of documents and specifications for Cahill's projects. Also includes a scrapbook entitled "Pencil, Pen, and Paint" that contains copies of sketches, drawings and other material relating to Cahill's projects.

C. Photographs

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Consists of project photographs of Diamond Head Memorial Park in Honolulu, St. Mary's Mausoleum in Sacramento, and the Skaggs' Residence in Piedmont.

Boxes 1, 5

V. Cahill World Map Company 1913-1933

Series Scope and Content Summary
Consists of brochures and promotional materials related to the company, a three-dimensional octahedral map, and an embossing stamp.

A. Product Literature

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Contains brochures and promotional materials relating to the Cahill World Map Company. Includes photograph of Cahill demonstrating his creation.

B. Artifacts

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Contains butterfly map globe and Cahill’s embossing stamp.

I. Personal Papers

A. Biographical Information

Box 1, Folder 1
Autobiography manuscript 1929

B. Photographs

Box 1, Folder 2
Photographs n.d.

C. Ephemera

Box 1, Folder 3
Bookplate after 1933

II. Professional Papers

A. Writings

Box 1, Folder 1
Manuscript for Argonaut article "From the Opera House to the Ocean Beach" n.d.

B. Writings

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Records of Bernard J. S. Cahill, ca. 1889-1938
Box 1, Folder 2

*The Architect and Engineer* issue featuring Cahill in "Memorial Buildings" article 1932

III. Office Records

A. Photographs

Box 2, Folder 3

Project Photographs n.d., 1894, 1911

Box 2, Folder 4

Photographs, Unidentified Projects n.d.

Box 2, Folder 8

Woodland Memorial Park -- Photographs n.d.

B. Clippings and Scrapbooks

Box 2, Folder 1

Clippings and Postcards 1911-1916

Box 2, Folder 2


Box 2, Folder 5

Scrapbook Clippings 1895-1911

Box 2, Folder 6

Scrapbook Photographs n.d., 1911, 1920

Box 2, Folder 7

Scrapbook - copy n.d.

Box 2, Folder 9

"Crematories, Columbariums, etc.: The work of B.J.S. Cahill" 1936

Box 3, Folder 1-3


Box 3, Folder 4-6


IV. Project Records

A. Drawings

Box 4, Folder 4

Miscellaneous Renderings n.d.

**See Project Index**

B. Files

**See Project Index**

C. Photographs

**See Project Index**

V. Cahill World Map Company, 1913-1933

A. Product Literature

Box 1, Folder 1

Butterfly Map and Cahill World Map Company Promotional Materials 1913-1933

B. Artifacts

Butterfly Map Globe n.d.

Cahill Embossing Stamp n.d.