

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Boutwell, George Sewall, Papers, 1855-1905

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. boxes "B"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

one manuscript box (147 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

See Contents List.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Purchased at American Art Association sale, 1925

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

George Sewall Boutwell (1818-1905) was an active political figure and lawyer all his life. Initially a Democrat, his antislavery leanings made him a prominent Free Soiler who was elected Governor and subsequently reelected by the dominant Massachusetts Free Soil coalition in 1851-1852. He became a lawyer and founder of the Massachusetts Republican Party, later being a Radical Republican in Congress and among the most forceful opponents of President Andrew Johnson. Boutwell served as Secretary of the Treasury under Grant, and later as Senator from Massachusetts. In the period after 1880, he was an active attorney in Boston; he was also among the founders and ablest partisans on behalf of the New England Anti-Imperialist League.

This small collection of Boutwell papers is almost exclusively correspondence addressed to him. There are a number of letters in each of the decades from 1870 to 1900, though more than half the letters are dated in the half decade from 1900 to 1905. The correspondence touches on a civil suit (Andrew Coe v. William L. Bradley), the coinage of silver, some inquiries about Boutwell's family background, requests of autograph collectors, and his professional activities as a Boston lawyer. Of most interest, however, is his firm anti-imperial stand and growing estrangement from the Republican Party in the period after 1895.

20 September 1974  
revised 12 January 1999  
revised 30 March 2004

MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

GEORGE SEWALL BOUTWELL, PAPERS, 1855-1905  
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