

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Hardinge, Benjamin, Papers, 1850-1872

Location:

Manuscript boxes "H"

Size of collection:

2 manuscript boxes

N.U.C.M.C. #: 62-3102

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

Source of collection:

Gift of Emma L. Clark, 1931

Collection description:

According to a brief biographical sketch filed in this collection, Benjamin Hardinge (1798-1881) was an inventor, scientist, author, physician, and lecturer. Some of the documents also refer to him as lawyer and professor, though there is no evidence as to his academic or professional credentials. In the 1860s he lived in New York City.

Hardinge worked on a variety of projects including a process for artificial rubber, a steam engine, artificial marble, and a process for separating quartz and gold. He seems to have been a partner in the White Flint Marble Company of Boston and New York. He also entered into various legal agreements with Anthony L. Fleury of Philadelphia and with Waldron J. Cheyney (1831-1906), also of Philadelphia. The notes and lectures reflect a confused assortment of information and enthusiastic theories. His lecture topics include the "process of creation" and "God's immutable laws of creation."

The first box contains a few items of correspondence. One is an 1859 letter from Monroe Thomson in California pressing Hardinge for information about his process for separating quartz and gold. In the letter there are frequent references to the opinions of many people that Hardinge was a "humbug." There is a photograph of Hardinge and two photographs of drawings of the White Flint Marble Works. Hardinge wrote several pamphlets, copies of which are included in this collection: "Hardinge on the Original Formation of Gold" (1868?), and "Practical Expose of very recent developments in the synthetical formation of White Flint in Moulds" (1867). The copies have emendations, presumably by Hardinge. There is also an incomplete pamphlet on the Gibson Mining Company of Colorado (1865). The remaining materials in the first box are miscellaneous

legal agreements (including a lease for land in California), notes, and announcements.

The second box contains copies of lectures, some titled and dated; plans and drawings of his inventions; and patent applications. Some of his notes are in shorthand. The collection is arranged by record type.

See Contents List.

12 November 1975
contents list added 18 April 1991
revised 23 February 2010

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Benjamin Hardinge, Papers, 1850-1872

Contents List

Manuscript Box

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Folder 1: Correspondence, Biographical Sketches.
Folder 2: Newspaper Obituary of Hal. Williams Harding,
1943, (Relationship to Benjamin Hardinge is not
clear).
Folder 3: "Report on the researches of Mr. Kuhlmann in
Lille on the application of Waterglass," early 1870s.
Folder 4: Pamphlets, late 1860s.
Folder 5: Photograph of Hardinge, not dated.
Folder 6: Photograph of the White Flint Marble Works.
Folder 7: Miscellaneous legal agreements, notes, and
announcements, not dated.
Folder 8: Miscellaneous notes, not dated.
Folder 9: Miscellaneous legal agreements, notes, and
announcements, 1850-1859.
Folder 10: Miscellaneous legal agreements, notes, and
announcements, 1860-1868.

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Folder 1: Materials relating to patent applications,
1850s-1860s.
Folder 2: Plans.
Folder 3: Lectures in Flocking Valley.
Folder 4: Lecture, "Laws and Processes of Creation."
Folder 5: Lectures:
1. "Lecture in the U.S. Banquet Hall on the
evening of the 22nd of January 1872."
2. "Lecture on the Evening of the 16th March

in
..."

Folder 6:

the New Hall of the Y.M.C. Association."
Lecture(?), "God's immutable laws of creation
with pages from a printed pamphlet entitled,
"Development of What is called Life or Vitality."