

# **Guide to the Joseph Arthur Burr, Jr. composition book 1973.108**

**Finding aid prepared by Nicholas Pavlik**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 07, 2011

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brooklyn Historical Society  
April 6, 2011  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Brooklyn Historical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Burr, J. Arthur, (Joseph Arthur)
<b>Title</b>	Joseph Arthur Burr, Jr. composition book
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1860-1866
<b>Extent</b>	0.08 Linear feet in one folder.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials in English.
<b>Text [Box]</b>	Box 1 (A0002)
<b>Container</b>	1 folder
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Joseph Arthur Burr, Jr. (1850-1915) was a lawyer who served as Corporation Counsel for the City of Brooklyn from 1896 to 1898 and, from 1905 until his death, as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court. This collection consists of a composition book kept by Burr as a youth attending the Williamsburgh Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. (1860-1864) and the Wilton Academy in Connecticut (1864-1866). Burr's book includes short descriptions of places and events in and around Brooklyn and New York. Among the subjects of these brief descriptions are the Japanese government's 1860 delegation in New York, Blackwell's Island (now Roosevelt Island), the 1864 Brooklyn and Long Island Sanitary Fair, local menageries, the brickyard at Verplanck's Point on the Hudson River, the launch of the frigate <i>Re D'Italia</i> from the Webb Shipyard, the Morgan Iron Works, and anniversary celebrations of the Williamsburg Sunday School Union. Several entries are influenced by the</p>

progression of the Civil War and include reflections on some aspect of it, particularly the closing events of the war and Lincoln's assassination.

**Preferred Citation**

Joseph Arthur Burr, Jr. composition book, 1973.108, page number; Box and Folder number; Brooklyn Historical Society.

## Biographical Note

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Joseph Arthur Burr, Jr. (1850-1915) was a Brooklyn lawyer. After being educated at the Williamsburgh Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Wilton Academy in Wilton, CT, he attended Yale College in New Haven, CT, and Columbia Law School in New York, N.Y. Burr was a partner at the Brooklyn law firms Burr & Jackson and Burr, Coombs & Watson. He was appointed Corporation Counsel for the City of Brooklyn from 1896 to 1898, and was President of the Brooklyn Bar Association. From 1905 until his death, he served as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court.

### Source:

- 1 "Justice J.A. Burr of Brooklyn Dead." *New York Times*, April 20, 1915. Accessed April 6, 2011. <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=FB0C10FB395B17738DDDA90A94DC405B858DF1D3>
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## Scope and Contents note

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The collection consists of one composition book kept by Joseph Arthur Burr, Jr. as a youth during the period 1860 to 1866, while he attended the Williamsburgh Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. (1860-1864), and the Wilton Academy in Wilton, Connecticut (1864-1866). Burr's book includes short essays on a variety of topics, including descriptions of places and events in and around Brooklyn and New York. These include brief descriptions of the Japanese government's 1860 delegation in New York, Blackwell's Island (now Roosevelt Island), the 1864 Brooklyn and Long Island Sanitary Fair, local menageries, the brickyard at Verplanck's Point on the Hudson River, West Point, the launch of the frigate *Re D'Italia* from the Webb Shipyard, and the Morgan Iron Works. Some entries concern anniversary celebrations of the Williamsburg (i.e., Eastern District) Sunday School Union, one of which includes reference to the participation of an African-American school. Several entries are influenced by the progression of the Civil War and include reflections on some aspect of it; in perhaps the most notable of these entries, dating from Thanksgiving 1865, Burr reflected on the closing events of the war, including Lincoln's assassination. The book also includes pieces of fiction and essays with reflections on more abstract matters, such as perseverance, profanity, inventiveness, republican form of government, and human industry (in part contrasting northern labor against southern slavery).

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## Arrangement note

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The collection consists of one bound item in one folder.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Brooklyn Historical Society April 6, 2011

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Open to researchers without restriction.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

This material is in the public domain.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of Mrs. M. Pretz, 1958.

### **Processing Information note**

The collection was processed by Nicholas Pavlik in April 2011.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Williamsburgh Institute (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.).
- Wilton Academy (Wilton, Conn.).

### **Genre(s)**

- diaries

- Exercise books
- Writings (document genre)

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) |x Description and travel
- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) |x History |y Civil War, 1861-1865
- New York (N.Y.) |x Description and travel
- Williamsburg (New York, N.Y.)
- Wilton (Conn.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Burr, J. Arthur, (Joseph Arthur)

### **Subject(s)**

- Lawyers |z New York (State) |z Kings County
- Students |z New York (State) |z Kings County