

# **Guide to the Prohibition Collection 1977.127**

**Finding aid prepared by Miranda Schwartz**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Brooklyn Historical Society
<b>Title</b>	Guide to the Prohibition Collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1893-1921
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1893-1942
<b>Extent</b>	0.5 Linear feet in 2 document boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials in English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Prohibition Collection contains temperance periodicals, publications, correspondence, photographs, lecture invitations, campaign material, and newspaper clippings, 1893-1942, relating to the Prohibition movement in the U.S. and in New York State and City in particular. This material provides a look at this American political movement from the local level in New York and Kings Counties. The bulk of the material was donated in 1932 by George B. Hilliard, who was involved in the Prohibition movement for decades and was a county organizer and executive committee member for the Prohibition County Committee of New York. Some of the items date from 1933 to 1942 and their provenance cannot be established.</p>

### Preferred Citation

Identification of item, date (if known); Prohibition Collection, ArMs 1977.127, Box and Folder number; Brooklyn Historical Society.

## Historical Note

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The American Prohibition movement began in the mid-1800's and grew in influence and popularity until it achieved its greatest victory in 1918 with the passage of the 18th Amendment, which stated: "After one year from the ratification of this article, the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited." 1

Never universally popular and a heralded example of the difficulty of legislating morality via the U.S. Constitution, the 18th Amendment was repealed by passage of the 21st Amendment in 1933. The movement in New York fielded candidates for mayor of New York City and state governor, and a national party defined an issue platform and fielded candidates for President and Vice President of the U.S.. The enthusiasm with which the Prohibitionists embraced their cause can be seen in a quote from Clarence Elwyn Pitts, chairman of the Prohibition Central Committee in New York State, to a fellow Prohibitionist: "If we build wisely and well; sink personal differences into the commonweal; and plan carefully, we shall inaugurate a system of organization and development of work which will result in a mighty forward movement all over the state." 2

### Bibliography

1. <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/pdf/con029.pdf>. Accessed January 18, 2006.
2. Clarence Elwyn Pitts, in a letter to John Berry, December 12, 1910. Prohibition Collection, ArMs 1977.127, Box 1, Folder 4, Brooklyn Historical Society.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Prohibition Collection documents the activities of the New York State Prohibition Party as well as many other organizations that were active in the prohibition movement in New York City and Brooklyn, including the Prohibition Parties of New York and Kings Counties, the Woman's Christian Temperance League, and the Young People's Prohibition League. While the collection covers the years 1893-1942, the bulk of materials in the collection covers roughly the mid 1890s through the 1910s when the Prohibition movement in the United States was at its most active.

Included in the collection are administrative records of the New York State Prohibition Party; Prohibition literature, including periodicals and informational booklets; campaign materials, including brochures and leaflets; events materials, such as event programs and photographs of events; maps of the National Prohibition Park in Staten Island, as well as photographic and engraved portraits of prominent figures of the New York Prohibitionist movement.

## Arrangement Note

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The collection is organized in 7 series: Series 1. Administrative Documents, Series 2. Campaign Materials, Series 3. Clippings, Series 4. Correspondence, Series 5. Events Materials, Series 6. Literature, Series 7. Maps, Photographs and Works on Paper. Within each series, folders are organized alphabetically by title and materials in each folder are arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Brooklyn Historical Society January 2006

### Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restriction.

### Conditions Governing Use

Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by George B. Hilliard in 1932.

### Processing Note

The processing of this collection by Pratt Institute GATEWAI intern Miranda Schwartz involved reorganizing items, adding new folders, placing items in chronological order, photocopying brittle newspaper clippings, leaflets, and periodicals onto acid-free paper while saving the original clippings in protective sleeves, and writing the finding aid. The Finding Aid was edited by Dr. Petit in May 2006. The collection was further processed and the finding aid was further edited and entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Matthew Gorham in June 2009.

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Kings County Prohibition Committee.
- New York County Prohibition Committee.
- Prohibition Party (U.S.).
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union.
- Young People's Prohibition League.

### Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Engravings
- Maps
- Photographs

### Geographic Name(s)

- National Prohibition Park (Staten Island, New York, N.Y.)
- Staten Island (New York, N.Y.)--Maps
- United States--Politics and government

### Personal Name(s)

- Hilliard, George B.

### Subject(s)

- Prohibition--United States
- Social movements--United States
- Temperance--United States
- Temperance--United States--Periodicals

## Series 1 - Administrative Documents

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1 - Administrative Documents 1896-1913

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
New York State Prohibition Party 1896-1913	1	1

### Series 2 - Campaign Materials 1892-1931

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Brochures and Leaflets 1892-1900	1	2

### Series 3 - Clippings 1900-1942

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Clippings 1900-1942	1	3

### Series 4 - Correspondence 1900-1911

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence 1900-1911	1	4

**Series 5 - Events Materials**

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**Series 5 - Events Materials 1895-1921**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Kings County Prohibition Committee 1906-1921	1	5
Miscellaneous 1895-1913	1	6
New York County Prohibitionists 1897-1912	1	7
Young People's Prohibition League circa 1900	1	8

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**Series 6 - Literature 1896-1942**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Booklets 1896-1931	1	9
Periodicals 1899-1942	Box 1	10

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**Series 7 - Maps, Photographs and Works on Paper circa 1890-1910**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Maps - National Prohibition Park, Staten Island circa 1890-1897	1	11
Photographs - Events and Campaigns circa 1890-1919	1	12
Photographic Portraits - Cabinet Cards circa 1890-1919	Cabinet Card	1

**Series 7 - Maps, Photographs and Works on Paper**

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Photographic Portraits - Groups c. 1890s-1910s	1	13
Photographic Portraits - Individuals c. 1890s-1910s	1	14
Works on Paper - Engraved Portraits circa 1890-1919	1	10

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