

Guide to the Bartos Company Records

MS 2074



compiled by Jessica Quagliaroli

April 2018

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2074

CREATOR: Bartos Company

TITLE: The Bartos Company records

DATES: Circa 1928-1950s

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 42.42 linear feet (19 containers)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Bartos Company records includes include photographs, publicity materials, press clippings, magazine articles, and drawings documenting the furniture and woodworking business The Bartos Company (originally M. Bartos & Company). The bulk of the collection documents work produced by The Bartos Company from the 1920s to 1950s.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2074>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2074>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jim Bartos, 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is available for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright interests in the collection materials held by The Bartos Company have been transferred by the donor to Yale University. Nonetheless, the collection materials may contain content owned by third-party copyright holders. Determination of the copyright status of specific material may require extensive research and it is the responsibility of researchers and others intending to use the materials to secure permission of the appropriate copyright holder(s). All other uses not requiring permission of third-party copyright holders are permitted only in accordance with the restrictions and requirements specified herein.

Preferred Citation

The Bartos Company Records (MS 2074). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Separated Materials

Duplicate materials were removed from the collection. Acetate Negatives will be digitally reformatted and then destroyed.

Biographical / Historical

The Bartos Company was founded around 1900 by Mor Bartos, a Hungarian emigrant residing in New York City. Originally named M Bartos & Co., the company made high quality, custom-made period furniture for clients such as French & Co., Tiffany & Co., and William Randolph Hearst. In the early to mid-1900s companies such as French & Co. handled the interior decoration of furniture for rooms brought over from European houses to be reassembled in the United States. M Bartos & Co. made reproductions of original European furniture, intended to be indistinguishable from the originals. French & Co. used these furniture pieces to complete the reassembled rooms. M Bartos & Co. continued to work in this fashion until 1929.

Harold Bartos, son of Mor Bartos, took over the company in 1928 when Mor Bartos suddenly passed away from a heart attack. The company was then renamed The Bartos Company. After taking design and architectural classes at Columbia University, Harold Bartos became a designer and maker of furniture. He shifted the company from period to modern furniture and architectural woodwork. The Bartos Company made custom pieces to an architect's specifications as part of a larger project, such as executive offices, private residences, and public spaces. Examples of public projects include an acoustical ceiling for Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and the redevelopment of the Great Hall at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the 1940s, Harold Bartos co-founded and was the design producer of the Lehigh Furniture Co., which produced high quality furniture that could be ordered from a catalog. The Lehigh Furniture Co. was known for its innovative techniques with foam upholstery. The Lehigh Furniture Co. was later purchased by Litton Industries and merged with the Leopold Company to form Lehigh-Leopold Furniture. Throughout his career, Harold Bartos was active in The Architectural League of New York.

The Bartos Company dissolved in 1975 after the death of Harold Bartos.

Biographical information provided by Jim Bartos.

Scope and Contents

The records include photographs, publicity materials, press clippings, magazine articles, and drawings documenting the furniture and woodworking business The Bartos Company (originally M. Bartos & Company). The bulk of the collection documents work produced by The Bartos Company from the 1920s to 1950s.

Arrangement

The records are arranged in five series: I. Period Drawings, 1926-1944. II. Photographs, 1930-1950. III. Publications and Publicity, 1924-1970. IV. Scrapbooks, 1938-1950. V. Samples, Ordering, and Administrative Materials, 1936-1940.

Records were arranged by the donor, Jim Bartos, but did not come to him in an original order from the company. Jim Bartos arranged records by type and subject, and staff of Manuscripts and Archives maintained most of that ordering, with the exception of the Scrapbooks (reorganized into Series IV) and the Samples, Ordering, and Administrative Materials (reorganized into Series V).

Collection Contents

Series I: Period Drawings, 1926–1944

Most of the sketches and original drawings in this series are from French & Co. projects for which The Bartos Company supplied period furniture. Some drawings contain the product numbers for furniture pieces provided. Also found in this series are sketches and blueprints from the original IBM Building (1938-1977) located at 590 Madison Avenue in New York.

The drawings are arranged according to size.

French & Co. furniture		
b. 1	Custom-made furniture sketches	Circa 1920s
b. 2	Custom-made furniture sketches	Circa 1920s
b. 3	Custom-made furniture sketches	Circa 1920s
b. 4	Custom-made furniture sketches	Circa 1920s
b. 5	Custom-made furniture sketches	Circa 1920s
b. 6	Georgian rooms, product nos. 9737-12013	1929
b. 7	Georgian rooms, product nos. 9737-12013	1929
b. 9, f. 1	Georgian paneling, doors, and trim, product no. 13245	Circa 1920s
b. 9, f. 2	White and gold room #6, product nos. 13976-13977	Circa 1920s
b. 9, f. 3	Mr. Prentiss's bedroom, product nos. 7058-7059	Circa 1920s
b. 9, f. 4	Georgian woodwork: McLean apt. - Mrs. Arthur Cohen, product nos. 10914-11391	1930
b. 9, f. 5	Louis XVI boudoir, product nos. 9312-13173	1926
b. 9, f. 6	Georgian room - plans 950 5th Ave, product nos. 6777-6779	1926
b. 9, f. 7	Georgian room	Circa 1920s
b. 9, f. 8	Georgian room; Mrs. Gottesman's living room, product nos. 16030	Circa 1920s
b. 8	I.B.M. Building: Mr. Watson's ante rooms; Mr. Fortsen's bloq super	1944

Series II: Photographs, 1930–1950

The photographs in this series show the range of furniture pieces produced by The Bartos Company. The French & Co. and period photographs contain product numbers and dimensions on the back of the physical photograph. The furniture pieces in these photographs are the same furniture pieces depicted in the period drawings in Series I.

This series is arranged by format type. Folders withing format types are arranged alphabetically.

Albums		
b. 10, f. 1	Essential Wood Jig Company	Circa 1930s
Large prints		
b. 11, f. 1	Cyanamid Corporation of America	Circa 1940s
b. 11, f. 2	French & Co. furniture	Circa 1920s
b. 11, f. 3	French & Co. furniture, desks - sideboards	Circa 1920s
b. 11, f. 4	French & Co. furniture, Italian chair - tripod, product nos. 12829 - 12366	Circa 1920s
b. 11, f. 5	French & Co. furniture, oak console - Italian table, product nos. 34211 - 15606	Circa 1920s
b. 11, f. 6	French & Co., pine room, miscellaneous carving	Circa 1920s
b. 12, f. 1	French & Co., tables and desks	Circa 1920s
b. 12, f. 2	Harold Bartos apartment	Circa 1940
b. 12, f. 3	Lehigh Furniture, product nos. 2007-1950S	Circa 1950s
b. 12, f. 4-5	Modern furniture	Circa 1940s
Negatives		
b. 13, f. 1-2	Furniture, product nos. 17704-17798	Circa 1920s
	Furniture, product nos. 16522 - 16657	Circa 1920s
	A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
	Due to degaedation, the physical negatives were digitized and discarded in 2022.	
Period photographs		
b. 13, f. 3	Ark for A.S. Verway	Circa 1920s
b. 13, f. 4-6	Bench	Circa 1920s
b. 13, f. 7-10	Chairs	Circa 1920s
b. 13, f. 11-21	Desk	Circa 1920s
b. 13, f. 22	Folding chair	Circa 1920s

Period photographs (continued)

b. 13, f. 23	French furniture	Circa 1920s
b. 13, f. 24-28	Table	Circa 1920s
Modern furniture		
b. 13, f. 29	Alfreda	Circa 1940s
b. 13, f. 30	Antoine photos	Circa 1940s
b. 13, f. 31-33	"Colliers House of Ideas," prints	1940
b. 13, f. 34	Exhibit - 15th Exhibition of Contemporary American Industrial Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art	1940
b. 13, f. 35	Johnson, no. 8494	Circa 1940s
b. 13, f. 36	Lehigh Furniture	circa 1940
b. 14, f. 1	Neiman-Marcus	Circa 1940s
b. 14, f. 2	Office furniture	Circa 1940s
b. 14, f. 3	Tables and chairs	Circa 1930s-1950s
b. 14, f. 4	Tables, chairs, and desks	Circa 1930s-1950s

Series III: Publications and Publicity, 1924–1970

This series contains trade catalogs, furniture and interior design publications, and publicity articles highlighting The Bartos Company. This series also includes a transcription of the CBS radio interview "The Cabinet Maker," which recorded Harold Bartos at his furniture shop.

This series is arranged by format type. Folders within format types are arranged alphabetically.

Catalogs		
b. 15, f. 1-2	Lehigh Furniture Corporation	1954–1957
b. 15, f. 3	P.E. Geurin, cut sheets	Circa 1930s
b. 15, f. 4	Robsjohn-Gibbings	Circa 1940s
b. 15, f. 5-6	Trade	1924–1970
b. 16, f. 1	Programs for events	1924–1954
Publications		
b. 16, f. 2	American Designers Institute	1945
b. 16, f. 3	Americans at Work, "The Cabinet Maker"	1940 January 16
b. 16, f. 4	Colliers	1940
b. 16, f. 5	"Colliers House of Ideas," publicity material English	1940
b. 16, f. 6-7	Furniture Forum	1949–1953
b. 16, f. 8	Furniture Record	1939 October 1
b. 16, f. 9	House & Garden	1963 November
b. 16, f. 10	House Beautiful	1940–1965
b. 16, f. 11	Interiors	1943 March
b. 16, f. 12	Pencil Points	1940–1942
b. 16, f. 13	Publicity articles	1938-1952, Undated

Series IV: Scrapbooks, 1938–1950

The scrapbooks in this series contain articles, clippings, and photographs documenting the work of The Bartos Company and Lehigh Furniture Company. The scrapbooks provide some of the only documentation of Harold Bartos’s work with the Lehigh Furniture Company.

b. 17, f. 1	Articles and clippings	1948–1950
b. 17, f. 2	Articles, clippings, and photographs	1938–1946
b. 17, f. 3	Photographs	circa 1940

Series V: Samples, Ordering, and Administrative Materials, 1936–1940

This series contains administrative materials of The Bartos Company. Included are wooden marquetry inlay samples and an Order and Receipt Book. The photo catalog books contain photographs of each piece of furniture produced that was available to order. Most photographs have the product number and dimensions written on the back of the photograph.

This series is arranged by format type. Folders within format types are arranged alphabetically.

Administrative materials

b. 18, f. 1	Letter from David Miller to Charles Hanson The letter is from David Miller, Secretary of the Manufacturing Woodworkers Association to Charles W. Hanson, President of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Harold Bartos served on the Executive Committee of the Manufacturing Woodworkers Association.	1939 April 19
b. 18, f. 2	Partial list of completed contracts	Circa 1940s
b. 18, f. 3-8	Order and receipt book	1936–1940
b. 19	Marquetry inlay samples	Circa 1930s
Photo catalog books		
b. 20, f. 1-4	Key Book #1, product nos. 15392 - 13001	Circa 1920s-1940s
b. 20, f. 5	Key Book #2, product nos. 6565 - 16910	Circa 1920s-1940s
b. 21, f. 1-3	Key Book #2, product nos. 6565 - 16910	Circa 1920s-1940s
b. 21, f. 4-6	Key Book #3, product nos. 7100 - 6541A	Circa 1920s-1940s
b. 22, f. 1-3	Key Book #4, product nos. 8636 - 7110	Circa 1920s-1940s
b. 22, f. 4-5	Miscellaneous Book #1, period furniture, product nos. 15372 - 13731	Circa 1940s
b. 22, f. 6	Miscellaneous Book #2, modern furniture, product nos. 1979 - 13001	Circa 1940s
b. 23, f. 1-2	Miscellaneous Book #2, modern furniture, product nos. 1979 - 13001	Circa 1940s
b. 23, f. 3-5	Robsjohn-Gibbings #1, product nos. 6781C - 15089	Circa 1930s
b. 24, f. 1-2	Robsjohn-Gibbings #1, product nos. 6781C - 15089	Circa 1930s
b. 24, f. 3-5	Weber Furniture, product nos. 17603 - 16518	Circa 1940s

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Architectural Woodwork
Architecture, Domestic -- New York -- 20th
Century
Furniture design
Furniture industry and trade -- United States --
20th Century
Woodwork

Corporate Body

Bartos Company

Contributors

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