

# Guide to the Caesar R. Bannihhr Papers

MS 830



compiled by Diane Kaplan

August 1978

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P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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P.O. Box 208240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 830

**CREATOR:** Bannihhr, Caesar R., 1857-1943

**TITLE:** Caesar R. Bannihhr papers

**DATES:** 1883-1942

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers are made up almost entirely of diaries and account books that record Bannihhr's business career, both as the owner of a trimming business in New York, and as an engraver and die sinker. Bannihhr's early diaries (1883-1891) describe his life as a young working man in Cheshire, Connecticut, where he was active in Democratic politics and the district school committee. Included in the diaries are descriptions of his mechanical inventions. His wife also kept a diary for a portion of this period (1890-1893), which takes in the years of their courtship and early married life. Samples of Bannihhr's work in the form of plaster casts, master molds, and metal dies are also in the collection.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0830>

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## 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.0830>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from M. Earle, 1944.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Caesar R. Bannihhr Papers (MS 830). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

Caesar R. Bannihhr (1857-1943) was a tinkerer and an inventor, and by profession, an engraver and die sinker. All that we know about Bannihhr is what can be found in the diaries and account books that are in the Bannihhr Papers. Bannihhr was twenty-six-years-old when he started recording the events of his daily life in the series of diaries found in these papers. From 1883-1891 Bannihhr worked a ten-hour day at the Cheshire (Connecticut) Manufacturing Company. In his leisure time he invented a match box machine, a safety brake, and other gadgets; practiced drawing, piano, and guitar; bicycled and served as sales agent for the Columbia Bicycle Company; sold cigars as a small business venture with his father; attended the local Democratic Party caucuses; and served on the Committee of School District No. 12, Cheshire. It was while Bannihhr was on the school committee that he started to court his future wife, Cynthia Tucker (1858-?), a teacher at the school. Since Cynthia Tucker Bannihhr also kept a diary for the period 1890-1893, we can see this developing relationship from both sides. There is no diary of Caesar Bannihhr's after he left Cheshire for New York in December 1891, but Cynthia Tucker Bannihhr's diary shows us the plans for the October 1892 wedding and their first year of married life in New York City.

When Bannihhr moved to New York, he presumably went into partnership with his brother Henry in the trimming business. There are two account books for his enterprise. However, Bannihhr soon was working at the trade of engraving and die sinking. The account books from 1894-1942 would indicate that he was self-employed, but he also might have practiced his trade while holding a full-time job. The account books show not only the economic course of the business, but also the craftsmanship of Bannihhr; they contain numerous sketches and samples of the dies and engravings.

The papers contain another series of diaries kept by Bannihhr from 1934-1941 while he and his wife were living in Stratford, Connecticut. In these Bannihhr recorded day-to-day happenings, the produce of his garden, and the decreasing work load of his later years.

The papers are arranged as follows:

Diaries of Caesar R. Bannihhr,\* 1883-1891; 1934-1941

Diaries of Cynthia T. Bannihhr, 1890-1893

Account Books,\* 1891-1942

Photograph, n.d.

Misc. printed material & sample dies 1885-1890, n. d.

\*In several places Bannihhr used old account books for his diary or recorded financial matters at the end of a diary volume. Where such overlap occurs has been noted in the folder list.

The papers were purchased from M. Earle, April 17, 1944.

## Collection Contents

### Diaries

#### Caesar R. Bannihhr

b. 1, f. 1	1883 Sep (kept during his vacation to Boston and Maine)	
b. 1, f. 2	1884 January-December	1884 January-December
b. 1, f. 3	1885 January - December	1885 January - December
b. 1, f. 4	1886 Jan - Dec (2 vol.); 1886 Aug 30 - Sep 6 (kept during a trip to Philadelphia)	
b. 1, f. 5	1887 Jan - Dec (2 vol.)	
b. 1, f. 6	1888 Jan - Dec (2 vol.); 1888 Jun - 1889 May (Vol. contains a record of School District No. 12, Cheshire, Conn. business.)	
b. 1, f. 7	1889 Jan - Dec (2 vol.); 1889 Jun - 1891 Mar (Vol. includes a record of School District No. 12, Cheshire, Conn. business with the school expense account.)	
b. 1, f. 8	1890 January - December; 1891 January - December (2 vol.) (Vol. includes accounts of Bannihhr as an agent for Columbia Bicycles.)	1890 January - December; 1891 January - December (2 vol.) (Vol. includes accounts of Bannihhr as an agent for Columbia Bicycles.)
b. 2, f. 9	1934 January - 1935 January; 1935 January - August	1934 January - 1935 January; 1935 January - August
b. 2, f. 10	1935 September - December	1935 September - December
b. 2, f. 11	1936 Jan - Dec (Vol. includes the pages of Bannihhr's account book from 1903-1905.)	
b. 2, f. 12	1936 November - 1938 January	1936 November - 1938 January
b. 2, f. 13	1938 Jan - Feb; 1938 Feb - Sep (Vol. includes pages from a "Time Book Weekly" Account, 1896 Mar-Apr.)	

Caesar R. Bannihhr (continued)

b. 2, f. 14	1938 September – 1939 June; 1939 June – 1940 April	1938 September – 1939 June; 1939 June – 1940 April
b. 3, f. 15	1940 May - Nov (Vol. contains a few pages of financial accounts, 1883-1884; 1894-1895.)	
b. 3, f. 16	1940 Dec - 1941 Feb (Vol. includes a few pages of salemen's commission accounts, 1893 Jan-Oct, presumably for Bannihhr Bros. Trimmers.)	
Cynthia Tucker Bannihhr		
b. 3, f. 17-20	1890 January – December 1893	1890 January – December 1893
Account Books:		
b. 3, f. 21	Bannihhr Bros. Trimmers: Accounts of Jacob H. Guggenheimer, salesman, (Vol. also includes accounts for C. R. Bannihhr's die works, 1904 Aug - 1906 Sep.)	1891 October-1893 April
b. 3, f. 22	Accounts of M. J. Loeb, salesman	1894 June-September
Caesar R. Bannihhr:		
b. 3, f. 23	Die works	1894 January-1895 June
b. 3, f. 24-25	Engraving and die works	1895 June-1898 November
b. 4, f. 26	Engraver and die sinker	1903-1905; also 1930 March-December
b. 4, f. 27-30	Engraver and die sinker	1906-1930 January; 1931 January-1942 March
b. 5, f. 31	Photograph: Caesar R. Bannihhr with bicycle	undated
b. 5, f. 32	Printed material relating to Columbia Bicycles and to the League of American Wheelmen	1885-1890
b. 5, f. 33	Notes and drawings	1936, undated
b. 5, f. 34-35	Die samples	

## **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**

Business  
Businessmen  
Education  
Engraving (Metal-work)  
Labor  
Labor movement  
Science  
Working class

### **Geographic Names**

Cheshire (Conn.)  
Connecticut

### **Genres / Formats**

Account books  
Diaries

### **Occupations**

Engravers

### **Names**

Bannihir, Caesar R., 1857-1943  
Bannihir, Cynthia Tucker, b. 1858