

# **Guide to the Edward G. Levy Collection Relating to Temperance**

**GEN MSS 956**



by Karen Spicher

2013 June

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 956

**CREATOR:** Levy, Edward G., 1898-1990 , collector

**TITLE:** Edward G. Levy collection relating to temperance

**DATES:** 1794-1970s

**BULK DATES:** 1880-1970

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.13 linear feet (4 boxes) + 2 art objects

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Papers and other materials collected by Edward G. Levy, relating to temperance and prohibition, most 19th-early 20th centuries, most from the United States, with a small amount of material about temperance in Great Britain. Materials include documents and fragments, signed, by temperance advocates Marie Caroline Brehm, John B. Gough, Theobald Mathew, and John G. Woolley; a circular letter of the American Temperance Society, 1832; printed license and tax documents issued by the United States government, 1794-1929; clippings, including a scrapbook relating to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Connecticut, 1887-1888; postcards issued by the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, undated; trade cards and other advertising materials of manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, circa 1865-1885 and undated; buttons, medals, and paper fans advertising temperance organizations and beverage manufacturers, 1895-1930s and undated; and beverage bottles, bottle labels, and a brass whiskey tap, undated.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.levytemperance>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

Gift of Edward G. Levy, 1976.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 6 (glass beverage bottles): Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Edward G. Levy Collection Relating to Temperance is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Edward G. Levy Collection Relating to Temperance. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

This collection consists of materials formerly classed as Uncat MS Vault 839. In 2013, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donor, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

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## Edward G. Levy (1898-1990)

Edward G. Levy received his LL.B from Boston University in 1921 and joined his brother's New Haven law practice. In 1939 he was sentenced to a year in jail for his participation in a kickback scheme led by the mayor of Waterbury. In later years he and his wife, Hortense R. Levy, collected autographs and dime novels and made substantial donations of these materials to several libraries. Edward G. Levy died in 1990.

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## Scope and Contents

Papers and other materials collected by Edward G. Levy, relating to temperance and prohibition, most nineteenth-early twentieth centuries, most from the United States, with a small amount of material about temperance in Great Britain. Materials include documents and fragments, signed, by temperance advocates Marie Caroline Brehm, John B. Gough, Theobald Mathew, and John G. Woolley; a circular letter of the American Temperance Society, 1832; printed license and tax documents issued by the United States government, 1794-1929; clippings, including a scrapbook relating to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Connecticut, 1887-1888; postcards issued by the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, undated; trade cards and other advertising materials of manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, circa 1865-1885 and undated; buttons, medals, and paper fans advertising temperance organizations and beverage manufacturers, 1895-1930s and undated; and beverage bottles, bottle labels, and a brass whiskey tap, undated.

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## Arrangement

Organized in to three series: I. Documents, 1794-1930s. II. Printed Material, 1850s-1970s. III. Objects, 1895-1930s.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Documents, 1794-1930s, undated

0.34 linear feet

Arranged alphabetically by name, followed by unsorted documents.

b. 1, f. 1	American Temperance Society. Circular letter, printed	1832 November
b. 1, f. 2	Brehm, Marie Caroline. Note, autograph manuscript, signed	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Gough, John B. (John Bartholomew). Notes, autograph manuscript, signed, and fragments, signed	1878-1883, undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 26	Gough, John B. (John Bartholomew). Address presented to Gough by Neath (Wales) temperance societies, manuscript and print	1879 March 26
b. 1, f. 4	Low, Nicholas. Receipt, manuscript in an unidentified hand	1798 March 12
b. 1, f. 5	Mathew, Theobald. Autograph letter, signed, to "Mr. Watson"	1845 May 28
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 33	Nation, Carry Amelia. Caricatures, in pencil, by an unidentified artist	undated
b. 1, f. 6	United States government Includes licenses and tax stamps for alcoholic beverages	1794-1929, undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 27	United States government. Tax stamps for liquor	1870s
b. 1, f. 7	Woolley, John G. (John Granville). Note, autograph manuscript, signed	1850 February 15
b. 1, f. 8A-8C	Unsorted documents	1795-1908
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 28	Unsorted documents	1849, circa 1930s

**Series II: Printed Material, 1850s-1970s, undated***0.56 linear feet*

Arranged alphabetically by name, title, or type of material, followed by unsorted printed materials.

b. 1, f. 9-10	Association Against the Prohibition Amendment. 45 "Prohibition -Probes" postcards <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 11	Bottle labels. 71 manufacturers' labels for wine	undated
b. 1, f. 12	Bottle labels. 29 manufacturers' labels for beer	undated
b. 1, f. 13-14	Bottle labels. 148 manufacturers' labels for liquor <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 29	Clippings. Scrapbook Contains clippings about the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Connecticut	1887-1888
b. 1, f. 15-16	Unsorted clippings <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1880-1970s
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 30	Unsorted clippings	1855-1972
b. 1, f. 17	<i>Dime Novel Roundup</i> . Volume 37, Numbers 11-12 Contains articles by J. Edward Leithead about temperance stories  With article by Leithead for Volume 37, Number 13, typescript and typescript carbon, signed	1968 November-December
b. 1, f. 18	Matchbooks advertising alcoholic beverages	undated
b. 1, f. 19	Trade cards of manufacturers of alcoholic beverages	circa 1865-1885, undated
b. 2, f. 20-23	Unsorted printed material <i>4 Folders</i>	circa 1900-1970s
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 31	Unsorted printed material	circa 1850s-1970s
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 32	Unsorted printed material	undated

**Series III: Objects, 1895-1930s, undated***1.31 linear feet*

Arranged alphabetically by type of material, followed by unsorted objects.

b. 5 (Art), f. 35-38	Buttons and medals <i>4 Folders</i> Issued by temperance organizations or manufacturers of alcoholic beverages	undated
b. 2, f. 24	Paper fans Issued by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union	circa 1930s, undated
b. 5 (Art), f. 39	Medal, awarded for the William Jennings Demorest prohibition prize	1895
b. 5 (Art), f. 40	Unidentified medals	undated
b. 5 (Art), f. 41	Brass whisky tap <i>1 Folder (1 object)</i> Accompanied by vendor receipt	undated
b. 2, f. 25	Unsorted objects	undated
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 34	Unsorted objects	undated



**Restricted Fragile Material**

*0.67 linear feet (1 box)*

Box 6 (glass beverage bottles): Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 6 (Art), f. 42	Glass beverage bottles <i>(7 glass bottles)</i>	undated
	Box 6 (glass beverage bottles): Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	

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## **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**

Prohibition -- United States  
Temperance -- Great Britain  
Temperance -- Great Britain -- Societies, etc.  
Temperance -- United States  
Temperance -- United States -- Societies, etc.

### **Genres / Formats**

Bottle labels (paper labels) -- United States --  
20th Century  
Bottles -- United States -- 20th Century  
Buttons (information artifacts) -- United States  
-- 20th Century  
Fans (costume accessories) -- United States --  
20th Century  
Matchbooks -- United States -- 20th Century  
Medals -- United States -- 19th century  
Plumbing fixtures -- United States -- 20th  
Century  
Scrapbooks -- United States -- Connecticut --  
19th century  
Trade cards (advertising) -- United States --  
19th century

### **Names**

Brehm, Marie Caroline, -1926  
Demorest, William Jennings, 1822-1895  
Gough, John B. (John Bartholomew), 1817-1886  
Levy, Edward G., 1898-1990  
Mathew, Theobald, 1790-1856  
Nation, Carry Amelia, 1846-1911 -- Caricatures  
and cartoons  
Woolley, John G. (John Granville), 1850-1922

### **Corporate Bodies**

American Temperance Society  
Association Against the Prohibition  
Amendment  
Woman's Christian Temperance Union