

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Albany Bicentennial Commission Records, 1871-1922

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### Summary Information

**Repository**

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

**Creator**

Albany Bicentennial Commission

**Title**

Albany Bicentennial Commission Records, 1871-1922

**Identifier**

BB 245

**Date**

1871-1922

**Physical Description**

5 boxes

**Physical Location**

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

**Language of the Material**

English

**Abstract**

In 1886, Albany marked its bicentennial, based on the 1686 Dongan charter. From July 18-23, the city celebrated in numerous ways such as parades, sporting events, and fireworks shows. Two large-format programs, medals were struck, and a history of Albany was published to commemorate the event as well. The Citizens' Bi-Centennial Committee was charged with planning the proper celebration of the event.

The collection contains programs, ephemera, clippings, correspondence, logbooks, and scrapbooks.

## **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Albany Bicentennial Commission Records, 1871-1922, BB 245. Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany, New York.)

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## **Conditions Governing Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access**

None

### **Copyright**

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession Date: November 1984

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## **Processing Information**

Processed by C. Greeran, January 2005. Finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2020.

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## **Biographical/Historical**

In 1686, Governor Dongan granted a charter to the people to create the city of Albany, New York. On November 16, 1885, Alderman James Lyons presented a resolution, which became the Bi-Centennial Proclamation, to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the charter. \$10,000 was earmarked for the celebration, and a committee was formed, charged with providing appropriate festivities. Following a meeting of Albany's prominent citizens, Mayor A. Bleecker Banks was elected Chairman of the Citizens' Bi-Centennial Committee, and a number of subcommittees were formed to coordinate individual efforts.

The Bicentennial celebration of Albany officially took place from July 18-23, 1886, and included numerous parades of local organizations and veterans, pageants, speeches,

sporting events such as regattas, and fireworks displays. A variety of memorabilia was also created, including two large-format programs of events, commemorative medals, and a history of Albany, among other ephemera.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains official programs of bicentennial celebration events, ephemera such as tickets and invitations, clippings of related articles, correspondence from committee members, logbooks from subcommittees, and scrapbooks including various memorabilia leading up to and during the actual celebration.

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While the collection spans 1871-1922, the vast bulk of the collection is from 1886, during which time the various committee members worked to coordinate their efforts.

## Contents List

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Programs-official programs covering events from July 18, 22, 1886 (4), various religious programs (July 18), Children's Day Program (10 evening, 2 morning), Concert by Colored Citizens; map of Albany; printed list of committee and sub-committee members.	1	1
Miscellaneous: blueprint of display area (Bi-Centennial Loan Exhibition-?); display markers (for Exhibition-?); various display notes; Society of Colonial Dames of New York offer of "Calendar of Wills"-an abstract of every will handled by the Albany County Clerk and Secretary of State between 1626-1836.		2
Historical Society post-celebration thank you sheets (66).		3
"Landmarks"-sermon presented at St. Paul's (2); Bi-Centennial Hymns-2 different versions.		4
Invitations: Albany Burgesses Corp "At Home;" meeting with Mayor, Common Council, Citizens Committee and Albany Burgesses Corp; Fort Orange Club Reception (2); Municipal Reception (6); "Divine Services" Commemoration at the Mayor's office (2).		5
Tickets to Children's Commemoration (3); Annual Regatta Tug "Fuller;" fireworks; call to orchestra rehearsal (5).		6
Newspaper clippings (most have no dates or publisher identification).		7
Broadsides dated June 24, 1871-"Ode for Laying of Cornerstone at State Capitol" (2).		8

Bi-Centennial Ode (3); sales poster for Bi-Centennial Ode: review of the Ode reprinted for the Argus for sales purposes; Bi-Centennial announcement placard (some with envelopes) (14).		9
Bi-Centennial Loan Exhibition –invitations (7), tickets (9), season tickets (2), loan tags (11), general request for loan materials (27), used loan receipts (22), returned-to-owner receipt blanks (9), poem read at opening exercise.	2	1
Large paper booklet on Albany’s Bi-Centennial special events.		2
Request for participation of business with Trades Committee in parade (2); acceptance of loan materials for exhibit (6); correspondence regarding Loan Exhibition; handwritten list of Loan Exhibit items (6 pages).		3
Bound volume of Bi-Centennial Loan Exhibition including opening exercises, lists of items loaned, photographs.		4
Same as volume 1, but doesn’t include photographs.		5
Same as volume 1, but doesn’t include photographs.		6
Logbook of German Committee for Bi-Centennial (in German) “Zweihundertjahriges Jubiläum.”		7
Scrapbook: (1st part) Albany Bi-Centennial Loan Exhibition-news clippings, receipts, opening exercise broadside, flyer, invitations, tickets; (2nd part) the city’s celebration-announcement flyers, church programs, tickets, ribbons used to identify the press, reprints of Albany sketches, booklet of flags that flew over Albany, copy of original Dongan Charter.	3	1
Scrapbook: Bi-Centennial Committees, examples of stationery, official programs, official correspondence, invitations, tickets, various receptions, fund certificate, flag receipt, Bi-Centennial Day prayer, Relief Association badge, last part of scrapbook has flyers, broadsides, and posters.		2
Original copyright of “The Bi-Centennial Flag of Albany N.Y.” filed by Franklin M. Danaher.		
“Albany’s Bi-Centennial: A Chronicle of Local Events of the Past 200 Years, 2nd Edition, compiled by A.O. Springer, Albany, NY (4 full copies plus ½ copy-bottom half of magazine the advertising-is cut off).		3
The Albany; the only Bi-Centennial Newspaper, July 22, 1886, cover likens local politicians to the “The Mikado;”, back cover has satiric illustration on “The Discovery of Albany” (2).		4
Minutes of Citizens-Bi-Centennial Committee dated January 23, 1886 to October 8, 1889-with some news clips and papers pasted in-description and color drawing of flag (p.200), Bi-Centennial medal-description and history (p. 217), fireworks description (p. 265), description of floats (p. 278).	4	1

Minutes of the Citizens Bi-Centennial Sub-Committees-executive, finance, reception, letter presenting Mr. Danaher with a Bi-Centennial ribbon badge (badge not in scrapbook).		2
“Souvenir of The Albany Bi-Centennial Celebration, July, 1886, Containing The Official Program With The Only Authorized Descriptive And Illuminated Lithographs of The Great Historical Pageant Together with an Account of the Chronological Table of Important Events...” (10 Copies, 2 of those missing some pages).		3
Portraits of committee members with their signatures (bound volume-printed 1922).	5	1
1) News clippings: in order by each newspaper (January to July 1886) The Argus, Albany Express, Albany Times, Press & Knickerbocker, Albany Evening Journal.	Oversized Scrapbook	2nd floor, V. 39
2) Program of the Bi-Centennial Celebration of the City.		
3) Back to news clipping (July 18-23, 1886) The Argus, Albany Evening Journal, Albany Express, Albany Times, Press & Knickerbocker, Evening Union, Chicago Herald.		
4) 200-year anniversary poster, photograph of the committee with identification guide.		
5) Flags that flew over Albany, programs, tickets, “Oration of Governor Hill”, Bi-Centennial newspaper-“Albany,” full page tribute and sketches of important buildings from the Daily Graphic (New York City), sketches, article and full page illustration of historical procession from July 31, 1886 issue of Harpers’ Weekly, letters of acceptance (and regrets) to position on Bi-Centennial Committee, organizations (both local and international) contracted by Bi-Centennial Committee.		