



National Watch and Clock Museum

Library and Research Center

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John J. Bowman Collection, 1904-1991

Overview/Collection Description

- **Title:** John J. Bowman Collection
- **Dates:** 1904-1991 [bulk 1948-1955]
- **Creator:** John J. Bowman
- **Call Number:** MG 018
- **Language:** English, French
- **Extent:** 2 linear feet in 4 boxes

Conditions of Access

- **Restrictions:** These records are open to researchers for personal or scholarly research. Most of the records in the collection are available for photocopy, depending on the preservation needs of the material as well as other variables not specified here. Researchers, however, are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use materials and documents. These records are part of the permanent collection in the archives of the Library & Research Center of the National Watch and Clock Museum and researchers are required to comply with the Archive Rules when using the collection.

Administrative Information

- **Preferred Citation:** *John J. Bowman Collection, 1904-1991*. Library & Research Center, National Watch & Clock Museum, NAWCC.
- **Processing Information:** This collection was processed and partially described before May 2016. During the summer of 2016, the collection was revisited and the archival description was expanded. It is unclear if the order of the collection present at the time

of the revision accurately reflected the original order. The order in which the collection was found in 2016 has been maintained as it is presented here.

- **Archivist and Date Processed.** Finding aid compiled by Kate Van Riper, Archivist at the Library and Research Center, National Watch and Clock Museum, Summer 2016.

Subjects & Related Materials

- Bowman Technical School
- Correspondence
- Jewelers Circular—Keystone

Biographical Sketch

- **Biographical History:** John J. Bowman was the long-time director of the Ezra F. Bowman Technical School in Lancaster, PA. He became the director in 1901 when his father and school founder, Ezra, died. He served as Technical Editor of the *Jewelers' Circular-Keystone* from 1907 to 1955, answering subscriber questions from 1941 to 1951. He helped found the Horological Institute of America in 1921. He passed away on Oct. 19, 1959 at age 81.

Content & Structure

- **Scope & Content:** This collection consists of three boxes. Box #1 consists primarily of materials related to the Bowman Technical School: exams, school catalog distribution letters, testimonials, etc.; as well as articles written and published for the Jewelers' Circular-Keystone. Box #2 consists almost entirely of questions submitted to the publication that were answered by Bowman. Box #3 contains a variety of different materials with the most prominent being the correspondence and contractual information related to the publication of the Jeweler Engravers Manual and Bowman's miscellaneous correspondence.

Container List

Series 1: Bowman Technical School

Box	Folder	
1	1	Examinations, 1951
	2	Form Letters, 1949-1953
	3	Lists – Catalog Distribution, 1951-1953
	4	Lists – Graduates, circa 1936-1952
	5	Testimonials, 1936-1952
	6	Testimonials – Graduates, 1947-1952
	7	Testimonials – Employers & Parents of Graduates, 1936-1952
	8	“Your Future and Our School” Catalog Distribution Correspondence – Employers, 1953
	9	“Your Future and Our School” Catalog Distribution Correspondence – Individuals, 1952-1952
	10	“Your Future and Our School” Catalog Distribution Correspondence – Schools & Government Agencies, 1952-1953
	11	“Your Future and Our School” Catalog Distribution Correspondence – Veterans Administration, 1952-1953
	12	Courses and Lectures, Vol. 1, circa 1937-circa 1949
	13	Courses and Lectures, Vol. 2, circa 1947-circa 1950s

Series II: Publications

Box	Folder	
1	14	Horological Institute of America – Journal, 1939-1947
	15	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, 1935
	16	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, 1936
	17	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, 1937
	18	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, not dated & 1938
	19	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, 1939
2	1	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, 1939
	2	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Article Drafts, 1940
	3	Jewelers Circular – Keystone, Draft: “Friction in Watch and Clock Mechanism, and Its Reduction,” not dated
	4	Published Articles, 1904-1927
	5	Published Articles, 1937-1945
	6	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Book Reviews, 1938-1941
	7	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Book Reviews, 1942-1947
	8	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Book Reviews, 1948-1949

	9	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Book Reviews, 1950-1955
	10	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, “Clockwork,” 1942-1948, not dated
	11	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, “Jewelry Work,” 1938-1955
	12	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, “Watch Work,” 1938-1945
	13	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, “ Watch Work,” 1946-1948
	14	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1937-1939
	15	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1940-1948
	16	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1949
	17	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1950
	18	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1951
Box	Folder	
3	1	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1952
	2	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1953
	3	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1954
	4	Jewelers Circular – Keystone: Questions & Answers, 1955-1957
	5	American Watch Importers Association, 1924-1926
	6	Articles, 1931-1956

Series III: Correspondence

Box	Folder	
3	7	Bulova Watch Company, 1931-1932
	8	Jewelry Engravers Manual – Contracts & Correspondence, 1949-1954
	9	Jewelry Engravers Manual – R. Allen Hardy; Florida Jewelry Supply, 1950-1954
	10	Jewelry Engravers Manual – Jewelers Circular – Keystone, 1948-1954
	11	Jewelry Engravers Manual – O. Van Nostrand Co., 1951-1956
	12	Correspondence, Notes, Receipts, Articles, 1914-1976
	13	Letters – “International,” 1953
Box	Folder	
4	1	Letters – “From John J. Bowman,” 1920-1949
	2	Letters – “From John J. Bowman,” 1950-1954
	3	Letters – “From John J. Bowman,” 1914-1954
	4	NAWXX – “Chapters,” 1953
	5	Publishers, 1906-1954
	6	Recurring – “Letters, Questions, & Answers,” 1937-1955
	7	Technical – Design Data & Specifications, 1928-1950

Series IV: Non-Horological Interests

Box	Folder	
4	8	Remembering August of 1914 and the Start of World War I, 1914 & not dated
	9	Personal Interests – London, England, not dated
	10	Kiwanis Club, 1952
	11	Memorials, not dated
	12	Unidentified Fragment, 1937