
Bernard J. S. Cahill Collection, ca. 1889-1938

Collection Number: 19XX-3

Environmental Design Archives

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:

- Environmental Design Archives
- College of Environmental Design
- 230 Wurster Hall #1820
- University of California, Berkeley
- Berkeley, California, 94720-1820
- Phone: (510) 642-5124
- Fax: (510) 642-2824
- Email: archives@socrates.berkeley.edu
- URL: <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/>

Processed by:

Environmental Design Archives staff

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Encoded by:

Campbell J. Crabtree

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: Bernard J. S. Cahill Collection,

Date (inclusive): ca. 1889-1938

Collection Number: 19XX-3

Creator: Cahill, B. J. S. (Bernard J. S.), 1867-1964

Extent: 3 manuscript boxes, 5 oversize folders, 1 flat box, 2 artifacts

Repository: Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, California

Language: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Director.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Bernard J. S. Cahill Collection, (19XX-3), Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, California

Access Points

Architects--California.
Architecture--California.
Mausoleums.
Cahill World Map Co.

Biography

Bernard Joseph Stanislaus Cahill was born in London, England in 1866. He is known for his cemetery architecture and for the design of the San Francisco Civic Center. He was also the architect for a number of other commercial buildings, including the Multnomah Hotel in Portland, Oregon and various buildings in Vancouver, B. C.

Cahill arrived in the United States in 1888. He was married to Lida Boardman Hall in 1897, and to Laura Georgiana McClune in 1907. He and his second wife had one son, Bernard James Alban.

At the start of his professional career in 1896, Cahill participated in the Phoebe Hearst competition for the design of the U. C. Berkeley campus. He was elected an Associate Member of the A.I.A. in 1899. He wrote articles for the "California Architect and Building News" and later for "The Architect and Engineer." An early advocate of city planning, Cahill helped to define the concept of a "civic center" with his 1904 design of the San Francisco Civic Center, which he felt was the basis for the plan adopted by the city in 1912. He continued to be involved in the plan for the city, and wrote letters to the editor and articles expressing his ideas on the proper plan.

A specialist in mausoleum design and mortuary architecture, Cahill designed the catacombs and columbarium for the Cypress Lawn Cemetery, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (San Francisco), Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Memorial Building (Oakland), the St. Mary's Cemetery mausoleum (Sacramento), and the Diamond Head Memorial Park in Honolulu.

He was listed in the San Francisco city directory under the partnership of Stone and Cahill from 1894-1895, and then starting in 1907 with architects George A. Wright and George Rushforth (in the firm Wright, Rushforth, and Cahill). He subsequently designed buildings (such as the Multnomah Hotel in Portland) as part of the team of Gibson and Cahill.

In addition to designing buildings, Cahill invented the butterfly map, an octahedral system of projection for meteorology, geography, and geophysics. The map was designed to eliminate exaggeration at the top and bottom and distortion at the edges and sides found in traditional maps. The surface of the globe was represented by eight equilateral triangles. Cahill founded The Cahill World Map Co., which sold shares and promoted the map for educational and other uses.

Scope and Content

The Bernard J. S. Cahill collection is organized in five series: Personal Papers, Professional Papers, Office Records, Project Records, and the Cahill World Map Company.

The bulk of the collection consists of Cahill's office records, which include photographs, clippings and scrapbooks that illustrate his completed projects. Project records primarily relate to funerary commissions, but letters and clippings about the San Francisco Civic Center are also included. The collection also contains a small number of records from the Cahill World Map Company, and personal and professional writings by Cahill.

Title: Bernard Joseph Stanislaus Cahill Papers,

Identifier/Call Number: (83/39),

Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library

Box 1

I. Personal Papers, n.d.

Scope and Content Note

Contains typescript autobiography, photo of Cahill, and a bookplate. The incomplete autobiography primarily discusses his childhood.

Box 1

II. Professional Papers, n.d., 1932

Scope and Content Note

Contains articles written by Cahill on the plan for San Francisco and on memorial buildings.

Boxes 2-4 **III. Office Records, 1889-1917**

Scope and Content Note

Contains scrapbooks, clippings, and photographs related to Cahill's projects, primarily his funerary architecture.

Box 1, Flat Files **IV. Project Records, 1909-1938**

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by project, within subseries.

Scope and Content Note

Contains specifications, correspondence, photographs, and drawings of projects, including the Cypress Abbey Cemetery in San Francisco, the Diamond Head Cemetery in Honolulu, St. Mary's Cemetery Mausoleum in Sacramento. The only residential project in the collection is the Skaggs residence in Piedmont (2 photographs). Includes material written and collected by Cahill on the San Francisco Civic Center, including a 1909 letter of protest sent to the San Francisco Chronicle (but not published) opposing the opening of the Civic Center design contest to architects worldwide instead of limiting it to west coast architects.

A. Files

B. Drawings

Box 1, 2 ArtifactsV. Cahill World Map Company , 1913-1933

Scope and Content Note

Consists of brochures and promotional materials related to the company, a three-dimensional octahedral map, and an embossing stamp.

A. Textual Records

B. Artifacts