

**THE ARDEN FAMILY PAPERS, 1884-1950, (#285)  
( 1.3 cubic feet; 4 DB; 1 F/O)**

**by: Grace M. Angle, March 1991**

**Biography**

Henry Arden, a graduate of Cambridge, England, came to the United States in 1867 after a quarrel with his family. He went directly to Cincinnati. Observation during that trip by railroad led to his invention of the Arden Car Elevator for transferring freight from broad gauge to narrow gauge roadbeds. (U.S. Patent No. 77,706, according to Juliette Arden). The idea was developed and used by the railroads but Mr. Arden received no compensation in spite of the patent. The family shortly moved to New York where four children were born. Mr. Arden was admitted to the New York bar in 1890 and became a successful lawyer according to his daughter, Juliette.

Seven years of litigation over the railroads' use of the idea for the Arden Car Elevator resulted in defeat. In 1895 Mr. Arden became ill and moved to California for the climate. Shortly after he invented a "magnetic ore separator". This idea was allegedly stolen by the steel companies according to Juliette Arden who called it "the second great steal". She also claimed that a number of other inventions patented by her father were stolen. Henry Arden died in 1912.

There is no biographical information in the papers about Henry B. Arden and very little about Juliette Arden who signed many of her letters as "trustee" for her father's estate. She seems to have been active in church work both as a volunteer and an employee at least briefly. She wrote and had published privately a manuscript entitled "Cole 200 to 1920" which traces the family name Cole through English history and tried to have published a manuscript entitled "The Lifted Veil". It is evident from the material that Juliette Arden and her brother Henry or Harry were not compatible.

**Scope and Content**

This collection includes papers that were important to Henry, Henry B. and Juliette Arden. There is some confusion caused by the names of father and son. Juliette referred to her father as Henry, never as Harry or Henry B. Early patents, granted before his death in 1912 may have been granted to the father. All documents or correspondence later than 1912 obviously relate to the son. There are a number of patents granted by the U.S. and several by Canada, a few perhaps to the father, the others to the son, and one to Juliette for a gas stove broiler. A number of legal documents, originals or copies, relate to efforts by the son to raise funds to manufacture machinery or equipment or to develop engineering ideas such as strengthening levees on the Mississippi, building a ships' canal and a channel tunnel. His correspondence relates to such projects also, there is extensive correspondence with the W.H. de Udy & Co. of Montreal, Canada in reference to the organization of a syndicate to finance the manufacture of steel from iron separated from sands. The sparse correspondence identified with his father is largely personal.

Juliette Arden's correspondence is extensive. It includes many pleas to the rich and/or famous to right the alleged wrongs done to her father in prior years. Her early correspondence is related to a broiler for gas stoves that she invented and had patented, (March 26, 1912 Patent No. 585,734) and a legal suit arising from this. Other early correspondence relates to an unsolicited welfare plan developed for the American Sugar Refining Co. The only extraordinary letter from this early period

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is one to Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace (November 7, 1915) about Juliette's concern for Paris during World War I.

Also included are a number of letters detailing attempts to sell in England an ore reduction process invented by her father. Sir John Beverly Tomlinson of Toronto, Canada and Mr. T.W. Ridley of England were involved in this.

The thirties were evidently years of real or imagined financial hardship. Numerous letters recounting the alleged wrongs done to her father by the unauthorized use of his inventions were addressed to the famous, rich or powerful. A few of these also proffered advice about cures for cancer and other physical problems. Among the people to whom such letters were addressed were Col. Charles Lindbergh, Senators Hiram Johnson, Robert Wagner and Joseph Robinson, Presidents Roosevelt and Coolidge, Col. Howe (an aide to President Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. William Vanderbilt, J.P. Morgan, William Randolph Hearst, Pierre du Pont, Henry Ford and Mrs Harry Payne Whitney.

The remainder of the collection consists of miscellaneous notes on a variety of subjects, blue prints of machinery and equipment, a few personal artifacts (theater ticket stubs, invitations, etc.) and family photographs.

### **Provenance**

This collection was found in the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana. It was decided by the Archivist to remove it and make it a separate manuscript collection.

### **Container List**

#### **SERIES 1: PATENTS, LEGAL DOCUMENTS, REPORTS**

#### **Box      Folder**

1	1	Arden Patents (Henry B. and Juliette)
	2	Arden, Juliette B. <u>Cole, 200-1900 A.D.</u> Tercentenary Edition 1920.
	3	Chemical Analysis of Ores.
	4	"International Waterways Commission Reports," 1906 and 1907.
	5	Legal Documents, 1896-1919.
	7	Legal Documents, 1920-1938.
	8	Memorandum, Beaumont Tunneling Machine.
	9	"Mississippi River Improvements" (Lecture by Arthur E. Morgan).
	10	Statements re Machinery, Property, and the Ship Canal.

## SERIES 2: CORRESPONDENCE

2	1	Henry Arden, 1884-1893.
	2	H.B. Arden, 1903-1909.
	3	1910-1919.
	4	1920-1928.
	5	H.B. Arden Correspondence 1929-1940.
	6	Juliette Arden, 1910-1918.
	7	1920-1930.
	8	1933-1943.

## SERIES 3: NOTES, PERSONAL ARTIFACTS, PRICE LISTS, VOUCHERS

3	1	Acts re the Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Ship Canal Company.
	2	Miscellaneous Notes of Juliette Arden ( c. 1903-1920).
	3	Miscellaneous Notes, January 1917-September 1942.
	4	Miscellaneous Notes, n.d.
	5	Newspaper clippings, 1848-1914.
	6	Personal artifacts.
	7	Price Lists, Insurance voucher, Invoices.
	8	Blueprints, 1906-1929.
	9	Blueprints, n.d.

## SERIES 4: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1907-1925

4	1	People 1908-1925.
	2	People, n.d.
	3	Buildings, n.d.
	4	Photoprints and one illustration for Juliette Arden's book.
	5	Negatives, August 1907-April 1909.
	6	1913-1917.

	7	n.d.
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**Grace M. Angle, March 1991**  
**Stella Roberts**