

BROOKLYN NAVY | YARD

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives Guide to the Louis George Baumler collection 1921 – 1945 MC/65

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Building 77, 141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 801, Brooklyn, NY 11205

Finding aid produced on: March 9, 2026
Description is in English.

Title

Louis George Baumler collection

Creator

Plageman, Lorraine

1921 – 1945

Quantity

4 bound volumes, 8 objects

Language Of Materials

English.

Call Number

MC/65

Administrative/Biographical History

Louis George Baumler lived in New York City, worked as a carpenter and was employed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Ernest William Gordon lived in New York City, worked as a plumber and was employed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard was established in 1801 and served as one of the nation's premier naval shipbuilding and repair facilities for the next 165 years. During this time, more than 230 naval warships and auxiliary vessels were launched and over 5,000 were serviced. The first ship produced at the Yard was the USS Ohio in 1817, and the first dry dock was completed in 1851. During the Civil War, the Yard employed 6,000 people, and by 1938 that number had risen to 10,000. At the height of World War II, the Yard was New York state's largest industrial enterprise, with 70,000 reporting for work daily. By the time the US Navy vacated the premises, the property had grown to encompass 291 acres, with 270 buildings, 24 miles of railroad tracks, 23,278 linear feet of crane tracks, 18 miles of paved roads, 16,495 feet of berthing space, 9 piers, 6 dry docks, and 22 shops housing 98 different trades.

In 1966, the Navy decommissioned the Yard and the property began a second life as an industrial park. The City of New York purchased the site from the federal government for private commercial use, establishing a non-profit organization to transform the site into a job-generating industrial campus. The Yard has been managed by the mission driven Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC), which made a commitment to reinvest in the Yard's infrastructure and diversify its tenant base beyond heavy industry to also include design, 2 manufacturing, and art, while reestablishing the Yard as a leading national and international model of urban manufacturing growth. Today, it is a diverse ecosystem of over 400 businesses and more than 8,000 employees, the product of years of careful planning, fundraising, and political partnership. The Yard continues to evolve, building on its history as the economic heart of Brooklyn.

Scope And Content

This collection consists of four bound items and 8 objects. Of the bound items, there is a copy of American Machinists Library for 1921, The Bluejackets' Manual from 1943, Practical Mathematics from 1945, and a pocket-sized, military-issued New Testament Psalms, which is undated. There are also four gold buttons, three pins from the Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America, and an

over-sized wooden box labeled "Vibration Section M-96."

Access Points

Waterfront , Labor and Yard Workers

Administrative Information

Related Lots: 2018.003

Access And Use

Conditions Governing Access This collection is open for research.

Physical Access One item in this collection is fragile and extremely heavy.

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Collection Contents

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