

# Guide to the Ithiel Town papers

MS 499



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

August 1981

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 499

**CREATOR:** Town, Ithiel, 1784-1844

**TITLE:** Ithiel Town papers

**DATES:** 1801-1855

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.75 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence from John Allan, William Hayward and Theodore Strong, a notebook of mathematical exercises, photostatic copies of letters of patent for improvements on bridges and one architectural drawing of Jones Court, built in New York City for James I. Jones. Also included is a scrapbook assembled by Town's daughter, Etha Town Peters.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0499>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0499>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were the gifts of William T. Peters, son-in-law of Ithiel Town, 1858, and of the Collector's Shop, New Haven, Connecticut, 1939. The negatives for the photostatic copies were loaned by C. W. Whittlesey in 1941.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Ithiel Town Papers (MS 499). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ithiel Town (1784-1844), architect; first major work was Center Church in New Haven, Connecticut.; subsequently designed many buildings in New Haven, Hartford, New York City, Indianapolis, Raleigh, North Carolina.; worked in partnerships based in New York, 1827- ; in 1820 was granted a patent for a truss bridge and became known as the foremost bridge-builder in the United States.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence from John Allan, William Hayward and Theodore Strong, a notebook of mathematical exercises, photostatic copies of letters of patent for improvements on bridges and one architectural drawing of Jones Court, built in New York City for James I. Jones. Also included is a scrapbook assembled by Town's daughter, Etha Town Peters.

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## Collection Contents

### Original accession

#### Correspondence

##### John Allan:

b. 1, f. 1	2 ALS to Ithiel Town	1834, 1840
b. 1, f. 1	ALS to William T. Peters	1847
b. 1, f. 2	William Hayward: ALS to Ithiel Town	1831
b. 1, f. 2	Theodore Strong: 2 ALS to Ithiel Town	1816
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">Mathematical exercises</a>	1801-?
b. 1, f. 4	<a href="#">Letters of patent for improvements on bridges (photostatic copies)</a>	1820, 1855
b. 2	Architectural drawing of Jones Court	Circa 1826-1828
b. 1, f. 5	Etha L. (Town) Peters: scrapbook of drawings and engravings	1838 January

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Architects  
Mathematics

### **Genres / Formats**

Albums (Books)

### **Names**

Allan, John, 1777-1863  
Hayward, William  
Peters, Etha L. Town, 1809-1871  
Strong, Theodore, 1779-1855  
Town, Ithiel, 1784-1844