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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers

GEN MSS 1155



by Karen Spicher

2014 August

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1155

**CREATOR:** Gilman, O. B. (Osmon B.), approximately 1868-

**TITLE:** O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman papers

**DATES:** 1880s-1962

**BULK DATES:** 1915-1947

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.05 linear feet (17 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers contain correspondence, including incoming letters and outgoing carbons relating to O. B. Gilman's businesses, 1915-1920s, and to Idahurst Kennels, the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, and other dog breeding organizations, 1930s-1947, including correspondence with Leon F. Whitney, veterinarian, executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society, and donor of taxidermy mounts of show dogs to Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History; accounts and other papers relating to O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer, 1915-1919, the United Soda Fountain Company, 1920-1931, and the V. A. Nielsen Company, 1919-1927; breeding records, pedigrees, awards, and other records of Idahurst Kennels, 1890s-1940s; accounts, records of meetings, membership pins, award ribbons, and other papers relating to the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s, including printed catalogs and other records of shows, 1925-1944; show catalogs and newsletters of the American Spaniel Club and other dog breeding organizations, circa 1920s-1960s; photographs of the Gilmans and of dog shows, circa 1930s, and circa 150 photographs and drawings of cocker spaniels bred by the Gilmans and others, many annotated, circa 1880s-1940s; clippings, most relating to the Gilmans, Idahurst Kennels, and the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s; and other papers including glass negative photographic reproductions from Edward Topsell, *Historie of foure-footed beasts* (London: Iaggard, 1607).

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.gilmanob>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Osmon B. Gilman, 1959, and Leon F. Whitney, 1965.

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

The O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

### Preferred Citation

O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

### Processing Information

Former call numbers: MS Vault Shelves Gilman and MS Vault Gilman. In 2014, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. The collection was reclassified under one call number, and containers were renumbered. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donors, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

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## O. B. (Osmon B.) Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman

Osmon B. Gilman (also spelled Osman), born circa 1868, was a businessman and cocker spaniel breeder in Boston, Massachusetts. During the 1910s-1920s, Gilman was a stockholder in the Goodwin Car and Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of steel freight cars, New York City; owner of O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer, Boston; treasurer of the United Soda Fountain Company, later United-American Soda Fountain Company, Boston; and president of V. A. Nielsen Company, automotive electrical engineers. Gilman began breeding cocker spaniels in the 1880s and with his wife Sarah Dow Gilman (also called Sally), born circa 1866, he operated Idahurst Kennels in Dedham and other locations in Massachusetts, circa 1890s-1940s. The Gilmans were members and officers of the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, Boston, Massachusetts, 1890s-1940s.

## Scope and Contents

The O. B. Gilman and Sarah Dow Gilman Papers contain correspondence, including incoming letters and outgoing carbons relating to O. B. Gilman's businesses, 1915-1920s, and to Idahurst Kennels, the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, and other dog breeding organizations, 1930s-1947, including correspondence with Leon F. Whitney, veterinarian, executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society, and donor of taxidermy mounts of show dogs to Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History; accounts and other papers relating to O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer, 1915-1919, the United Soda Fountain Company, 1920-1931, and the V. A. Nielsen Company, 1919-1927; breeding records, pedigrees, awards, and other records of Idahurst Kennels, 1890s-1940s; accounts, records of meetings, membership pins, award ribbons, and other papers relating to the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s, including printed catalogs and other records of shows, 1925-1944; show catalogs and newsletters of the American Spaniel Club and other dog breeding organizations, circa 1920s-1960s; photographs of the Gilmans and of dog shows, circa 1930s, and circa 150 photographs and drawings of cocker spaniels bred by the Gilmans and others, many annotated, circa 1880s-1940s; clippings, most relating to the Gilmans, Idahurst Kennels, and the Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England, 1920s-1940s; and other papers including glass negative photographic reproductions from Edward Topsell, *Historie of foure-footed beasts* (London: Iaggard, 1607).

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence, 1915-1947. II. Business Records, 1915-1931. III. Cocker Spaniel Breeding, 1880s-1962. IV. Other Papers, 1931-1937.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1915-1947

1.68 linear feet (4 boxes)

Some letters enclose photographs of dogs or dog fur samples.

See also: Series III. Cocker Spaniel Breeding

Arranged chronologically.

b.1	Correspondence	1915
b.1	Correspondence	1916
b.1	Correspondence	1917
b.1	Correspondence	1918
b.1	Correspondence	1920-1922
b.1	Correspondence	1923-1925
b.1	Correspondence	1926-1928
b.1	Correspondence	1929 January- October
b.1	Correspondence	1929 October-1930 August
b.1	Correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1930 September
b.1	Correspondence	1930 September- October
b.1	Correspondence	1930 October- December
b.2	Correspondence	1931 January- February
b.2	Correspondence	1931 March
b.2	Correspondence	1931 April-June
b.2	Correspondence	1931 October- December
b.2	Correspondence	1932 January- October
b.2	Correspondence	1932 October- December

b. 2	Correspondence	1933 January-1934 June
b. 2	Correspondence	1934 July- November
b. 2	Correspondence	1934 November- December
b. 2	Correspondence	1935 January- February
b. 2	Correspondence	1935 February- March
b. 2	Correspondence	1935 March- April
b. 2	Correspondence	1935 May- August
b. 2	Correspondence	1935 September- October
b. 2	Correspondence	1935 October- November
b. 2	Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1935 November
b. 3	Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1935 December
b. 3	Correspondence	1936 January- June
b. 3	Correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1936 June
b. 3	Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1936 July
b. 3	Correspondence	1936 August
b. 3	Correspondence	1936 August- September
b. 3	Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1936 October
b. 3	Correspondence	1936 November
b. 3	Correspondence	1936 November- December
b. 3	Correspondence	1937 January- July

b. 4	Correspondence	1937 July
b. 4	Correspondence	1937 July- August
b. 4	Correspondence	1937 August- November
b. 4	Correspondence	1941 January- May
b. 4	Correspondence	1941 August
b. 4	Correspondence	1941 September
b. 4	Correspondence	1941 October- November
b. 4	Correspondence	1941 November- December
b. 4	Correspondence	1942 January- March
b. 4	Correspondence	1942 April
b. 4	Correspondence	1942 May
b. 4	Correspondence	1942 June-July
b. 4	Correspondence	1942 October
b. 4	Correspondence	[1942?]
b. 4	Correspondence	1943-1947



**Series II: Business Records, 1915-1931, undated***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Goodwin Car and Manufacturing Company		
b. 5	Printed material	undated
O. B. Gilman, Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer		
b. 5	Accounts and receipts	1915-1919, undated
b. 5	Printed material	undated
b. 5	Other papers	1917-1919, undated
United Soda Fountain Company		
b. 5	Bylaws	undated
b. 5	Accounts	1920 September- December
b. 5	Accounts	1921 January- June
b. 5	Accounts	1921 July- December
b. 5	Accounts	1922 January- June
b. 5	Accounts	1922 September- December
b. 5	Accounts	1923 January- June
b. 5	Accounts	1923 July- December
b. 5	Accounts	1924 January- February
b. 5	Accounts	1924 March- April
b. 5	Accounts	1924 May-June
b. 5	Accounts	1924 July- August
b. 6	Accounts	1924 August- October
b. 6	Accounts	1925
b. 6	Accounts	1926

## United Soda Fountain Company (continued)

b. 6	Accounts	1927-1928
b. 6	Accounts	1929
b. 6	Accounts	1930-1931
b. 6	Other financial papers	1923-1925, undated
b. 6	Printed material	undated
V. A. Nielsen Company		
b. 6	Accounts	1919-1920
b. 6	Accounts	1921
b. 6	Accounts	1922
b. 6	Accounts	1923-1927
b. 6	Other papers	1920-1925, undated

**Series III: Cocker Spaniel Breeding, 1880s-1962, undated***3.32 linear feet (10 boxes)*

Some materials are accompanied by correspondence.

Idahurst Kennels		
b. 6	American Kennel Club stud book registrations	1921-1931, undated
b. 6	Awards	1904-1922
b. 14 (Oversize)	Awards	1890-1907
b. 7	Breeding certificates <i>4 Folders</i>	1920s-1940s
b. 7	"Guest register"	1936-1938
b. 7	Pedigrees	1928-1937, undated
b. 7	Pedigrees and other papers (removed from binder) <i>3 Folders</i>	1917-1953, undated
b. 7	Printed material	undated
b. 7	Unidentified	1890s-1930s
Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England		
b. 8	Account book	1921-1933
b. 8	Accounts	1929-1934
b. 8	Accounts	1936
b. 15	Award to O. B. Gilman	1944
b. 8	Bylaws and incorporation	1921-1934
b. 8	Meetings (dinner menus) <i>2 Folders</i>	1923-1934, undated
b. 8	Meetings (reports)	1931-1936, undated
b. 8	Meetings (roll book)	1945-1947
b. 8	Membership lists	1930-1932, undated
b. 15	Membership pins	undated
b. 8	Shows (award ribbons)	1925
b. 8	Shows	1928
b. 9	Shows	1929

## Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England (continued)

b. 9	Shows	1930-1931
b. 9	Shows	1932
b. 9	Shows	1934-1937
b. 9	Shows	1939
b. 9	Shows	1941
b. 14 (Oversize)	Shows	1942
b. 9	Shows	1943-1944
b. 9	Shows	undated
b. 9	Other papers <i>3 Folders</i>	1928-1936, undated
Other Organizations		
b. 10	American Spaniel Club <i>2 Folders</i>	1930-1962
b. 10	Dog show catalogs <i>3 Folders</i>	1928-1929
b. 10	Printed material <i>2 Folders</i>	1931-1960, undated
Photographs and Drawings See also: Series I. Correspondence.		
b. 11	Cocker spaniels (photographs) <i>10 Folders</i>	[1880s-1940s]
b. 12	Cocker spaniels (photographs) <i>2 Folders</i>	[1880s-1940s]
b. 16 (Oversize)	Cocker spaniels (photographs)	[1880s-1940s]
b. 12	Cocker spaniels (drawings)	[1880s-1940s]
b. 16 (Oversize)	Cocker spaniels (drawings) <i>2 Folders</i>	[1880s-1940s]
b. 15	Cocker spaniel (plaque)	undated
b. 12	Cocker spaniel shows (photographs)	[circa 1930s]
b. 12	Gilman, O. B.; Gilman, Sarah Dow; and cocker spaniels (photographs)	[circa 1930s]
b. 12	Other people and cocker spaniels (photographs) <i>3 Folders</i>	[1880s-1940s]
b. 12	Trumbull, John; and Tumbull, Harriet (photographs of paintings)	1911, undated
b. 12	Unidentified people (photographs)	[1880s-1940s]

## Photographs and Drawings (continued)

b. 12	Unidentified places (photographs) <i>2 Folders</i>	[circa 1930s]
b. 16 (Oversize)	Unidentified places (photographs)	[circa 1930s]
Clippings		
b. 13	Clippings (scrapbook)	1920s-1930s
b. 13	Clippings	1927
b. 13	Clippings <i>2 Folders</i>	1928
b. 13	Clippings	1929
b. 13	Clippings	1930
b. 13	Clippings	1931
b. 13	Clippings	1933-1936
b. 13	Clippings, unsorted <i>2 Folders</i>	[circa 1920s-1940s]

**Series IV: Other Papers, 1931-1937, undated**

*0.21 linear feet (1 box + 2 folders)*

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b. 13	Printed material and notes <i>2 Folders</i>	1931-1937, undated
b. 17	Edward Topsell, <i>Historie of foure-footed beasts</i> (London: Iaggard, 1607) (excerpts; undated glass negative reproduction)	

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## 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

Automobiles -- Design and construction  
Bakeries -- Massachusetts -- Boston  
Businessmen -- Massachusetts -- Boston  
Cocker spaniels  
Cocker spaniels -- Breeding  
Cocker spaniels -- Pedigrees  
Cocker spaniels -- Pictorial works  
Dog breeders -- Massachusetts -- Boston  
Dogs -- Breeding -- Societies, etc.  
Dog shows -- Massachusetts -- Boston  
Soda fountains -- Design and construction

### Genres / Formats

Accounts -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Awards -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Buttons (information artifacts) -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Cabinet photographs -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Drawings (visual works) -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Glass negatives -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Pedigrees -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Photographs -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Plaques (flat objects) -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Visiting cards -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century

### Occupations

Businessmen -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century  
Dog breeders -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 19th century  
Dog breeders -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- 20th Century

### Names

Gilman, O. B. (Osmon B.), approximately 1868-  
Gilman, Sarah Dow, approximately 1866-  
Whitney, Leon F. (Leon Fradley), 1894-1973

### Corporate Bodies

American Kennel Club  
American Spaniel Club  
Cocker Spaniel Breeders' Club of New England  
Goodwin Car and Manufacturing Company  
Idahurst Kennels  
O. B. Gilman Specialty Biscuit Manufacturer  
United Soda Fountain Company  
V. A. Nielsen Company

### Contributors

Gilman, O. B. (Osmon B.), approximately 1868-  
Gilman, Sarah Dow, approximately 1866-  
Topsell, Edward, 1572-1625? (Historie of foure-footed beastes)