



# ArchivesSpace

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## Association of Book Travelers records 4078367

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Chaney, Beverly, Jr
<b>Title:</b>	Association of Book Travelers records
<b>ID:</b>	4078367
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0051
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1925-1984
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.67 linear feet 1 box 1 oversize folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection includes Bev Chaney's research, notes, interviews and correspondence related to the publication <i>The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984</i> .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Association of Book Travelers records; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical sketch

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Beverly Chaney, Jr. was a traveling sales representative, or book traveler, for 38 years with three major publishing houses including 20 years with Houghton Mifflin. Chaney acted as president of the Association of Book Travelers from 1967 and 1968. In the early 1980s, he was appointed by the Association of Book Travelers to compile and edit a 60 page illustrated chapbook entitled *The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984* to commemorate the centennial of the association.

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## Biographical sketch

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The Association of Book Travelers (or ABT) began as a fraternal order called the Brotherhood of Commercial Travelers in New York City in 1884. It is the oldest known book trade organization in the United States.

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## Biographical sketch

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The organization underwent several name changes throughout its formative years. The Brotherhood of Commercial Travelers membership was open to anyone connected with the book trade or the stationary trade. In 1925, the ABT was founded as the Associated Book Travelers. Membership was restricted to publishers' male sales representatives. In 1940, the Brotherhood of Commercial Travelers and the Associated Book Travelers merged and became the Brotherhood of Associated Book Travelers. Membership included both 'house reps' who were salaried employees of one particular publishing house and 'commission reps' who were self-employed and represent a number of publishing houses. Historically, the ABT was an all male organization, however women began to join the organization in the 1970s. Bebe Cole was the association's first female member and became its first female president in 1979 and 1980.

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## Biographical sketch

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The commemorative chapbook entitled *The First 100 Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984* was compiled and edited by Beverly Chaney, Jr., known as Bev to his friends and colleagues, and the ABT historical association. It was composed, printed and bound by The Stinehour Press in Lunenburg, Vermont in a special limited edition of 750 copies. Copies were distributed to all ABT members in attendance at the 1984 centennial celebration at Windows on the World restaurant atop the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Remaining copies were also made available for purchase from ABT for a small sum.

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## Scope and Content

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The collection contains both institutional records of the Association of Book Travelers and personal papers of Bev Chaney in relation to his work on *The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984*.

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## Scope and Content

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This collection includes: correspondence, manuscripts, notes, newspaper and magazine clippings, ABT meeting minutes, ABT member photographs, printed materials, interviews with ABT members past and present (most notably Alfred A. Knopf), and commemorative printed materials including the 50th anniversary pamphlet and final and advance copies of *The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984*. The main theme of the collection is book selling practices of members of the Association of Book Travelers from its inception as the Brotherhood of Commercial Travelers in 1884 to its centennial anniversary in 1984.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### **Revision Description**

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-07-29 2019-05-20

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Records: Source of acquisition--Chaney, Beverley, Jr. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1985.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

Gift of Beverley Chaney, Jr., 1985.

### **Processing Information**

Papers Processed BRC/RL 12/--/85.

### **Processing Information**

Papers Reprocessed Jenny Mathias (Pratt Institute MSLIS 2011), June 2010 06/--/2010.

### **Processing Information**

Finding aid written Jenny Mathias (Pratt Institute MSLIS 2011), June 2010 06/--/2010.

## Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Book industries and trade -- United States -- Societies, etc -- History
  - minutes (administrative records)
  - Photographic prints
  - Booksellers and bookselling
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## Collection Inventory

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Association of Book Travelers Records, 1925-1984		
Title/Description	Instances	
Constitutions, 1925 1935 1967, 1925, 1935, 1967	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence, 1980-1984	box 1	folder 2
<i>The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984</i>	box 1	folder 3
Manuscripts for <i>The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984</i>	box 1	folder 4
First Draft, 1983 October 21	box 1	
Manuscripts for <i>The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984</i>	box 1	folder 5
Working Copy, 1983 December 21	box 1	
Meeting Minutes, 1980-1984	box 1	folder 6
Printed Material, 1967 and 1980s, 1967, 1980s	box 1	folder 7
Research for <i>The First Hundred Years: Association of Book Travelers: 1884-1984</i>	box 1	folder 8
<i>50 Years of Good Fellowship in the B-C-T, 1934</i>	box 1	folder 9
3 oversized photographs of Association of Book Travelers' gatherings, 1937 1939 1961, 1937, 1939, 1961	box 14-P-1	

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