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Arthur von Briesen Papers, 1895-1929 (bulk 1905-1920): Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number:	MC034
Location:	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Public Policy Papers. 65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size:	6.85 linear feet (11 boxes, 1 oversize box)
Language(s) of material:	English. Nearly half of the Arthur von Briesen Papers appear in German with only a few documents translated.
Abstract:	The papers housed in the Arthur von Briesen Papers document the later years of Arthur von Briesen (1843-1920), a New York City lawyer and philanthropist. Von Briesen, a German-American patent lawyer, served as President of the Legal Aid Society of New York (1889-1916), and as president of the Alliance of Legal Aid Societies of America. Aside from emphasizing his work with the Legal Aid Society, the papers also highlight a variety of other areas--professional, political, and philanthropic--actively pursued by von Briesen. The papers illuminate the passionate side of von Briesen in the private correspondence with his family and others, as well as his

cultural interests and engagement within the
German-American community of New York City.

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	1
<u>Biography of Arthur von Briesen</u>	4
<u>Description</u>	4
<u>Arrangement</u>	8
<u>Access and Use</u>	9
<u>Acquisition and Appraisal</u>	9
<u>Processing and Other Information</u>	9
<u>Subject Headings</u>	10
<u>Contents List</u>	
<u>Series 1: General Correspondence, 1895-1920</u>	11
<u>Series 2: Legal Aid Society, 1900-1918</u>	16
<u>Series 3: Legal Files, 1907-1929</u>	18
<u>Series 4: General Subject File, 1905-1920</u>	19
<u>Series 5: Organizations, 1895-1920</u>	20
<u>Series 6: Family Correspondence, 1908-1920</u>	22
<u>Series 7: Printed Materials, 1914-1920</u>	24

Biography of Arthur von Briesen

Arthur von Briesen, born into German aristocracy in 1843, came to the United States after completing his early education in northern Germany in 1858. He is said to have lived through bouts of extreme poverty while his family struggled to settle in their adoptive country. After responding to President Lincoln's call for troops and fighting with the First New York Volunteer Engineers, von Briesen returned to New York City and worked for *Scientific American*. A highly resourceful and ambitious man, von Briesen simultaneously studied law at New York University and was admitted to the Bar in 1868. By 1874 von Briesen ran his own firm, practicing patent law primarily. Sixteen years after his immigration, Arthur von Briesen had established himself as a distinguished lawyer.

As a German immigrant, von Briesen took great interest in the German-American community in New York City as well as in other areas of the United States. He was active in a number of organizations and publications meant to speak to and on the behalf of immigrated Germans. Such organizations included the Deutscher Gesellig-wissenschaftlicher Verein, Deutsches Hospital, Liederkranz, and Deutsche Gesellschaft. His interests and philanthropic energies, however, were not exclusively German. As a leading member of the Good Government Club, von Briesen carried an influential voice in municipal as well as state legislation. Von Briesen was president of the Legal Aid Society (1890), president of the Political and Citizens Union (1896), chairman of the Ellis Island Investigating Committee (1903), president of the New York Roosevelt League (1904), and a delegate to the Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists in St. Louis (1904). He also served on various committees and was a member of a number of charity organizations in New York City. For the services rendered to the French and German citizens of New York in connection with the Legal Aid Society, von Briesen received the Cross of the Legion of Honor from the French government in 1905, and the Order of the Crown of Prussia from Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1906.

Arthur von Briesen's greatest deed and gift to New York City was indeed his dedication and impassioned involvement as President of the Legal Aid Society. As stated in the organization's constitution of 1908, its purpose was, "to render legal aid, gratuitously if necessary, to all who appear worthy thereof, and who are unable to procure assistance elsewhere and to promote measures for their protection." The Society's aim was to avoid litigation through negotiation, saving the client both time and money. The Legal Aid Society was originally founded as the *Der Deutsche Rechts-Schutz-Verein* in 1876 by a group of German citizens concerned with the abuses and hardships of newly arrived (German) immigrants in New York. Arthur von Briesen's rise to the Society's presidency in 1889 marked the beginnings of a larger movement in legal aid around the country. In the immediate decades thereafter, branches of the Legal Aid Society appeared in other larger cities around the country.

Arthur von Briesen resigned as president of the Legal Aid Society in 1916 due to his views on the World War, then in progress. Not entirely convinced that Germany was to blame for the war, von Briesen did not want his views to threaten the future of the Legal Aid Society. Although not present in this collection, von Briesen is said to have published a number of pro-German articles (or at least calls for American neutrality--references to these are made in Series 6 of this collection) in 1914, and in 1915/6 his name was associated with the pro-German activities of George Viereck. Von Briesen became active in a number of organizations engaged in relieving the hardships wrought by war in Europe--medical aid and food shipments, primarily. And as the war worsened and exchanges with his family in Germany grew dimmer and disheartening, von Briesen too became disheartened. He died shortly after the War's close, in May 1920.

Description

The bulk of the papers are dedicated to Arthur von Briesen's general interest and work in philanthropy and politics, both within and beyond the municipal realm of New York City. The files of the Legal Aid Society, of which von Briesen was President for over twenty-five years, make up more than half of this collection and are for the most part complete. As Legal Aid Society President, von Briesen participated in all aspects of the organization--administration, finance, publicity, the activities of its six branches, and individual case work. The collection therefore holds the Legal Aid financial files, much of its case work, and extensive correspondence between von Briesen and the Society's various directors and attorneys. The rest of the collection consists of files from his own law firm as well as from the various professional, charitable, and cultural organizations in which he took part, including the National Roosevelt League (he served as president), the Merchants' Association of New York City, Germanistic Society of America (von Briesen was a charter member), and Civil War veterans organizations. Also found are papers, printed material, and correspondence regarding German-American activities before, during, and after the First World War. Nearly half of the Arthur von Briesen Papers appear in German with only a few documents translated. The hand-written correspondence is at times difficult to read as some of it is in *Fraktur*.

Series 1: General Correspondence, (1895-1920)

The letters in this series are arranged alphabetically, and then chronologically. The bulk of this series dates from 1914 until his death in 1920 and the date span determines the correspondence's topics. It includes correspondence with friends and family in Germany which discuss his views about the war, as well as his interest in related events and political attitudes. Topics include the plight of war-embroiled Europe, treaty implications, American neutrality, the increasing discrimination against German-Americans in New York City, matters of wartime legal and trade interests, and the organization of various relief groups.

There are also letters which depict another side of von Briesen's time and person. The Turnbridge correspondence, for example, highlights von Briesen's dedication in helping the needy and presents the patient, caring and creative side of him. (Turnbridge was a "schizophrenic" elderly woman who relied on von Briesen's correspondence and support.) Among other items of this sort, there are many letters which reveal von Briesen's concern for the poor, the homeless, and orphaned children.

Also worth mentioning are some letters concerning the Legal Aid Society: In a letter to Kennedy Tod in 1916, von Briesen offers the only explanation of his resignation from the Legal Aid Society in the entire collection. In 1919, von Briesen also writes Hughes (his successor as President of the Legal Aid Society) and Leonard McGee (Attorney-in-Chief of the Legal Aid Society). In his letters to the latter, von Briesen reprimands McGee and the organization in general for abandonment of the moral pursuits of the Society.

There are a few publications about the history of Legal Aid in the United States with most of them focusing on New York City and the achievements of Arthur von Briesen. One such book, *The Legal Aid Society: 1876-1951* by Harrison Tweed, the husband of von Briesen's daughter Barbara, is introduced by another, earlier author of a piece on the Legal Aid Society, Reginald Heber Smith (*Justice and the Poor*).

Two folders entitled "Quirksome Arthur von Briesen" highlights the eccentric, humorous, and creative side of von Briesen. He pokes and chastises his cobbler and tailor as well as himself, orders exotic wines and animals for his lavish Staten Island estate, writes corny and touching poetry to friends and family, in addition to other amusing items.

Series 2: Legal Aid Society, (1900-1918)

This series consists of seven types of material arranged alphabetically which together reveal the Legal Aid Society as it functioned during the last ten years of von Briesen's Presidency. Von Briesen became its President in 1890, although the earlier years of his term are not represented in this collection. The papers in this series are

from the office of the President (von Briesen) and therefore should not be considered the complete files of the Legal Aid Society. Von Briesen was, however, interested and dedicated to all aspects of the Society, the welfare of its directors and attorneys in its branch offices, as well as the people it served throughout New York City and beyond.

The Administrative Files hold the papers and correspondence of the Legal Aid Society officers and directors, arranged alphabetically, as well as committee activities and papers, correspondence from the branch offices, and official bulletins and reports. Within these areas, the files are arranged chronologically. The bulk dates of these papers are 1905-1914. The following is important to note: Arthur von Briesen, as President, corresponded with all members of the Society as well as many of its clients. His papers in this series detail everything from committee appointments to resignations, and include individual case work, his work to allay tensions among the Society's other administrators, and public relations work.

The papers of the various officers throughout the years warrant brief description. Some folders list both the name and position held by the person while others are headed with just a name. In most cases this is due to an overlapping of responsibilities and functions. Most of the officers and directors of the Legal Aid Society served on one or more committees and their correspondence with von Briesen demonstrate a large breadth of information.

The Press Agent folder (the press agent was affiliated with the Main Office which was maintained by the Attorney-in-Chief) consists of interesting discussion of Legal Aid issues and the importance of their publication. The folders regarding committee work and branch offices require little explanation. The work done by Johnson and the Immigration Committee is noteworthy, however, and at the time greatly appreciated by von Briesen and the New York community at large and especially its immigrants. Johnson wrote a number of articles about "The Problem of Immigration," in which he stressed the importance of the "distribution of these immigrants for the good of the state." The committee (led by Johnson) did extensive work with the railroad systems in the East, making transportation more comfortable, easier and safer for immigrants travelling westward. The Bulletins and Reports folder holds only a few of those that must have circulated during von Briesen's administration.

Materials relating to the Alliance of Legal Aid Societies of America consist of correspondence between Arthur von Briesen and other lawyers and academics across the United States interested in Legal Aid work and the formation of a national alliance of Legal Aid Societies. Through close work with the Legal Aid Society of Chicago, von Briesen became the President of the Alliance of Legal Aid Society's of America, though his date of election is unclear.

The Benefit Events file consists of letters concerning the concerts and performances sponsored by the Legal Aid Society in order to raise money. The Cases file is arranged chronologically. The Financial Files consist of correspondence between the Treasurer (Windmüller) and Arthur von Briesen, financial reports and the fund raising activities of von Briesen. The Printed Material files contain both articles and press releases written by von Briesen and others.

Series 3: Legal Files, (1907-1929)

Only four major cases comprise the legal files of von Briesen and Schrenk and one (Cumaná & Carúpano Pier and Tramway Co.) was handled by von Briesen's son after von Briesen's death. All are patent cases.

The Cumaná & Carúpano Pier and Tramway Company files consist of correspondence between the company and other sources (such as their clients and shareholders). Von Briesen's law firm, Briesen & Knauth (later Briesen & Schrenk) served as counsel to the Cumaná & Carúpano Pier & Tramway Co. which operated lighthouses, piers, and power plants in Venezuela. Most of the correspondence was handled by Otto van

Schrenk who also served as a director and officer of the company. Von Briesen seems to have no direct relation to the company; the records continue long after his death, and there is no clear reason for these records to have been in von Briesen's papers. Records relate to income, stock, finances, tax status of the company. Among the items present are annual reports, financial audits, and general correspondence.

Series 4: General Subject File, (1895-1920)

This series is arranged topically by subject, and then chronologically. It contains information on von Briesen's many areas of work and interest, including his efforts to shape legislation, his activities within the German-American community, and his World War I reflections and opinions.

The nature of the legislative interests (federal and state) are various and span a number of years which indicates his devotion and general interest in political affairs and the welfare of America's citizens. Issues include immigration policies, loan shark bills, and domestic patent statutes.

The nature of the international patent and trade issues are just that -- the major issues are the Panama trade zone, Cuban patent rights and patent and trade freedom with Germany and the rest of Europe.

The Carl Holland files detail the dire straits in which post-war Germany found itself. Carl Holland came to the United States trying to develop business transactions to help Germany out of starvation and disaster. Von Briesen corresponded with Holland before the latter came to the United States, and besides trying to establish contacts for Holland, he discussed at length the situation in Germany and that country's relations with other European states and the United States. The coal issue (a central issue due to Germany's loss of Alsace Lorraine) as well as the desperate situation with transportation are discussed in detail.

There are a series of clippings which have to do with the performance of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar on 28 March 1916. Apparently the performance was organized through the German Theater (Deutsches Theater) and von Briesen was its spokesperson. In one of the clippings, he is quoted at length in the Volkszeitung for expressing his feelings towards "Deutschtum" and the hope that the world could continue to be brought together, regardless of nationality, through art and science. The efforts of the German Theater underscore this idea.

The War Issues file contains information on diverse issues and all are intensely debated by von Briesen. Issues discussed include: discrimination against German-Americans in America and particularly New York City; the morality of the Red Cross; von Briesen's response to anti-German propaganda; the legal implications of European treaty obligations; von Briesen's insistence on American neutrality. Newspaper clippings document these issues as well.

Series 5: Organizations, (1895-1920)

This series consists of an alphabetical arrangement of all the organizations and committees in which von Briesen participated and/or served. The natures of these organizations are varied, ranging from the political and philanthropic to the cultural and ethnic.

The more significant files in this series are the following:

Germanistic Society of America of which Arthur von Briesen was a charter member, Vice President and Directing Attorney. This organization was established through Columbia University in 1907.

National Roosevelt League of New York which von Briesen, and his good friend Carl Schurz led. Von Briesen

served on the National Board of Directors and as president. This series contains many of the organization's files and papers, along with its printed materials, written mostly by von Briesen, Schurz and George Viereck. The materials in this file is extensive and valuable for the history of the Roosevelt campaign of 1904. Most of the materials and efforts of the National Roosevelt League were directed to the German-Americans of New York.

The Merchants' Association of New York; in which von Briesen served as Chairman of both the Patent Committee and the Committee on the Protection of Industrial Property. He wrote a number of articles on wartime trade and patent issues. Other issues were the British mail censor and the complete ban on correspondence across enemy lines. The correspondence and papers in this file are extensive and informative.

East Prussian Relief Fund was an organization which interested and engaged von Briesen during the years of the First World War.

Series 6: Family Correspondence, (1908-1920)

The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent's last name. This series gives a broader understanding of von Briesen and his family, providing information as to particular members' location and activities.

Von Briesen's correspondence with his cousin Ernst Schenk (Schenk was the last name of many of von Briesen's family in Germany) particularly illuminates this point. Much of the correspondence is fact-filled in nature, caused in no small part by the English censors who made for irregular correspondence between the United States and Germany. Ernst's handwriting is difficult to understand, but its pattern, consistency, and near modern fraktur allow for relatively easy deciphering. The letters also reveal von Briesen's reverence and love for his family and mother-country. The letters on the whole tell about the war from both sides as Schenk's letters provide first-hand accounts of post-war Germany's disarray and severe food shortages (which von Briesen alleviated with food shipments) while von Briesen details the English censor and the stature of German-American citizens as "enemies" (or, at best "second-class-citizens").

In an unrelated but humorous matter, in a letter to Stanwood Menken concerning the choice of college for the grandson, von Briesen vehemently chooses Harvard over Princeton. In a letter dated April 10, 1920, there are three pages about why one should NOT go to Princeton.

Series 7: Printed Materials, (ca. 1914-1920)

This series contains 23 pamphlets, broadsides, and magazines, some in German, which discuss immigration, World War I, post-war Germany, and legal issues.

Arrangement

Organized into the following series:

Series 1: General Correspondence, (1895-1920)

Series 2: Legal Aid Society, (1900-1918)

Series 3: Legal Files, (1907-1929)

Series 4: General Subject File, (1895-1920)

Series 5: Organizations, (1895-1920)

Series 6: Family Correspondence, (1908-1920)

Series 7: Printed Materials, (ca. 1914-1920)

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from the Curator of the Public Policy Papers. Researchers are responsible for determining any copyright questions.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

The Arthur von Briesen Papers were purchased from the Warsaw Collection of Business Americana in 1947 by the Princeton University Library (Accession Number: AM13411). These papers are known to be incomplete as Mr. Warsaw--on a tip from a house wrecking concern--was unable to salvage all the records.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Arthur von Briesen Papers, Box and Folder Number; Public Policy Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Marta A. Hanewald in June 1993. Finding aid written by Marta A. Hanewald in June 1993.

Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Techbooks and Cristela García-Spitz on October 13, 2006.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Germanistic Society of America.
- Legal Aid Society (New York, N.Y.)
- Merchants' Association of New York.
- German Americans -- New York (N.Y.)
- Legal aid societies -- United States -- 20th century.
- Patent laws and legislation -- United States -- Cases -- 20th century.
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Civilian relief -- Germany.
- World War, 1914-1918 -- German Americans.
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Veterans.
- Case files.
- Correspondence.
- Legal correspondence, American.
- Lawyers -- New York (N.Y.)
- American history/Gilded Age, Populism, Progressivism
- Legal history
- World War I

Contents List

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
A, 1914-1920	1	1
Altman, B., 1917-1918	1	2
Argus Press Clipping Bureau, 1916	1	3

Series 1: General Correspondence, 1895-1 ... (Continued)

B, 1916-1919	1	4
Bag - Ban, 1908-1920	1	5
Bandelier, Fanny R., 1916-1918	1	6
Be, 1909-1920	1	7
Boardman, Catherine, 1916	1	8
Bo - Br, 1916-1926	1	9
Bur - Bus, 1916-1919	1	10
C, undated	1	11
Carnegie Foundation, 1911-1919	1	12
Cal - Cam, 1907-1920	1	13
Car - Cor, 1912-1917	1	14
Cra - Crl, 1911-1918	1	15
Cro - Cut, 1916-1920	1	16
Cromwell, George, 1907	1	17
D, 1916-1919	1	18
E, 1916-1920	1	19
F, 1912-1919	1	20
G, 1916-1919	1	21
Hag - Hau, 1908-1919	1	22
Hemphill, Alexander, 1918	1	23
Hea - Hum, 1908-1920	1	24
J, 1916-1920	1	25
Logan, 1919	1	26
Lorleberg, Laura, 1920	1	27
Lutz, Charles and Willi, 1916-1919	1	28

Series 1: General Correspondence, 1895-1 ... (Continued)

K, 1908-1920	1	29
Kaiserlich Deutsches Generalkonsulat (Imperial German Consulate General), 1914-1916	1	30
Knapp, Lucien and Kuttroff, Adolf, 1911-1919	1	31
Kingman, 1916	1	32
Knauth, 1908-1920	1	33
Kolff, Cornelius, 1906-1920	1	34
La - Le, 1918	1	35
Li - Ly, 1914-1920	1	36
Ma - Mc, 1911-1920	1	37
Me - Mu, 1907-1920	1	38
McGee, Leonard, 1917-1920	1	39
Mordecai, Gertrude, 1903-1920	1	40
N, 1906-1920	2	1
O, 1916	2	2
P, 1918-1919	2	3
Probst, Ilse, 1917-1919	2	4
Putnam, G. H., 1907-1911	2	5
Quirksome Arthur Von Briesen, 1906-1917	2	6
Quirksome Arthur Von Briesen, 1920	2	7
R, 1909-1919	2	8
Reynders, C., 1920	2	9
Riis, Jacob A., 1911-1918	2	10
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1917-1918	2	11
S, 1905-1920	2	12

Series 1: General Correspondence, 1895-1 ... (Continued)

Schoenstadt, Arthur, 1916-1917	2	13
Schepp, Leo, 1917-1920	2	14
Schirmer, Otilie, 1920	2	15
Schlegel, Philippa, 1913-1920	2	16
Schlender, Otto, 1920	2	17
Schling, Max, 1918-1920	2	18
Schneider, Anna, 1918	2	19
Schweitzer, Hugo and Adele, 1909-1916	2	20
Schraeder, Lucy, 1913	2	21
Schurz, Carl L., 1895-1920	2	22
Shepherd, William, 1916-1917	2	23
Shortt, William, 1911	2	24
Siemers, Edmund, 1916	2	25
Smyth, Nathan, 1916-1917	2	26
Stoiber, Louis, 1916-1917	2	27
Shess, John L., 1917-1919	2	28
T, 1916-1919	2	29
Tod, J. Kennedy, 1916-1919	2	30
Tombo, Rudolf, 1917-1920	2	31
Townsend, F.C., 1918-1919	2	32
Tucker, Lillian C., 1916-1919	2	33
Turnbridge, Virginia, undated	2	34
Turnbridge, Virginia, undated	2	35
U, 1916-1917	2	36
unidentified, undated	3	1

Series 1: General Correspondence, 1895-1 ... (Continued)

V, 1916-1920	3	2
Viereck, George, 1917-1920	3	3
Von Briesen, Arthur, 1916	3	4
W, 1914-1920	3	5
Wachter, Ferdinand, 1919	3	6
Wagner, Theodore B. and Caroline, 1919-1920	3	7
Werthheimer, S., undated	3	8
West Publishing Company, 1919	3	9
Wiebusch, Charles F., 1918-1920	3	10
Wiesel, Peter, 1917-1919	3	11
Writings, 1914	3	12
Writings, 1914-1915	3	13
Y, 1920	3	14

Series 2: Legal Aid Society, 1900-1918

Series Description

This series consists of seven types of material arranged alphabetically which together reveal the Legal Aid Society as it functioned during the last ten years of von Briesen's Presidency. Von Briesen became its President in 1890, although the earlier years of his term are not represented in this collection. The papers in this series are from the office of the President (von Briesen) and therefore should not be considered the complete files of the Legal Aid Society. Von Briesen was, however, interested and dedicated to all aspects of the Society, the welfare of its directors and attorneys in its branch offices, as well as the people it served throughout New York City and beyond.

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Administrative--Briesen, Arthur Von (President), 1904-1917	3	15-20
Administrative--Briesen, Arthur Von (President), 1900-1914	4	1-3
Administrative--Everett, A. Leo (Secretary), 1908-1913	4	4
Administrative--Gates, Merrill E. (Attorney-in-Chief), 1907-1909	4	5-6
Administrative--Johnson, J. Augustus, 1905-1913	4	7
Administrative--Kitchel, Cornelius, 1905-1914	4	8
Administrative--MacKenzie, Colin (Auditor), 1907-1914	4	9
Administrative--McGee, Leonard (Attorney-in-Chief), 1910-1914	4	10-11
Administrative--Schurtz, Carl (Vice-President), 1905-1914	4	12
Administrative--Stoiber, Louis, 1905	4	13

Series 2: Legal Aid Society, 1900-1918 ... (Continued)

Administrative--Stoiber, Louis, 1907-1913	5	1
Administrative--Taussig, Walter (Secretary), 1905	5	2
Administrative--Wardell, Allen (Treasurer), 1914	5	3
Administrative--Wiebusch, Charles, 1904-1907	5	4
Administrative--Windmuller, Louis (Treasurer), 1907-1913	5	5
Administrative--Press Agent(s), 1909-1914	5	6
Administrative--Immigration Committee, 1911-1913	5	7
Administrative--Law Committee, 1905-1914	5	8
Administrative--Branch for Seamen, 1905-1913	5	9
Administrative--Brooklyn Branch, 1907-1914	5	10
Administrative--East Side Branch, 1905-1913	5	11
Administrative--Harlem Branch, 1907-1913	5	12
Administrative--Nominating Committee, 1905-1916	5	13
Administrative--Uptown Branch, 1905	5	14
Administrative--West Side Branch, 1913	5	15
Administrative--Bulletins and Reports, 1905-1912	5	16
Administrative--Miscellaneous, 1905	5	17
Alliance of Legal Aid Societies of America, 1905-1912	5	18
Alliance of Legal Aid Societies of America--Convention of the Legal Aid Societies, 1912-1914	5	19
Alliance of Legal Aid Societies of America, 1913-1916	5	20-22
Benefit Events, 1905-1914	6	1
Cases, 1910-1917	6	2-9
Cases, 1904-1909	7	1-9
Financial Files--Correspondence with Treasurer, 1907-1914	7	10

Series 2: Legal Aid Society, 1900-1918 ... (Continued)

Financial Files--Financial Reports, 1905-1915	7	11
Financial Files--Fundraising, 1902-1914	7	12
Printed Material--Newspaper Clippings, 1905-1909	7	13
Printed Material--Articles/Press Releases, 1906-1918	7	14

Series 3: Legal Files, 1907-1929

Series Description

Only four major cases comprise the legal files of von Briesen and Schrenk and one (Cumaná & Carúpano Pier and Tramway Co.) was handled by von Briesen's son after von Briesen's death. All are patent cases.

The Cumaná & Carúpano Pier and Tramway Company files consist of correspondence between the company and other sources (such as their clients and shareholders). Von Briesen's law firm, Briesen & Knauth (later Briesen & Schrenk) served as counsel to the Cumaná & Carúpano Pier & Tramway Co. which operated lighthouses, piers, and power plants in Venezuela. Most of the correspondence was handled by Otto van Schrenk who also served as a director and officer of the company. Von Briesen seems to have no direct relation to the company; the records continue long after his death, and there is no clear reason for these records to have been in von Briesen's papers. Records relate to income, stock, finances, tax status of the company. Among the items present are annual reports, financial audits, and general correspondence.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Briesen and Schrenk - Cases - W.P. Dunham, 1920-1922	8	1
Briesen and Schrenk - Correspondence, 1907-1920	8	2
Briesen and Schrenk - Cases - George Sardou, 1923	8	3
Briesen and Schrenk - Cases - Paul Goffart, 1920-1923	8	4
Briesen and Knauth/Briesen and Schrenk Cumana and Carupano Pier and Tramway Co, 1910-1919	8	5-8

Series 4: General Subject File, 1905-1920

Series Description

This series is arranged topically by subject, and then chronologically. It contains information on von Briesen's many areas of work and interest, including his efforts to shape legislation, his activities within the German-American community, and his World War I reflections and opinions.

Series 4: General Subject File, 1905-192 ... (Continued)

The nature of the legislative interests (federal and state) are various and span a number of years which indicates his devotion and general interest in political affairs and the welfare of America's citizens. Issues include immigration policies, loan shark bills, and domestic patent statutes.

The nature of the international patent and trade issues are just that -- the major issues are the Panama trade zone, Cuban patent rights and patent and trade freedom with Germany and the rest of Europe.

The Carl Holland files detail the dire straits in which post-war Germany found itself. Carl Holland came to the United States trying to develop business transactions to help Germany out of starvation and disaster. Von Briesen corresponded with Holland before the latter came to the United States, and besides trying to establish contacts for Holland, he discussed at length the situation in Germany and that country's relations with other European states and the United States. The coal issue (a central issue due to Germany's loss of Alsace Lorraine) as well as the desperate situation with transportation are discussed in detail.

There are a series of clippings which have to do with the performance of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar on 28 March 1916. Apparently the performance was organized through the German Theater (Deutsches Theater) and von Briesen was its spokesperson. In one of the clippings, he is quoted at length in the Volkszeitung for expressing his feelings towards "Deutschtum" and the hope that the world could continue to be brought together, regardless of nationality, through art and science. The efforts of the German Theater underscore this idea.

The War Issues file contains information on diverse issues and all are intensely debated by von Briesen. Issues discussed include: discrimination against German-Americans in America and particularly New York City; the morality of the Red Cross; von Briesen's response to anti-German propaganda; the legal implications of European treaty obligations; von Briesen's insistence on American neutrality. Newspaper clippings document these issues as well.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
International Patent and Trade Issue, 1906-1916	8	9
Congressional Interests (State and Federal), 1905-1914	8	10
"Kladderadatsch", 1915	8	11
US Relief to Germany (re: Dr. Alice Hamilton), 1920	8	12
German Bazaar in Aid of War--Sufferers of the Central Powers, 1916	8	13
German Bazaar in Aid of War--Sufferers of the Central Powers, 1916	9	1
Infantile Paralysis--Correspondence, 1916	9	2
Infantile Paralysis--Newspaper Clippings, 1916	9	3
Municipal Legislation--"Sunday Law", 1895	9	4
Staten Island, 1907-1911	9	5

Series 4: General Subject File, 1905-192 ... (Continued)

Awards, 1905-1913	9	6
Carl Holland, 1919-1920	9	7-8
War Issues - Correspondence, 1914	9	9-10
War Issues - Newspaper Clippings, undated	9	11

Series 5: Organizations, 1895-1920**Series Description**

This series consists of an alphabetical arrangement of all the organizations and committees in which von Briesen participated and/or served. The natures of these organizations are varied, ranging from the political and philanthropic to the cultural and ethnic.

The more significant files in this series are the following:

Germanistic Society of America of which Arthur von Briesen was a charter member, Vice President and Directing Attorney. This organization was established through Columbia University in 1907.

National Roosevelt League of New York which von Briesen, and his good friend Carl Schurz led. Von Briesen served on the National Board of Directors and as president. This series contains many of the organization's files and papers, along with its printed materials, written mostly by von Briesen, Schurz and George Viereck. The materials in this file is extensive and valuable for the history of the Roosevelt campaign of 1904. Most of the materials and efforts of the National Roosevelt League were directed to the German-Americans of New York.

The Merchants' Association of New York; in which von Briesen served as Chairman of both the Patent Committee and the Committee on the Protection of Industrial Property. He wrote a number of articles on wartime trade and patent issues. Other issues were the British mail censor and the complete ban on correspondence across enemy lines. The correspondence and papers in this file are extensive and informative.

East Prussian Relief Fund was an organization which interested and engaged von Briesen during the years of the First World War.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
American Physicians Expedition Committee, 1917	9	12
Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, 1911	9	13
Carl Schurz Memorial Fund, 1906-1913	9	14
Citizens Union of the City of New York, 1900-1918	9	15

Series 5: Organizations, 1895-1920 ... (Continued)

Die Deutsche Gesellschaft Der Stadt New York - Annual, 1910	9	16
Deutsch-Amerikanischer National Bund "Deutscher Tag", 1916	9	17
Deutsche Hausfrauen Verein, 1906	9	18
Deutsches Theater, 1916	9	19
East Prussian Relief Fund By Laws/Certificate of Corporation, 1916	9	20
East Prussian Relief Fund - Correspondence, 1915-1917	9	21
East Prussian Relief Fund--Newspaper Clippings, undated	9	22
First New York Volunteer Engineers, 1907-1918	9	23
Germanistic Society of America--Correspondence, 1907-1913	9	24-26
Germanistic Society of America--List of Members, undated	10	1
Germanistic Society of America--Constitution/Certificate of Incorporation, 1908	10	2
Germanistic Society of America--Printed Material, 1908	10	3
Good Government Club - Correspondence, 1895	10	4
Good Government Club--General Materials, 1895	10	5
Judiciary Nominators, 1906	10	6
Liederkranz of the City of New York--Annual Report, 1917-1918	10	7
Liederkranz of the City of New York--Bazaar, 1919-1920	10	8
Linden Museum of Natural History of Stuttgart, 1912-1914	10	9
The Merchants' Association of New York--Correspondence, 1906-1918	10	10-13
The Merchants' Association of New York--Bulletins and Printed Material, 1907-1916	10	14
National Roosevelt League--Correspondence, 1904-1912	10	15-18
National Roosevelt League--Publications, undated	10	19
National Roosevelt League--Drafts for Articles by Arthur Von Briesen, undated	10	20
National Roosevelt League--Newspaper Clippings, undated	10	21
National Roosevelt League--Miscellaneous, undated	10	22

Series 5: Organizations, 1895-1920 ... (Continued)

Veteran Association of the Department of the South, 1908-1917	11	1
Viereck's American Monthly/The Fatherland Corporation/Rundschau Zweier Welten, 1911	11	2
Verband Deutscher Patentwalte, 1915-1920	11	3
Receipts, undated	11	4
Olmsted and Vaux Memorial Committee (Central Park), 1914	11	5
Stapleton National Bank, 1906-1911	11	6

Series 6: Family Correspondence, 1908-1920**Series Description**

The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent's last name. This series gives a broader understanding of von Briesen and his family, providing information as to particular members' location and activities.

Von Briesen's correspondence with his cousin Ernst Schenk (Schenk was the last name of many of von Briesen's family in Germany) particularly illuminates this point. Much of the correspondence is fact-filled in nature, caused in no small part by the English censors who made for irregular correspondence between the United States and Germany. Ernst's handwriting is difficult to understand, but its pattern, consistency, and near modern fraktur allow for relatively easy deciphering. The letters also reveal von Briesen's reverence and love for his family and mother-country. The letters on the whole tell about the war from both sides as Schenk's letters provide first-hand accounts of post-war Germany's disarray and severe food shortages (which von Briesen alleviated with food shipments) while von Briesen details the English censor and the stature of German-American citizens as "enemies" (or, at best "second-class-citizens").

In an unrelated but humorous matter, in a letter to Stanwood Menken concerning the choice of college for the grandson, von Briesen vehemently chooses Harvard over Princeton. In a letter dated April 10, 1920, there are three pages about why one should NOT go to Princeton.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
B-C, 1914	11	7
Banning, Kendall, 1916	11	8
de Lara, Louise, 1914	11	9
Duvel, Erich, 1919-1920	11	10
Engelhorn, Julia, 1916	11	11

Series 6: Family Correspondence, 1908-19 ... (Continued)

Goepel, Carl, 1919-1920	11	12
Goepel, Frank, 1914	11	13
Goepel, Hannchen, 1919-1920	11	14
Goepel, Lollie, 1919	11	15
Goepel, Paul, 1920	11	16
H-K, 1920	11	17
Licht, Hugo, 1914	11	18
Mahl, Herma, 1918	11	19
McCormack, Charles F., undated	11	20
Menken, Arthur, 1919	11	21
Menken, Gretel, 1914-1919	11	22
Menken, Stanwood, 1914-1920	11	23
Metropolitan Opera Company, 1914	11	24
Meylan, 1914	11	25
Palmedo, Clara, 1918-1919	11	26
Palmedo, Ado, 1919-1920	11	27
Palmedo, Lolly, 1918	11	28
Papacheu, undated	11	29
Piorkowski, Arthur, 1914	11	30
Potsziwnitzki, Franziska, 1919-1920	11	31
Pollock, Walter H., undated	11	32
R, undated	11	33
Schill, Emil, undated	11	34
Schenck, Dr. Ernst, 1918-1920	11	35
Schall, Edith, 1918-1920	11	36

Series 6: Family Correspondence, 1908-19 ... (Continued)

Scriven, J.J., undated	11	37
Stiefel, Carl, undated	11	38
Sutherland, H.M., undated	11	39
Von Briesen, Agnes, 1919-1920	11	40
Von Briesen, Arthur, 1908-1920	11	41
Von Briesen, Fay, 1916	11	42
Von Briesen, Hans, 1920	11	43
Von Briesen, Richard, 1914-1920	11	44
Von Briesen, Robert, 1920	11	45
Von Briesen, Ida, 1919-1920	11	46
Von Briesen, Wolf, undated	11	47
Von Briesen, Zaide, 1917	11	48
W, 1919	11	49
Unidentified, 1914-1920	11	50

Series 7: Printed Materials, 1914-1920

Series Description

This series contains 23 pamphlets, broadsides, and magazines, some in German, which discuss immigration, World War I, post-war Germany, and legal issues.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>
Oversize: Twenty-three assorted pamphlets, broadsides, and magazines	12