

NEW YORK CITY MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES  
31 CHAMBERS ST., NEW YORK, NY 10007

# Guide to the records of Mayor Robert Van Wyck, 1898-1901

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## **Collection No. 0008**

Original processing by unknown archivist, date unknown. Finding aid revised and encoded in EAD by staff archivist Rachel Greer, 2015; updated by staff archivist Alexandra Hilton, 2017.



## Summary

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**Record Group:** Office of the Mayor

**Repository:** New York City Municipal Archives, Department of Records and Information Services, 31 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007

**Title of the Collection:** Office of the Mayor, Robert Van Wyck records

**Date:** 1898-1901

**Creator(s):** Van Wyck, Robert Anderson, 1849-1918; New York (N.Y.). Office of the Mayor

**Extent:** 7.5 cubic feet

**Location:** 31 Chambers St.

**Access and Use:** This collection is partially microfilmed. Patrons are required to use microfilm for those series for which it is available. Advance notice is required for using original material.

**Language:** English

**Preferred citation:** Office of the Mayor, Robert Van Wyck records, 1899-1900, Municipal Archives, City of New York

**Processing note:** This collection was processed by unknown persons at an unknown date. Finding Aid updated and encoded in EAD by staff archivist Rachel Greer in 2015 with additions by staff archivist Alexandra Hilton in 2017.

## Biographical/Historical Note

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Robert Anderson Van Wyck (1849-1918) was the first Mayor to take office after the consolidation of the City of New York in 1898. Educated in North Carolina and at Columbia University, Van Wyck was a businessman before becoming a successful attorney. He was a member of the Holland Society and was active in Masonic circles as a member of The Ancient Lodge in New York City. He was eventually elected Judge of the City Court of New York and ended his tenure as Chief Justice in 1897, when he resigned to accept the Democratic nomination for Mayor. Van Wyck was affiliated with Tammany Hall and was elected by a large margin. He was sworn in to office in 1898. Van Wyck was responsible for administratively consolidating the city as well as beginning the first subway line in Manhattan, Interboro Rapid Transit. In addition, Van Wyck was implicated in a scandal involving the American Ice Trust company, which cost Tammany the next mayoral election. Van Wyck died in Paris in 1918.

## Scope and Content Note

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This collection consists of the subject files and correspondence of Mayor Robert Van Wyck's administration. The collection is by no means exhaustive and consists primarily of letters received by the Mayor's office. Very rarely is his response included. There are also memoranda, petitions, reports, scrapbooks, copies of speeches, mayoral edicts and announcements, appointment books, records of complaints, and investigations into the work of city agencies,

among other materials. The materials are particularly strong in documenting the workings of the city during its consolidation into one city with five boroughs. A typed item-level inventory is available in the archives.

## Arrangement

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The Robert Van Wyck records are arranged into three series, based on the type of material:

Series I: Departmental Correspondence

Series II: Subject Files

Series III: General Correspondence Received

Each series is arranged alphabetically by subject within each series. Early inventories suggest that this collection used to be arranged chronologically and that the arrangement was revised by a previous archivist into an alphabetical arrangements. The series themselves, however, have retained their integrity.

## Container List

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### Series I: Departmental Correspondence

**Date(s):** 1898-1901

**Size (Extent):** 5.5 cubic feet

**Scope and Content:** This series contains correspondence, memoranda, and similar items which were sent to the Mayor by various City departments and agencies. The Commissioner of Accounts files consist of detailed reports regarding examinations made by the Commissioners into various practices of City agencies. A majority of these investigations concern faulty street paving or are financial in nature.

**Arrangement:** This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Access:** This material is contained on microfilm rolls 1-9 and should be used in place of original documents whenever possible.

**Location:** 31 Chambers St., Shelf 1525-1530

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Accounts, Commissioners of	1898 January-March
1	2	Accounts, Commissioners of	1898 April-May
1	3	Accounts, Commissioners of	1898 June-August 9
1	4	Accounts, Commissioners of	1898 August 10-September
1	5	Accounts, Commissioners of	1898 October
1	6	Accounts, Commissioners of	1898 November
2	7	Accounts, Commissioners of (1)	1898 December
2	8	Accounts, Commissioners of (2)	1898 December
2	9	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 January-February
2	10	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 March 7-18
2	11	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 March 22-27
2	12	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 April-May1
2	13	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 May 2-9
3	14	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 May 10-19
3	15	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 May 22-July
3	16	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 August
3	17	Accounts, Commissioners of	1899 September
4	18	Accounts, Commissioners of	1900 March-April
4	19	Accounts, Commissioners of	1900 July
4	20	Accounts, Commissioners of	1900 November
4	21	Accounts, Commissioners of (1)	1900 December
4	22	Accounts, Commissioners of (2)	1900 December
5	23	Accounts, Commissioners of	1901 April
5	24	Accounts, Commissioners of	1901 May
5	25	Accounts, Commissioners of	1901 July
5	26	Accounts, Commissioners of	1901 August-October

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
5	27	Aldermen, Board of	1899
5	28	Aldermen, Board of	1900
5	29	Aqueduct, Commissioners Executive Committee	1899-1901
6	30	Aqueduct, Commissioners of	1899
6	31	Aqueduct, Commissioners Office	1900
6	32	Aqueduct, Commissioners Office	1901
6	33	Armory, Board of	1899
6	34	Armory, Board of	1900
6	35	Armory, Board of	1901
6	36	Audit, Department of	1898
6	37	Borough Presidents	1899
6	38	Borough Presidents	1900
6	39	Bridges, Department of	1899
6	40	Bridges, Department of	1900
6	41	Bridges, Department of	1901
6	42	Building, Department of	1899
6	43	Building, Department of	1900
6	44	Building, Department of	1901
6	45	Chamberlain's Office	1899
6	46	Chamberlain's Office	1900
6	47	Chamberlain's Office	1901
6	48	City Clerk's Office	1899
6	49	City Record	1901
6	50	Committee on Rules and Discipline: "W.J. Elliott"	1900 September
6	51	Correction, Department of	1899
6	52	Correction, Department of	1900
6	53	Correction, Department of	1901
6	54	Coroners Office	1901
6	55	Council, President of the	1899
6	56	Council, President of the	1900
6	57	Courts	1898
6	58	Courts	1899
6	59	Courts	1900
6	60	Courts	1901
7	61	Courts, City Magistrates, Board of	1899
7	62	District Attorney Office	1898-1899
7	63	District Attorney Office	1900
7	64	Docks and Ferries, Department of	1899
7	65	Docks and Ferries, Department of	1900
7	66	Docks and Ferries, Department of	1901
7	67	Education, Dept. of	1898
7	68	Education, Dept. of	1899

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
7	69	Education, Dept. of	1900
7	70	Education, Dept. of	1901
7	71	Election, Board of	1899
7	72	Election, Board of	1901
7	73	Estimate and Apportionment, Board of	1901
7	74	Finance, Department of	1899 January-March
7	75	Finance, Department of	1899 April-December
7	76	Finance, Department of	1900
7	77	Finance, Department of	1901
7	78	Fire Department	1899
7	79	Fire Department	1900
7	80	Fire Department	1901
7	81	Health, Department of (1)	1899
8	82	Health, Department of (2)	1899
8	83	Health, Department of	1900
8	84	Health, Department of	1901
8	85	Highways, Department of	1898
8	86	Highways, Department of	1899 January-February
8	87	Highways, Department of	1899 March-May
8	88	Highways, Department of	1899 June-October
8	89	Highways, Department of	1900
8	90	Highways, Department of	1901
8	91	Jurors, Commissioners of	1899
8	92	Jurors, Commissioners of	1900
8	93	Jurors, Commissioners of	1901
8	94	Law Department	1898
9	95	Law Department	1899 January
9	96	Law Department	1899 February-April
9	97	Law Department	1899 May-December
9	98	Law Department	1900
9	99	Law Department	1901
9	100	Maine Monument Committee	1899
9	101	Mayor's Office	1899
9	102	Mayor's Office: Bureau of Licenses	1898
9	103	Mayor's Office: Bureau of Licenses	1899
9	104	Mayor's Office: Bureau of Licenses	1900
9	105	Mayor's Office: Bureau of Licenses	1901
9	106	Municipal Civil Service Commission	1898
9	107	Municipal Civil Service Commission	1899
10	108	Municipal Civil Service Commission	1900
10	109	Municipal Civil Service Commission	1901
10	110	Municipal Statistics, Bureau of	1899

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
10	111	Municipal Statistics, Bureau of	1900
10	112	New East River Bridge, Commission of	1899
10	113	New East River Bridge, Commission of	1900
10	114	New East River Bridge, Commission of	1901
10	115	Parks, Department of	1899
10	116	Parks, Department of	1900
10	117	Parks, Department of	1901
10	118	Parks, Department of: Brooklyn, Queens	1901
10	119	Police Department	1899 January-April
10	120	Police Department	1899 May-September
10	121	Police Department	1900 March-October
10	122	Police Department	1900 November-December
10	123	Police Department	1901
10	124	Public Administrator, Bureau of The	1899
10	125	Public Administrator, Bureau of The	1901
10	126	Public Building, Lighting and Supply, Department of	1899
10	127	Public Building, Lighting and Supply, Department of	1900
10	128	Public Building, Lighting and Supply, Department of	1901
11	129	Public Charities, Department of	1898
11	130	Public Charities, Department of	1899
11	131	Public Charities, Department of	1900
11	132	Public Charities, Department of	1901
11	133	Public Improvement, Board of	1898-1899
11	134	Public Improvement, Board of	1900
11	135	Public Improvement, Board of	1901
11	136	Rapid Transit, Board of	1900
11	137	Rapid Transit, Board of	1901
11	138	Sewers, Department of	1899
11	139	Sewers, Department of	1900
11	140	Sewers, Department of	1901
11	141	Street Cleaning, Department of	1899
11	142	Street Cleaning, Department of	1900
11	143	Street Cleaning, Department of	1901
11	144	Taxes and Assessments, Department of	1899
11	145	Taxes and Assessments, Department of	1900
11	146	Taxes and Assessments, Department of	1901
11	147	Water Supply, Department of	1899
11	148	Water Supply, Department of	1900
11	149	Water Supply, Department of	1901



**Series II: Subject Files**

**Date(s):** 1898-1901

**Size (Extent):** 1 cubic foot

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of memoranda, correspondence and similar data typically from, or related to, members of the public or non-City governmental officials.

**Arrangement:** This series is arranged alphabetically by subject. Subjects were devised by a previous archivist.

**Access:** This series is available on microfilm roll 1 and should be used in place of original material whenever possible.

**Location:** 31 Chambers St., Shelf 1521-1522

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Addresses and Speeches	1900, undated
1	2	Appointment Books: Meetings and Hearings	1898
1	3	Appointment Books: Meetings and Hearings	1899
1	4	Appointment Books: Meetings and Hearings	1900
1	5	Appointment Books: Meetings and Hearings	1901
1	6	Brooklyn Blasting Permit	1898
1	7	Brooklyn Disciplinary Training School for Boys	1898-1899
2	8	Budget Appropriation Requests	1899-1900
2	9	City Advertising: Public Hearings	1900 March-April
2	10	City Advertising: Public Hearings	1900 April
2	11	City Advertising: Public Hearings	1900 April
2	12	City Advertising: Public Hearings	1900-1901
2	13	Complaints against City Employees	1899-1901
2	14	Complaints against City Marshals	1899-1901
2	15	Druggists' League's Ten Hour Work Bill	1899
2	16	McKinley Assassination: Day of Mourning Memo	1901
2	17	Navy Desertions: Notifications about NYC Residents	1900-1901
2	18	Navy Desertions: Notifications about NYC Residents	1901
2	19	Petitions	1899
2	20	Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief Fund	1899
2	21	Reception: Admiral George Dewey	1899
2	22	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children: Hearing on Johnson Application	1900

**Series III: General Correspondence Received**

**Date(s):** 1899-1901

**Size (Extent):** 1 cubic foot

**Scope and Content:** This series consists mainly of letters received by the Mayor from the general public.

**Arrangement:** This series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent's last name or company name.

**Access:** This series is not microfilmed.

**Location:** 31 Chambers St., Shelf 1523-1524

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	A	1899-1901
1	2	B	1899-1901
1	3	C	1899-1901
1	4	D	1899-1901
1	5	E	1899-1901
1	6	F	1899-1901
1	7	G	1899-1901
1	8	H	1899-1901
1	9	I	1899-1901
1	10	J	1899-1901
1	11	K	1899-1901
1	12	L	1899-1901
1	13	M	1899-1901
2	1	N	1899-1901
2	2	O	1899-1901
2	3	P	1899-1901
2	4	Q	1899-1901
2	5	R	1899-1901
2	6	S (1 of 2)	1901
2	7	S (2 of 2)	1899-1900
2	8	T	1899-1901
2	9	U	1899-1901
2	10	V	1900
2	11	W	1899-1901
2	12	Y-Z	1900