

**THE BARING ARCHIVE**

**LETTER BOOKS  
(LB)**

## Letter Books

### LB

The letter books contain copies of out letters of the partners. The number of letters is relatively few, which indicates that not all out-correspondence was included. In particular, the books contain much correspondence concerning the issue of loans. Some books contain copies of letters sent just to Thomas Ward ("TWW"). After 1900, when Partners' Filing was introduced, the contents decline significantly in importance. Virtually all volumes are indexed. The letter books are quarto, half-bound, volumes of blank sheets, wherein the pressed copies have been stuck.

In the descriptions below the inclusive dates of the letters in the volume are given, followed by the title on the spine of each volume. Where no index exists, this is noted.

1. **1831 11 Jan-1831 2 Aug:** '1831 1st Vol'; no index
2. **1831 30 Sep-1832 cJun\*:** '1831 Sept 1831'
3. **1832 20 Jun-1833 3 Jul:** [No title] with one letter, 22 Oct 1833, loosely inserted
4. **1834 18 Mar-1834 8 Dec\*:** 'April 1834'
- 5a. **1834 16 Dec-1835 30 Dec:** 'Private Letters Commencing 1 Jan 1835'
- 5b. **1834 6 Dec-1835 31 Dec:** 'Private Letters Commencing 1 Jan 1835 TWW'
- 5c. **1836 5 Jan-1836 30 Dec:** 'Private Letters Commencing 1 Jan 1836 TWW'
- 5d. **1836 1 Jan-1836 30 Dec:** 'Private Letters Commencing 1 Jan 1836'
6. **1837 Jan-1839 22 Oct \*:** 'Private Letters JB Commencing 1837'
7. **1837 2 Jan-1837 6 Dec\*:** 'Private Letters Commencing 1 Jan 1837'
8. **1837 15 Dec-1838 28 Dec:** [No title]
9. **1839 1 Jan-1839 31 Dec:** [No title]
10. **1840 2 Jan-1841 1 Jan\*:** 'Private Letters 1840'
11. **1841 6 Jan-1842 23 Nov\*:** 'Private Letters 1841'
12. **1842 1 Jan-1842 20 Dec\*:** 'Private Letters 1842'
13. **1842 29 Dec-1843 30 Dec\*:** 'Private Letters 1843'
14. **1844 1 Jan-1844 27 Dec\*:** 'Private Letters 1844'
15. **1844 28 Dec-1845 30 Dec\*:** [No title]

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16. **1846 6 Jan-1846 31 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1846'
17. **1846 31 Dec-1847 21 Sep\***: 'Private Letters 1847'
18. **1848 15 Apr-1848 12 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1848'
19. **1848 14 Dec-1849 1 Sep**: 'Private Letters 1849'
20. **1849 1 Sep-1850 10 Sep**: 'Private Letters 1849/50'
21. **1850 11 Sep-1850 31 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1850'
22. **1851 1 Jan-1851 24 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1851'
23. **1851 13 May-1852 31 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1851 & 52B'
24. **1852 1 Jan-1852 1 Nov\***: 'Private Letters 1852'
25. **1853 1 Jan-1853 31 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1853'
26. **1854 3 Jan-1854 30 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1854'
27. **1855 1 Jan-1855 29 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1855'  
With loosely inserted, at folios 265-273, copies of out-letters to Emperor Napoleon III and the French Government (Sep 1855) concerning the secret purchase by Barings of United States wheat for France; and with an envelope carrying a cancelled penny red stamp, post marked 17 Jan 1855, addressed to Charles Attwood, Weardale Iron Works. See LB 28 below
28. **1856 3 Jan-1856 24 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1856'  
With loosely inserted, between folios 495 and 621, copies of out-letters to the French Government, Francis Baring and George White (Jan-Oct 1856), concerning wheat purchases. See LB 27 above
29. **1857 2 Jan-1857 26 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1857'
30. **1858 1 Jan-1858 31 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1858'
31. **1859 4 Jan-1859 30 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1859'  
With, loosely inserted between folios 537 and 561, copies of out-letters to Edward C Baring in St Petersburg concerning the Russian Loan (Jan-Feb 1859); and at folio 723 a copy letter to William Beech (see HC5.5.1) (2 Nov 1859)
32. **1860 20 Jan-1860 29 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1860'
33. **1861 1 Jan-1861 30 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1861'

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34. **1862 1 Jan-1862 30 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1862'
35. **1863 5 Jan-1863 31 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1863'
36. **1864 1 Jan-1864 30 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1864'
37. **1865 4 Jan-1865 30 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1865'
38. **1866 1 Jan-1867 29 Jun**: 'Private Letters 1866'  
With one letter to the Liverpool House (1 Aug 1867)
39. **1867 1 Jul-1867 21 Dec**: 'Private Letter 1867'
40. **1868 1 Jan-1867 24 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1868'  
With a key to telegraphic cyphers used in 1868
41. **1869 5 Jan-1869 24 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1869'
42. **1870 11 Jan-1870 25 Dec\***: 'Private Letters 1870'
43. **1871 6 Jan-1871 21 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1871'
44. **1872 5 Jan-1872 27 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1872'
45. **1872 6 Jan-1872 27 Dec**: 'Ward 1872'; with subject index
46. **1873 1 Jan-1873 29 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1873'
47. **1873 3 Jan-1873 27 Dec**: 'Ward 1873'; with subject index
48. **1874 3 Jan-1874 28 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1874'
49. **1874 3 Jan-1874 31 Dec**: 'Ward 1874'; with subject index
50. **1875 6 Jan-1875 31 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1875'
51. **1875 4 Jan-1875 24 Dec**: 'Ward 1875'; with subject index
52. **1876 3 Jan-1876 30 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1876'
53. **1876 1 Jan-1876 23 Dec**: 'Ward 1876'; with subject index
54. **1877 1 Jan-1877 22 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1877'
55. **1877 4 Jan-1877 29 Dec**: 'Ward 1877'; with subject index
56. **1878 3 Jan-1878 31 Dec**: 'Private Letters 1878'

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57. **1878 3 Jan-1878 28 Dec:** 'Ward 1878'; with subject index
58. **1879 3 Jan-1879 29 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1879'
59. **1879 2 Jan-1879 24 Dec:** 'Ward 1879'
60. **1880 8 Jan-1880 30 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1880'
61. **1880 1 Jan-1880 30 Dec:** 'Ward 1880'
62. **1881 3 Jan-1881 31 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1881'
63. **1881 8 Jan-1881 24 Dec:** 'Wards 1881'
64. **1882 2 Jan-1883 2 Jan:** 'Private Letters 1882'
65. **1882 5 Jan-1882 14 Dec:** 'Wards 1882'
66. **1883 4 Jan-1883 31 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1883'
67. **1883 4 Jan-1883 24 Dec:** 'Wards 1883'
68. **1884 1 Jan-1884 29 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1884'
69. **1884 3 Jan-1884 30 Dec:** 'Wards 1884'
70. **1885 5 Jan-1885 30 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1885'
71. **1885 3 Jan-1886 31 Jan:** 'Wards 1885'
72. **1886 1 Jan-1886 29 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1886'
73. **1886 26 Jan-1886 18 Nov:** 'Wards 1886'; also contains press copies of letters to Kidder Peabody & Co (KP&Co) and with printed copy of Trust Agreement (21 Jul 1886) between the Illinois Central Railway Co and the United States Trust Co of New York
74. **1887 1 Jan-1887 23 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1887'
75. **1887 4 Jan-1887 29 Nov:** 'KP & Co 1887'
76. **1888 3 Jan-1888 31 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1888'
77. **1888 26 May-1888 22 Sep:** 'KP & Co 1888'
78. **1889 3 Jan-1889 31 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1889'; including letters to Kidder Peabody & Co

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79. **1890 4 Jan-1890 30 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1890'; with 'Understanding with Thomas Charles Baring, Chairman, regarding Kidder Peabody & Co's Account - Dec 8 1890' and Baring Brothers & Co balance sheet and list of securities exhibited to the Governor of the Bank of England, Nov 1890
80. **1891 6 Jan-1891 31 Dec:** 'Private Letters 1891'; with memoranda on liquidation, [Jan?] 1891 (p249), and on Buenos Aires Water & Drainage Works, 18 Nov 1891 (p251)
81. **1892 2 Jan-1892 31 Dec:** 'Old Firm Private Letters 1892'  
Note: Pages originally bound together with tape were pp 1-23 inclusive and pp 224-251 inclusive. Tape removed Jun 1965
82. **1892 1 Jan-1892 30 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1892'
83. **1893 3 Jan-1893 27 Dec:** 'BB & Co Private Letters 1893'
84. **1893 2 Jan-1893 28 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1893'
85. **1894 3 Jan-1894 31 Dec:** 'BB & Co Private Letters 1894'
86. **1894 3 Jan-1895 31 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1894 to 1895'
87. **1896 8 Jan-1897 2 Jun:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1896 to June 1897' with inserted documents (c1895-98) concerning the reconstitution of the Western of Santa Fe Railway Co, Argentina
88. **1897 3 Jun-1898 23 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1897 to Dec 1898'
89. **1899 17 Jan-1900 31 Jan:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1899...'; the four letters dated 1900 are also included in LB 90
90. **1900 16 Jan-1900 27 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1900 to'
91. **1901 2 Jan-1901 29 Oct:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1901 to'
- 91b. **1901 29 Oct-1902 1 Oct** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1901-1902 Vol 2'
92. Not used
93. **1902 1 Oct-1903 3 Jan:** 'Private Letters 1902'
94. **1903 7 Jan-1903 31 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1903 to'
95. **1904 1 Jan-1904 29 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1904 to'
96. **1905 3 Jan-1905 29 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1905 to'

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- 97. **1906 17 Jan-1906 29 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1906 to'
- 98. **1907 1 Jan-1907 28 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1907 to'
- 99. **1908 9 Jan-1911 2 Dec:** 'BB & Co Limited Private Letters 1908 to 1911'

At HC1.212 there are three series of memoranda books relating to the contents of the private letter books

### **Note on the original condition of the letter books, 1891-1894, and their treatment by the Archivist (TL Ingram).**

It has already been shown that the letters of Arthur Bowden Smith and Essex E Reade to Barings were later required as evidence in Chancery Actions concerning the settlement of the affairs of Samuel B Hale & Co of Buenos Aires (see HC4.1.71) and that copies of them, or of extracts from them, were made for this purpose. See note at HC4.1.117. Similarly the letters of the Old Firm to Bowden Smith and Reade, or extracts from them, were also required as evidence in the same actions.

The letters or extracts required to be copied were indicated to the typist by covering up the writing not required. This covering up was done in three ways, viz:

- a. By fastening together with 'fold-back' papers clips the unwanted leaves of the letter book concerned
- b. By tying together with tape the unwanted leaves
- c. By pinning, with steel pins, separate slips of paper over the unwanted text

In preparing the volumes for permanent preservation the 'fold-back' clips were removed, and the holes remaining indicate where the clips were originally inserted. Similarly, the tape has been removed and a note has been made, in the descriptive list below and also at the beginning of each relevant letter book, of the pages originally bound together by tape. In the case of concealment of the text under slips of paper, all the pins have been removed and one edge of each slip has been hinged so that the original form of the document is preserved, but the covering text may now be read

For records of Chancery Actions referred to above, see LEG 57-58

**Further note:** The letter books prior to 1870 were examined by Dr Adam Shortt of the Public Archives of Canada during his visit to Barings' archives in the 1920s. As a result of his work pages of letters relating to Canada and the USA were torn away and removed to the Public Archives of Canada where they may now be consulted. Letter books thus affected are marked with an asterisk, viz \*.