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Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Foster Brothers Records, 1875-1973, (bulk 1893-1942), in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Foster Brothers records
Date:	1875-1973 (bulk 1893-1942)
Identifier:	AAA.fostbrot
Creator:	Foster Brothers (Boston, Mass.)
Extent:	13 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The records of Boston picture frame company Foster Brothers measure 13 linear feet and date from 1875-1973 with the bulk of the material falling between 1893 and 1942. Correspondence, stock records, financial records, writings, miscellaneous business records, printed material, scrapbooks, and photographs document the history of this company that operated a factory, retail store, and wholesale and mail order businesses between 1893 and 1942. A small number of family papers are included, with items pre-dating and post-dating the business.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Helen Foster Osborne, daughter of John R. Foster, donated the Foster Brothers records to the Archives in four installments between 1973 and 1976.

Processing Information

The entire collection was processed to an intermediate level by Catherine S. Gaines in 2007 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Foster Brothers records, 1875-1973, bulk 1893-1942. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Established by Stephen Bartlett Foster (1856-1932) and John Roy Foster (1863-1931), Foster Brothers opened in 1893 at 164 Boylston Street, Boston. By 1896, Foster Brothers had moved to 3 Park Square, just around the corner from its first location. Eventually, the business relocated to 4 Park Square, where it stayed for the remainder of its existence. The original Foster Brothers factory was housed in the old Parkman's Market building on Cambridge Street in Boston. In 1918, the Fosters built a new factory in Arlington, the suburb in which the brothers lived.

Foster Brothers was known for high quality frames that featured expert carving and gilding by fine craftsmen, consistent with the esthetic and philosophy of the Arts and Crafts movement of the time. Their frames that incorporated elements of early Dutch frames especially appealed to Boston School artists such as Edmund Tarbell and William MacGregor Paxton. Custom orders were welcomed from museums, galleries, collectors, and artists. In the 1890s, Foster Brothers operated a small gallery that featured watercolors and sketches by local artists; sporadic exhibitions continued throughout the 1930s. Early business cards and advertisements indicate that the company sold "wedding presents, etchings, engravings, water colors and picture frames." Among its best selling merchandise were mirrors in a wide variety of styles. As early as 1898, Foster Brothers began to copyright and publish reproductions of paintings, drawings, silhouettes, and miniatures. These were framed in sets and sold by Foster Brothers in its retail shop and by mail order; in addition, they were distributed through department stores, furniture stores, gift shops, and interior decorators.

John Roy Foster was in charge of promotion and merchandising, designing the retail line, and managing the company's wholesale and mail order businesses. Stephen Bartlett Foster managed the factory and oversaw all aspects of the manufacturing. Helen J. Foster, John's daughter, studied art at Smith College and by the late 1920s was a successful manager and saleswoman in the retail store. The Depression brought a sharp decline in sales. After the deaths of John and Stephen Foster, Helen and her husband, Shattuck Osborne, owned and managed Foster Brothers for another decade. Although the business closed in 1942, Foster Brothers frames continue to command high prices and are highly prized and sought after today.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Boston picture frame company Foster Brothers measure 13 linear feet and date from 1875 to 1973 with the bulk of the material falling between 1893 and 1942. Correspondence, stock records, financial records, writings, miscellaneous business records, printed material, scrapbooks, and photographs document the history of the picture frame company that operated a factory, retail store, and wholesale and mail order businesses between 1893 and 1942. A small number of family papers are included, including items from periods when Foster Brothers was not in business. Scattered throughout the collection are small slips of papers with explanatory notes and background information supplied by the donor, Helen Foster Osborne.

Correspondence mostly concerns routine business with suppliers, distributors, and wholesale and retail customers and is relatively sparse for 1897-1941. Foster Brothers' last year in business, 1942, is well documented and includes letters from S. W. Osborne (Margaret Foster's husband) written while traveling to meet with wholesale clients in cities throughout the Northeast and Midwest.

Stock records include stock cards, inventory records and price lists. Also found are a large number of paper stencils that were used to transfer carving designs to frames, and extensive drawings of frames and moldings including finished, colored drawings by master craftsman C. F. Richter.

Financial records consist mainly of routine accounting records, but also include annual financial reports, orders, and sales records. Among the writings and lists are an unsigned article concerning Foster Brothers' craftsmen and their early use of machinery. Notes include material for a history of mirrors by Helen J. Foster, and "The Art of Framing" by John R. Foster.

The majority of printed material relates to advertising and consists of catalogs and brochures about frames, mirrors, and published reproductions. Eight volumes of scrapbooks also contain printed material consisting of advertising, brochures and catalogs, form letters, and reproductions of miniatures and silhouettes published by Foster Brothers.

Family papers consist of a small number of personal papers of the founders, John Roy and Stephen Bartlett Foster, and also of Helen Foster Osborne (John's daughter). They include Foster Osborne's 1973 reminiscence of having her portrait painted by William Paxton in 1923, John R. Foster's personal account book and Foster Osborne's correspondence with Ernest Donnelley concerning the sale of printing plates and dies from the miniature reproduction business.

Photographs are of founders John Roy and Stephen Bartlett Foster, some of their employees, and early pictures of the first Foster Brothers frame factory on Cambridge Street.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 9 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1897-1942 (Box 1; 1.0 linear feet)
- Series 2: Stock Records, 1905-1942 (Boxes 2-6, 11, OVs 23-24, BVs 13-15; 6.2 linear feet)
- Series 3: Financial Records, 1892-1959 (Boxes 7-9; BVs 16-19; 3.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Writings and Lists, 1920s-circa 1942 (Box 9; 0.25 linear feet)
- Series 5: Miscellaneous Business Records, 1898-1939 (Box 10; 7 folders)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1893-1947 (Box 10, OV 25; 0.25 linear feet)
- Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1906-1942 (Boxes 10, 12, BVs 20-22; 1.3 linear feet)
- Series 8: Family Papers, 1875-1973 (Box 10; 6 folders)
- Series 9: Photographs, circa 1880s-1918 (Box 10; 5 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art -- Economic aspects
Picture frame industry -- Massachusetts -- Boston
Picture frames and framing
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Stencils

Names:

Foster, John Roy, 1863-1931
Foster, Stephen Bartlett, 1856-1932
Osborne, Helen Foster
Osborne, S. W.
Richter, C. F.

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1897-1942

1 Linear foot ((Box 1))

Scope and Contents: Business correspondence with suppliers, distributors, and wholesale and retail customers concerns routine matters and special orders. The correspondence dated 1897-1941 is relatively sparse and primarily concerns copyright of artwork reproduced by Foster Brothers that was sold, framed, in gift shops, department and furniture stores.

The year 1942, the company's last year in business, is well documented. Of particular interest are letters from S. W. Osborne (Margaret Foster's husband) written while traveling to meet with wholesale clients in cities throughout the Northeast and Midwest.

Arrangement: Chronological correspondence is followed by alphabetically arranged correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1897-1915
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1916
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1917
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1918-1919
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1920-1921
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1922-1941
Box 1, Folder 7	Abbott - Austin-Hastings Co., 1942
Box 1, Folder 8	Babcock - Bittinger, 1942
Box 1, Folder 9	Boaler Burchell and Dillon - Boyce Studio, 1942
Box 1, Folder 10	Brandenburg - Butterfield, 1942
Box 1, Folder 11	Cabot - Closson Co., 1942
Box 1, Folder 12	Cocks - Cusik Studios, 1942
Box 1, Folder 13	Davenport - Drakenfeld Co., 1942
Box 1, Folder 14	E and E Art Shop - Fulda, 1942
Box 1, Folder 15	Gamble - Gump's, 1942
Box 1, Folder 16	Hagerty - Hurley, 1942

Box 1, Folder 17	Ideal Furniture Co. - Jordan, 1942
Box 1, Folder 18	Kahn's Art Gallery - Kromhaut, 1942
Box 1, Folder 19	Lake - Lyon Furniture Mercantile Agency, 1942
Box 1, Folder 20	Macy and Co. - McVicker, 1942
Box 1, Folder 21	M/E Framing Guild - Myers, 1942
Box 1, Folder 22	Nature Food Centres - Osborn, 1942
Box 1, Folder 23	Osborne, S. W., 1942
Box 1, Folder 24	Ozark Arts and Crafts Center - Payne, 1942
Box 1, Folder 25	P P and H Moulding Co. - Putnam, 1942
Box 1, Folder 26	Radas - Ryder, 1942
Box 1, Folder 27	Sanders Co. - Sebatia Products, 1942
Box 1, Folder 28	Shaker Gift Center Inc. - Swartz, 1942
Box 1, Folder 29	Taber - Vixsboxse Art Galleries, 1942
Box 1, Folder 30	Wadsworth, Howland and Co. - Waverly Fabrics, Inc., 1942
Box 1, Folder 31	Webb - Wyman, 1942
Box 1, Folder 32	Yale Athletic Association - Yuenger Manufacturing Co., 1942

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Series 2: Stock Records, 1905-1942

6.2 Linear feet ((Boxes 2-6, 11, OVs 23-24, BVs 13-15))

Scope and Contents: This series contains stock cards, inventory records, and price lists in addition to blueprints, drawings, and stencils and designs for wood carving.

Stock cards (mostly 8" x 10" pieces of mat board) describe merchandise produced or sold by Foster Brothers, including frames for pictures and mirrors, candlesticks, glove boxes, moldings, painted glass and stands. Each card contains at least one image (drawing, photograph, or printed reproduction) of the item and its stock or style number, and sometimes notes dimensions and prices. Some loose images are interfiled with the cards.

A large number of paper stencils that were used to transfer carving designs to frames survive, although many are fragile. Many stencils are annotated with the corresponding stock or style number; other designs for woodcarving are merely drawn on paper. In addition, there are extensive drawings of frames and moldings, loose and in bound volumes, including finished, colored drawings by master craftsman C. F. Richter.

One volume titled "Cost on Mirrors" (1929) analyzes the amount of time needed to carve, gild, and polish frames, the cost of materials, and prices of frames #1001-1308.

Box 2	Stock Cards
Box 2, Folder 1-19	Frames #515-4599, undated 19 Folders
Box 3, Folder 1-18	Frames #4600-5099, undated 18 Folders
Box 4, Folder 1-18	Frames #5100-6011; unnumbered, undated 18 Folders
Box 5, Folder 1	Candlesticks #1-8, undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Glove Boxes #6-9, undated
Box 5, Folder 3	Light Bracket; Wall Candelabra #1-2, undated
Box 5, Folder 4	Moldings #1w-186w; #1-172; #4533-4966, undated Notes: (see also BV 13)
Box 5, Folder 5-6	Painted Glass #1-62, undated 2 Folders
Box 5, Folder 7	Pier Mirrors (#P1-P17), undated
Box 5, Folder 8-9	Stands #1-40; unnumbered, undated 2 Folders
Box 5	Blueprints

Box 5, Folder 10	Mirrors #1004-1167, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Catalog (includes blueprints and printed reproductions) - Mirrors #1053-1143, undated 1 Volume
Box 5, Folder 12	"Cost on Mirrors", 1929 1 Volume
Box 5	Drawings (hand colored) by C. F. Richter Notes: (see also BVs 14-15)
Box 5, Folder 13	Cabinets, undated
Box 5, Folder 14	Foster Brothers Mirrors in Room Settings (unsigned), undated
Box 5	Inventories
Box 5, Folder 15	Vol. 1:, 1933-1942
Box 5, Folder 16	Vol. 2:, 1939-1941 (loose leaf notebook, disbound)
Box 5, Folder 17	Vol. 3:, undated
Box 5, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Lists, 1939, undated
Box 5	Price Books (loose leaf notebooks, disbound)
Box 5, Folder 19	Vol. 1: Stands and Frames, 1919-1938
Box 5, Folder 20	Vol. 2: Frames, 1919-1939
Box 5, Folder 21	Vol. 3: Frames, 1923-1942
Box 5, Folder 22-23	Price Lists, 1929-1942, undated 2 Folders
Box 6, Folder 1-34	Stencils and Designs for Woodcarving, #100s-#6000s, unnumbered, undated 34 Folders Notes: see also OVs 23-24, BV 13
Box 11, Folder 1-8	Stencils and Designs for Woodcarving, unnumbered, undated 8 Folders Notes: see also OVs 23-24, BV 13
Box OV 23	Stencils and Designs for Woodcarving, (#1000s-2000s, 4000s), undated

Box OV 24	Stencils and Designs for Woodcarving (unnumbered), undated
Box BV 13	Stencils and Designs for Woodcarving (unnumbered), 1905
Box BV 13	Drawings of Moldings, #1-3038, 1905
Box BV 14	Drawings (probably by C. F. Richter), "Sketches" (mirrors and frames), undated
Box BV 15	Drawings (probably by C. F. Richter), "Mirrors and Frames", undated Notes: (see also Box 5, BV 14; includes boxes, stands, letterhead design, printed reproductions; some loose items)

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Series 3: Financial Records, 1892-1959

3.3 Linear feet ((Boxes 7-9; BVs 16-19))

Scope and Contents: Financial records consist mainly of accounting records, but also include annual financial reports, orders, and sales records. There are relatively few records before the early 1900s.

Box 7 Accounting Records

Box 7, Folder 1	Account Balances, Wholesale and Retail, 1940-1941
Box 7, Folder 2-3	Accounts Payable, A-Z, 1936-1941 2 Folders
Box 7, Folder 4	Accounts Payable, Summary, 1919-1938 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 5-8	Accounts Receivable, A-Z, 1907-1940 4 Folders ((5" x 8" cards))
Box 7, Folder 9	Accounts Receivable, Summary, 1919-1938 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 10	Advertising, 1928-1931 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 11	Automobile, Reserve for Depreciation, 1931-1937 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 12	Balance Sheets, 1919-1930
Box 7, Folder 13	Balances, Sundry Credit and Debit, 1931 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 14	Bank Deposits, 1919-1939 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 15	Cash, 1919-1939 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 16	Cash Journal, Vol. 1:, Jan. 11, 1938-Jan. 1, 1939
Box 7, Folder 17	Cash Journal, Vol. 2:, Jan. 3-Nov. 1, 1939
Box 7, Folder 18	Cash Journal, Vol. 3:, Nov. 13, 1939-Sept., 21, 1940
Box 7, Folder 19	Cash Journal, Vol. 4:, Sept. 23, 1940-Sept. 6, 1941
Box 7, Folder 20	Cash Journal, Vol. 5:, 1939

	Notes: (see: BV 16)
Box 7, Folder 21	Cash Journal, Vol. 6:, 1940 Notes: (see: BV 17)
Box 7, Folder 22	Cash Journal, Vol. 7:, 1941 Notes: (see: BV 18)
Box 7, Folder 23	Code Numbers, undated
Box 7, Folder 24	Consignments, 1935-1941 1 Volume
Box 7, Folder 25	Expenses, Factory and Store, 1900-1931 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 26	Foster, Georgette K., Helen J., John R. and Estate of John R., 1902-1938 (5" x 8")
Box 7, Folder 27	Furniture and Fixtures, 1919-1938 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 28	General Ledger, Profit and Loss, 1938 (see: BV 19)
Box 7, Folder 29	Insurance, 1937-1938 (5" x 8")
Box 7, Folder 30	Interest and Discount, 1919-1939 (5" x 8")
Box 7, Folder 31	Inventories, Consigned, Factory, and Store, 1919-1938 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 7, Folder 32	Inventories, Factory and Store Equipment, Supplies, Fixtures, 1920
Box 7, Folder 33	Investment Account, 1919-1932 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 8, Folder 1	Payroll, 1931 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 8, Folder 2	Payroll - Factory, Vol. 1:, 1936-1937
Box 8, Folder 3	Payroll - Factory, Vol. 2:, 1937-1938
Box 8, Folder 4	Payroll - Factory, Vol. 3:, 1939-1940

Box 8, Folder 5	Profit and Loss, 1919-1939 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 8, Folder 6	Sales and Purchases, 1919-1938 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 8, Folder 7	Sales and Purchases; Expenses, 1939-1942
Box 8, Folder 8	Taxes, 1925-1931 (5" x 8" cards)
Box 8, Folder 9	Annual Financial Reports, 1925-1932
Box 8, Folder 10	Annual Financial Reports, 1934-1942
Box 8, Folder 11	Order Books - Retail, Vol. 1., 1939
Box 8, Folder 12	Order Books - Retail, Vol. 2., 1940
Box 8, Folder 13	Order Books - Retail, Vol. 3., 1941
Box 8, Folder 14	Order Books - Wholesale, Vol. 1., 1937-1939
Box 8, Folder 15	Order Books - Wholesale, Vol. 2., 1939-1941
Box 8, Folder 16	Sales, Vols. 1-3., 1892-1910
Box 8, Folder 17	Sales, Vol. 4., 1937-1939 (wrapped package)
Box 9, Folder 1	Sales, Vol. 5., 1939-1941
Box 9, Folder 2-14	Sales Records, Jan. 1942-Jan. 1943 13 Folders
Box 9, Folder 15	Sales, Monthly Summaries, 1926-1942
Box 9, Folder 16	Sales, Davidson, C. E., 1938-1942
Box 9, Folder 17	Sales, Wholesale Sales Trips (itineraries, customer lists, expenses, sales), 1930-1942
Box BV 16	Accounting Records, Cash Journal, Vol. 5, 1959
Box BV 17	Accounting Records, Cash Journal, Vol. 6, 1940
Box BV 18	Accounting Records, Cash Journal, Vol. 7, 1941

Box BV 19

Accounting Records, General Ledger, Profit and Loss, 1938

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Series 4: Writings and Lists, 1920s-circa 1942

0.25 Linear feet ((Box 9))

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of articles, lists and notes. An unsigned article concerns Foster Brothers' craftsmen and their early use of machinery. Notes include material for a history of mirrors by Helen J. Foster, and "The Art of Framing" by John R. Foster.

Box 9, Folder 18	Articles by Unknown, undated
Box 9, Folder 19	Draft of Mirror Brochure (with illustration), undated
Box 9, Folder 20	Lists, Mailing, 1940-1941
Box 9, Folder 21	Lists, Store and Factory Locations; Unusual items Framed for Customers by Helen Foster, undated
Box 9, Folder 22	Lists, Trade (by city), 1939
Box 9, Folder 23-24	Lists, Retail Customers (Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Lexington, Medfords, Worcester), undated 8 Volumes (in 2 folders)
Box 9, Folder 25	Lists, Wholesale New England Customers or Possible Customers by Helen Foster, undated
Box 9, Folder 26	Notebooks, Helen Foster - Business Information, A-Z, undated
Box 9, Folder 27	Notebooks, John R. Foster - Notes and Figures; Lists, 1920s-1930s 2 Volumes (disbound)
Box 9, Folder 28	Notebooks, Margaret J. Melly [Mrs. McLaughlin] (in charge of wholesale orders and advertising) and Helen J. Foster - "Interesting Information of All Kinds", undated
Box 9, Folder 29	Notes, Artist Biographies by Unknown, undated
Box 9, Folder 30	Notes, History of Mirrors by Helen J. Foster, undated
Box 9, Folder 31	Notes, Miscellaneous and Lists by Helen J. Foster, circa 1942
Box 9, Folder 32	Notes, Picture Frames; "The Art of Framing" by John R. Foster, undated
Box 9, Folder 33	Notes, Reproductions Published by Foster Brothers, undated

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Series 5: Miscellaneous Business Records, 1898-1939

7 Folders ((Box 10))

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are copyright and trademark information, a building permit, and records relating to an exhibition of etchings by Dorsey Potter Tyson held at Foster Brothers.

Box 10, Folder 1	Building Permit for Arlington, Mass., Factory, 1918
Box 10, Folder 2	Census of Manufacturers, 1929-1939
Box 10, Folder 3	Contracts (Telephone and Electric Co.), 1898-1907
Box 10, Folder 4	Copyright Registration for Photograph, "Irene" and Print, "Your Picture of Today Will be the Keepsake of Tomorrow", 1898, 1926
Box 10, Folder 5	Exhibition of Etchings by Dorsey Potter Tyson, 1937
Box 10, Folder 6	Insurance, Workmen's Compensation, 1912
Box 10, Folder 7	Trademark of Foster Brothers, 1899

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1893-1947

0.25 Linear feet ((Box 10, OV 25))

Scope and Contents: The majority of printed material relates to advertising and consists of catalogs and brochures about frames, mirrors, and published reproductions. Unless otherwise noted, all items were produced by or are about Foster Brothers. Scrapbooks in Series 7 contain additional printed material.

Box 10, Folder 8	Advertising, undated
Box 10, Folder 9	Advertising (R. H. Macy and Co., featuring Foster Brothers' mirrors, frames, and reproductions), undated
Box 10, Folder 10	Broadside, undated Notes: (see: OV 25)
Box 10, Folder 11	Brochures about Reproductions (not Foster Brothers), undated
Box 10, Folder 12-14	Brochures and Catalogs, 1890s-1930s, undated 3 Folders Notes: see also OV 25
Box 10, Folder 15	Business Card of Helen Foster, undated
Box 10, Folder 16	Clippings, About/Mentioning Foster Brothers, 1893-1947, undated
Box 10, Folder 17	Clippings, About Picture Frames, 1934, undated
Box 10, Folder 18	Clippings, Miscellaneous Subjects, 1893, undated
Box 10, Folder 19	Exhibition Catalogs, 1893-1894
Box 10, Folder 20	Frame Labels, undated
Box 10, Folder 21	Order Form for Reproductions, undated
Box 10, Folder 22	Pamphlet about History of 2 Park Street, Boston (Houghton Mifflin Co.), 1923
Box 10, Folder 23	Reproductions of Silhouettes Published by Foster Brothers, undated
Box OV 25	Broadside, undated
Box OV 25	Brochures and Catalogs

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Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1906-1942

1.3 Linear feet ((Boxes 10, 12, BV 20-22))

Scope and Contents: 8 volumes of scrapbooks contain printed material including clippings, advertising material, brochures and catalogs, form letters, and reproductions of miniatures and silhouettes published by Foster Brothers.

Box 10, Folder 24	Vol. 1: Advertising, 1906-1914
Box 10, Folder 25	Vol. 2: Advertising, 1915-1923, undated Notes: (see BV 20)
Box 10, Folder 26	Vol. 3: Advertising, 1934-1942 Notes: (see BV 21)
Box 10, Folder 27	Vol. 4: Advertising in Magazines, 1918-1919
Box 10, Folder 28	Vol. 5: Advertising in Magazines, 1924-1934, undated (disbound volume; see Box 12)
Box 10, Folder 29	Vol. 6: Advertising in Magazines, 1927-1931
Box 10, Folder 30	Vol. 7: Reproductions of Miniatures and Silhouettes (published by Foster Brothers), undated Notes: (See: Box 12)
Box 10, Folder 31	Vol. 8: Reproductions of Drawings by Alfred Shaw, Francis Getty, Kenneth Conant (copyrighted and published by Foster Brothers), 1921-1930 Notes: (see BV 22)
Box 10, Folder 32	Loose Items [from unidentified scrapbook(s)], 1924-1932, undated
Box 12	Vol. 5: Advertising in Magazines, 1924-1934, undated
Box 12	Vol. 7: Reproductions of Miniatures and Silhouettes (published by Foster Brothers), undated
Box BV 20	Vol. 2: Advertising, 1915-1923, undated
Box BV 21	Vol. 3: Advertising, 1934-1942
Box BV 22	Vol. 8: Reproductions of Drawings by Alfred Shaw, Francis Getty, Kenneth Conant (copyrighted and published by Foster Brothers), 1921-1930

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Series 8: Family Papers, 1875-1973

6 Folders (Box 10)

Scope and Contents: Family papers consist of a small number of personal papers of Foster Brothers founders, John Roy and Stephen Bartlett Foster, and also of Helen Foster Osborne (John's daughter). A letter from Edward Everett Hale, 1889, accepting an invitation addressed to Mr. Foster could have been intended for either Stephen or John Foster. Also included are a silhouette of John R. Foster cut by Doris Burdick, and his personal account book with some brief diary entries that pre-date the establishment of Foster Brothers by more than a decade. Of particular interest is Helen Foster Osborne's 1973 reminiscence of having her portrait painted by William Paxton in 1923. Helen Foster Osborne's correspondence with Ernest Donnelly, post-dating the closing of Foster Brothers, concerns the sale of printing plates and dies from the miniature reproduction business.

Box 10, Folder 33	To Mr. Foster, Letter from Edward Everett Hale, 1889
Box 10, Folder 34	John R. Foster, Account Book, 1875-1880
Box 10, Folder 35	John R. Foster, Silhouette Cut by Doris Burdick, undated
Box 10, Folder 36	Stephen B Foster, Will, 1915
Box 10, Folder 37	Helen Foster Osborne, Correspondence with Ernest Donnelly, 1945-1946
Box 10, Folder 38	Helen Foster Osborne, Photograph of Portrait of her by William Paxton (with reminiscence), 1923, 1973

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Series 9: Photographs, circa 1880s-1918

5 Folders ((Box 10))

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of the Foster brothers, John Roy and Stephen Bartlett Foster. One portrait of each is in a "Keepsake Frame," a popular item designed and manufactured by Foster Brothers. Other people appearing in photographs are employees, most of whom are unidentified. Also included are pictures of the Foster Brothers' first frame factory on Cambridge Street, picturing the exterior of the factory and the "fitting room."

Box 10, Folder 39 People, Employees, 1896, undated

Box 10, Folder 40 People, Foster, John Roy, 1880s-circa 1914

Box 10, Folder 41 People, Foster, Stephen Bartlett, circa 1880s-1890s, undated

Box 10, Folder 42 Places, Foster Brothers Factory, Cambridge St. (exterior and "fitting room"), 1890s-1918

Box 10, Folder 43 Places, John and Stephen Foster, Charles Street Apartment, undated

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