Guide to the Albany Billiard Ball Company Records

NMAH.AC.0011

William R. Massa, Jr. and Robert S. Harding

1979 November
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Albany Billiard Ball Company Records
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0011
Date: 1870 - 1974
Extent: 8 Cubic feet (25 boxes)
Creator: Albany Billiard Ball Company (Albany, New York)
Language: English.
Summary: These records include documents relating to John Hyatt and include legal documents, 1871-1966; bank books; patents; patent certificates; patent assignments; memoranda and articles of association; union contracts; balance sheets; profit and loss accounts; journals and cash books; ledgers; time books; invoices; photographs; and correspondence to and from the company.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Immediated source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance
Transferred from the Division of Physical Sciences (now the Division of Medicine and Science) on April 5, 1983.

Related Materials
New York State Library

Albany Billiard Ball Company Records, 1894-1944, bulk 1914-1944

The records of the Albany Billiard Ball Company consist chiefly of account books detailing its finances. The cash journals detail the quantity and cost of goods sold to various firms and individuals. Costs and fees for shipping and handling are also noted. The journals of income and disbursements provide a more detailed record of administrative and production costs of the company as well as income derived from sales. Principle expenditures include labor, raw materials, maintenance of equipment and facilities, and taxes.

Processing Information
Preferred Citation


Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

The Albany Billiard Ball Company is possibly the earliest successful plastics firm and certainly one of the oldest plastics companies in the world. The business was started in 1868 on Albany's South End. The company was renamed in September, 1977 the Albany-Hyatt Billiard Ball Company. John Wesley Hyatt was one of the company's founders and the American inventor of celluloid. Celluloid, besides being the base of photographic film, was a substitute for ivory, long the prime substance in billiard ball manufacture. The Hyatt "composition" ball, with a celluloid base, dominated the sport until the 1960s.

Scope and Contents

The records include documents relating to John Hyatt and consist of articles of agreement; articles of association; contracts; bills of sale; by laws; deeds; licenses to manufacture; memoranda; bank books; patents; patent certificates; patent assignments; union contracts; balance sheets; profit and loss accounts; journals and cash books; ledgers; time books; invoices; minutes; photographs; and correspondence to and from the company, 1870-1974.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Billiards
Celluloid
Molding -- Plastics
Plastics -- Molding
Plastics industry and trade

Types of Materials:
Cashbooks
Contracts -- union
Invoices
Journals (accounts)
Ledgers (account books)
Legal documents
Patents
Time books

Names:
Hyatt, John Wesley (inventor)
Koener, Max

Geographic Names:
Albany (N.Y.)
Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1912-1972

Box 1, Folder 1  Administrative history and chronology of the company, undated

Box 1, Folder 2  Memorandum and Articles of Association of The Composition Billiard Ball Supply Company, Limited (of London) with Albany Billiard Ball Company

Box 1, Folder 3  Bank books and savings account books from several Albany banks, 1912-1949

Box 1, Folder 1  By-laws of Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company. Minutes of Stockholders' and Directors' Meetings of Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company (items are in one bound volume), circa 1915-1930

Box 1, Folder 4  Agreements of stockholders, 1938 - 1939

Box 1, Folder 5  License granted to Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company, by General Bakelite Company to manufacture products containing Bakelite

Box 1, Folder 6  General release from Friedrich Wilhelm Holland-Letz to Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Co., 1939

Box 1, Folder 7  Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts; Records for the Bonzoline Manufacturing Company, Limited and the Composition Billiard Ball Supply Company, Limited, 1950-1954

Box 1, Folder 1  Minutes of Board of Directors of Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company, 1954-1955

Box 1, Folder 8  Documents relating to product pricing, 1952 - 1955, 1928

Box 1, Folder 9  Financial and accounting documents and includes regulations for management of a company limited by shares, 1928; a stock certificate, 1940; assets and liabilities report for Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Co., 1955; invoice for rental of a safe deposit box, 1957

Box 1, Folder 10  Minutes of Board of Directors of Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company, 1954 - 1955

Box 1, Folder 11  Map indicates property owned by Albany Billiard Ball Company in Albany; appraisal of land value of Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1954

Box 1, Folder 12  Plat of Albany Billiard Ball Company, and Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Co., Inc., 1956(?); appraisal report, 1956; estate of Ronald Kinnear
Box 1, Folder 13

Union contracts, and related documents. Consists of pay rates, list of benefits; contract between Albany Plastic Corporation (Albany Billiard Ball Division and Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Division) and International Union of District 50, United Mine Workers of America, 1969; agreement between Albany Plastic Company and United Steelworkers of America, 1972; and union contracts regarding company seniority, 1972.

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Subseries 2.1: Journals, 1875 - 1911

Box 2, Folder 1  April 28, 1875-December 30, 1876
Box 2, Folder 2  January 2, 1877-December 31, 1878
Box 5, Folder 2  October 1, 1898-December 31, 1902
Box 5, Folder 3  January 2, 1903-October 31, 1904
Box 6, Folder 1  November 1, 1904-October 30, 1909
Box 6, Folder 2  November 1, 1909-December 31, 1912
Box 7, Folder 1  January 2, 1913-June 30, 1914
Box 7, Folder 2  July 1, 1914-December 31, 1916
Box 8, Folder 1  January 2, 1917-December 31, 1918
Box 17, Folder 1  Journal, Newark Billiard Ball & Manufacturing Co., 1908 March 1-1911 December 18

Subseries 2.2: Journals and Cash Books, 1879 - 1894

Box 2, Folder 3  January 1, 1879-December 31, 1880
Box 2, Folder 4  January 1, 1881-April 30, 1883
Box 2, Folder 4  Journal B, May 1, 1879-April 30, 1880
Box 3, Folder 1  Journal C, 1883 May 1-1891 April 30
Box 3, Folder 2  Journal D, 1891 May 1-1893 August 31
Box 4, Folder 1  January 1, 1891-April 30, 1883
Box 4, Folder 2  May 1, 1883-November 30, 1885
Box 4, Folder 3  December 1, 1885-April 29, 1889
Subseries 2.3: Ledgers, 1878 - 1912

Box 8, Folder 2  1878-1879
Box 8, Folder 3  May 1, 1883-April 30, 1888
Box 9, Folder 1  May 1, 1895-October 31, 1904
Box 9, Folder 2  July 1, 1902-July 21, 1906
Box 9, Folder 3  November 1, 1904-October 31, 1909
Box 10, Folder 1  January 1, 1912-December 31, 1912
Box 10, Folder 2  November 1, 1909-December 31, 1911
Box 11, Folder 1  January 1, 1913-December 31, 1913
Box 15, Folder 1  Ledger #A, Newark Billiard Ball and Manufacturing Company, 1907 October 29-1908 April 1
Box 16, Folder 1  Ledger, Newark Billiard Ball & Manufacturing Company, 1908 March 1-1912 March 27

Subseries 2.4: Cash Books, 1884 - 1912

Box 11, Folder 2  January 1, 1884 to May 1, 1885; and August 1, 1902 to October 31, 1902
Box 11, Folder 3  November 1, 1905 to October 30, 1909
Box 12, Folder 1  November 1, 1909 to December 31, 1912
Box 13, Folder 1  January 1, 1913 to December 31, 1918
Box 18A  Newark Billiard Ball and Manufacturing Company, 1908 March 1-1912 April

Subseries 2.5: Payroll Time Books, 1910 - 1916

Box 13, Folder 2  July 7, 1910 to December 28, 1912
Box 14, Folder 1  January 1, 1913 to January 1, 1916
Subseries 2.6: Miscellaneous, 1875 - 1912

Box 14, Folder 2  Minute Book of the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, and Stockholders, 1875 May 1-1911 November 1

Box 18, Folder 1  Invoices, Newark Billiard Ball & Manufacturing Co., 1907 December 20-1910 December 30

Box 18, Folder 2  Invoices, Newark Billiard Ball & Manufacturing Co., 1908 March 31-1911 September 30

Box 19, Folder 1  Sales, Newark Billiard Ball & Manufacturing Co., 1908 March 13-1911 September 28

Box 20, Folder 1  Checkbook, Newark Billiard Ball and Manufacturing Company, 1910 March 28-1912 February 27

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<td>Concerning foreign and domestic patents, trademarks and registrations, 1956 - 1971</td>
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<td>General, 1904 - 1971</td>
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Series 4: Legal Documents, 1873 - 1974

Box 22, Folder 1  Includes: chattel mortgage for the sale of Hyatt Billiard Ball Co., 1873; agreement of organization of Hyatt Billiard Ball Co., 1873; Articles of Incorporation for Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1875; bill of sale, 1875, from Hyatt Billiard Ball Co. to Peter Kinnear; articles of agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and J.M. Brunswick and Balke Co., 1877-1884, and related correspondence; memoranda of agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and la Compagnie Generale de Chromolithie, 1883; contract between the J.M. Brunswick and Balke Company and the Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1883; contract between the Albany Billiard Ball Co. and the McConihe and Hubbell Manufacturing Co., 1896; and contracts between Edgar T. Ely of Buenos Aires and Albany Billiard Ball Co., 1898

Box 22, Folder 2  Includes: agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and McConihe and Hubbell Manufacturing Co., 1902; agreement between the Albany Billiard Ball Co. and the Burt Company, 1904; agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and the McConihe and Hubbell Manufacturing Co., 1904; agreements between the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co. and Albany Billiard Ball Co., 1904, and related correspondence; memoranda of agreement between the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co., and George H. Burt, 1905, and related correspondence; and an agreement between Joseph P. O'Mara and John S. Boa and the Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1907

Box 22, Folder 3  Includes: a license granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company to manufacture in Albany, 1913; an agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and the Bonzoline Manufacturing Company, 1913; agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and Home Recreations Limited, 1921; and agreements between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and Bonzoline Manufacturing Company, 1923

Box 22, Folder 4  Includes: deeds of partnership with a German manufacturer of billiard balls, Endolithic Manufacturing Company, 1925; correspondence related to the agreement with Home Recreations Limited, 1928; documents pertaining to a Federal Trade Commission investigation into complaints of unfair methods of competition between Albany Billiard Ball Co. and Portland Billiard Ball Co., 1930; agreement between Bonicot Corporation of America and Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Co., 1933; and a contract between H. Wagner & Adler Co. and Albany Billiard Ball Co., 1933

Box 22, Folder 5  Includes: an agreement between Alexander Thomas Hough and the Composition Billiard Ball Company, 1935; an agreement between Composition Billiard Ball Company and Kenneth Luke Emler, 1935; an agreement between Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company and the Vitalite Company, 1937; agreements between H. Wagner & Adler Company and Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1937, 1938 and 1939; documents specifying conditions of employment for Dr. Max Koebner, 1938; a release of manufacturing equipment from American Merchandise Company, Inc., to Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Co., and other documents relating to the bankruptcy of American Merchandise, 1939; agreements between the Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company, and the Ritter-Carlton Company, 1939, and related correspondence, 1940-1941; an indentureship agreement between Friedrich Wilhelm Holland-Letz and Ritter-
Carlton Company, 1939; a release form from Friedrich Wilhelm Holland-Letz to the Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company, 1939; a license from Shaw Insulator Company to Niagara Insul-Bake Specialty Company, 1942; a deed between the Composition Billiard Ball Company and the Vitalite Company, 1943, involving factory land; an agreement between William Barton and the Composition Billiard Ball Company, 1943; and an agreement between the Composition Billiard Ball Company and Dr. Max Koebner, 1943

Box 22, Folder 6 Includes: a lease between William Barton and the Composition Billiard Ball Company, 1945; a bond and mortgage document between Jean W. Harrig and Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1948; memorandum of insurance, 1948; a lease of a service station with the Tidewater Associated Oil Company, 1949; an option to buy land, given to Albany Billiard Ball Company by Harry Pappalau, 1949; and an agreement between the Albany Billiard Ball Company and the Bakelite Corporation regarding the disclosure of processes for producing billiard balls, 1949

Box 22, Folder 7 Includes: legal and other related documents pertaining to a dispute with William C. Mason, Engineer., 1948 - 1950

Box 22, Folder 8 Includes: an agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Company and Jacob Michael, regarding a parcel of land, 1951; official statement made by Ellis M. Faulkner regarding a failed device developed by William Mason, 1951; an official statement made by William Weir regarding the Mason device, 1951; an official statement made by William Ritter regarding the Mason device, 1951; an official statement made by A. R. Van Horne regarding the Mason device, 1951; documents regarding the settlement of the estate of Ronald Kinnear, 1954; a document appointing Thomas W. Leverington attorney of Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1956; an agreement extending the contract with Herman Blattner, 1960, and related correspondence; a memorandum of agreement between Alley Manufacturing Company and Albany Billiard Ball Company, 1962; an agreement between Albany Billiard Ball Company and Ellis M. Faulkner, 1964, regarding employment; a letter relating to Faulkner’s estate, 1969

Series 5: Patents and Trademarks, 1870 - 1973

Subseries 5.1: Patents, 1887 - 1973

Box 23, Folder 1 Includes: patent issued to George Phelan for billiard ball, 1887; to George Burt for pool-ball, 1893; issued to George Burt for billiard ball, 1894; to William H. Hoyt for game balls, 1902; to William H. Hoyt for manufacturing of game balls, 1902; to Benjamin Abbott Stevens, for bowling pin, 1903; to Alonzo Burt for his method of manufacturing game balls, 1903; to Joseph P. O'Mara and John S. Boa, for a device for striping and spotting pool balls, 1903; to Alonzo L. Burt for a game ball dyeing apparatus, 1904; to Alonzo L. Burt, for apparatus for making game balls, 1905; to Alonzo L. Burt, for process of making game balls, 1905.

Box 23, Folder 2 Includes: several patents issued to Leo Baekeland and others. None of these relate to Albany Billiard Ball Co., but were included because they concern plastic composition., 1906 - 1916

Box 23, Folder 3 Includes patent issued to Otto Kadzik for a machine for the spherical grinding of billiard balls and other blanks; other patents in this file do not relate to Albany Billiard Ball Co., but they were included because they concern plastic composition., 1917 - 1936

Box 23, Folder 4 Includes: patent issued to Wesley R. Thompson for billiard ball and method of manufacture, 1938; to Harold Luth for a method of hardening cast phenolic resin, 1941; to L.F. Kutik for pool balls, 1962; to Earl W. Feddick and Gustane Wassman for a magnetic pool ball, 1973. Other patents in this file do not relate to Albany Billiard Ball Company but they were included because they concern plastic composition.


Box 23, Folder 5 Assigned to John A. Bragaw, from Lewis Deitz, B. Wayne and Albern Stone, 1872; to Henry Deitz, from Lewis Deitz, B. Wayne and Albern Stone, 1872; To Lewis Deitz and Benjamin Wayne, from Henry Deitz, 1873; to Lewis Deitz and Benjamin Wayne, from John A. Bragaw, 1873; to Lewis Deitz and Benjamin Wayne, from Albern Stone, 1874; to the Bonsilate Company, Limited, from Charles S. Lockwood, 1882; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company, from the Bonsilate Company, 1882; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from John W. Hyatt, 1883; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from the Bonsilate Company, 1888; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company, from John W. Hyatt, 1889; to the Burt Manufacturing Company, from George H. Burt, 1900; to the Burt Company from William H. Hoyt, 1901; to the Burt Company from Alonzo Burt, 1902;

Box 23, Folder 6 Assigned to the Burt Company from Alonzo Burt, 1903; to the Burt Company from Alonzo Burt, 1903; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from the Burt Company, 1903; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from the Burt Company, 1905; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from the Burt Company, 1906; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from the Burt Company, 1906; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from the Burt Company, 1906; to the Albany
Billiard Ball Company from Joseph P. O'Mara and John S. Boa, 1907; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Joseph P. O'Mara and John S. Boa, 1907; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Joseph P. O'Mara and John S. Boa, 1907.

Box 23, Folder 7
Assigned to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1955; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1955; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1957; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1959; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1961; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1961; to the Albany Billiard Ball Company from Ellis M. Faulkner, 1961.

Subseries 5.3: Patent Certificates, 1870 - 1970

Box 23, Folder 8
Granted to John W. Hyatt, Jr., for improved molding composition to imitate ivory and other substances, 1870; granted to Lewis Deitz, Benjamin P. Wayne and Albern Stone for improvement in the manufacture of billiard balls and other composition articles, 1871; granted to Lewis Deitz and Benjamin P. Wayne for improvement in the manufacturing of pyroxilene and articles therefrom, 1872; granted to Charles S. Lockwood for plastic compositions for the cores of billiard balls and for other purposes, 1882; granted to John W. Hyatt and Charles S. Lockwood for improvement in pool balls, 1893; granted to George H. Burt for apparatus for molding plastic material, 1894; granted to George H. Burt for billiard balls, 1894; granted to George H. Burt for processes of constructing pool balls, 1895; to William H. Hoyt, for game balls, 1902; granted to William H. Hoyt for game balls and methods for making same, 1902; granted to Alonzo L. Burt for methods of manufacturing game balls, 1903; granted to Joseph P. O'Mara for devices for striping and spotting pool balls, 1903.

Box 23, Folder 9
Granted to Alonzo Burt for game ball dyeing apparatus, 1904; granted to Alonzo L. Burt for apparatus for making game balls, 1905; granted to Ronald Kinnear for a combined blade dispenser and razor holder, 1937, granted to Alfred Richard Van Horne, for a pool ball rack, 1950; granted to Ellis Faulkner III, for a method of making a bowling pin, 1957; granted (by Comptroller of Patents, Designs and Trade-marks, Great Britain) to Albany Billiard Ball Company, for bowling pin, 1962; granted (by the Department of the Secretary of State, Patent and Copyright Office, Canada) to Albany Billiard Ball Company, for bowling pin, 1965; granted to Ellis May Faulkner for molded plastic game balls, 1966; granted to Ellis May Faulkner III for bowling pin with wear-resistant insert and interlocking retainer, 1966; and one certificate of renewal, to Albany International Corporation, for patent 278,289, 1970.

Subseries 5.4: Trademark Certificates and Registrations, 1894 - 1963

Box 23, Folder 10
Publication of the trademark "Crystalite", 1937; registered trademark for the name "Gold Diamond"
Box 23, Folder 11
Granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the new Hyatt Pool balls, 1894; granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the New Hyatt Billiard and Pool balls, 1896; granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the Triangle Cue Balls, 1926; granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Hyatt pool balls, bagatelle balls, pocket billiard balls and pool balls, 1926; granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the "Hyatt" name, 1927; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Crystalate Billiard, Pool, Snooker and Billiard Balls, 1930; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Vitalite Billiard, Pool, Snooker and Bagatelle balls, 1930; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Resinite Billiard, Pool, Snooker and Bagatelle balls, 1930; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Hyatt Pocket Billiard Balls, 1937.

Box 23, Folder 12
Renewal granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the Triangle Cue Ball, 1946; granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the Triangle Cue Ball, 1948; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Vitalite, 1949; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Hyatt Billiard Balls, Pocket Billiard Balls, and Cue Balls, 1949; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Resinite Billiard Balls, 1949; granted to Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Crystalate, 1949; renewal granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Resinite Billiard, Pool, Snooker and Bagatelle Balls, 1950; renewal granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for Crystalate Billiard, Pool, Snooker and Bagatelle Balls, 1950; granted (by the Republic of Mexico) to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for "Vitalite", 1954; granted (by the Republic of Mexico) to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the name "Hyatt", 1954; granted to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for "Vitalite", 1954, granted (by the Republic of Cuba) to the Albany Billiard Ball Company, for a trademark for the name "Hyatt", 1956; granted (by the Republic of Cuba) to the Albany Billiard Ball Company for a trademark for the name "Vitalite", 1956; certificate of registration of trademark (Mexico) for the trademark "Hyatt", 1963; certificate of registration of trademark (Mexico) for the trademark "Vitalite", 1963.

Box 23, Folder 13
Trademarks for Bakelite and Vitalite, 1930, 1926

Subseries 5.5: Patent Search, Application and Opposition, 1930 - 1961

Box 23, Folder 14
Patent application, 1955: by Ellis Faulkner for a patent on improvement in the manufacture of bowling pins, 1955; amendments and related papers

Box 23, Folder 15
Patent application by Ellis M. Faulkner for a patent of molded plastic game balls., 1961 - 1961

Box 23, Folder 16
Trademark Search Reports, 1930 - 1950
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Box 24, Folder 1  Engineering and production specifications, includes specifications for panels and lamp regulators., 1916 - 1916

Box 24, Folder 2  Artifacts, unidentified, possibly used in bowling pin manufacture, undated

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Series 7: Photographs, 1920s

Box 25, Folder 1-3; Manufacture of billiard balls, undated
Box 24, Folder 3 Image(s)

Box 24, Folder 3 [Women polishing billiard balls in Albany Billiard Ball factory], circa 1930
1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper; 4.6” x 6.4”)

Image(s)

Albany Billiard Ball Company (Albany, New York)
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Local Numbers
AC0011-0000001.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Billiards
Billiards -- Equipment and supplies
Plastics industry and trade

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Series 8: Printed materials, undated

Box 24, Folder 4  Articles, printed matter and advertising, undated

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