



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Elisha Gray Collection

NMAH.AC.0014

Robert Harding

1984

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Elisha Gray Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0014
Date:	1871-1938
Creator:	Gray, Elisha, 1835-1901 (inventor)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Electricity and Modern Physics
Extent:	3.6 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Original source unidentified.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Electricity (now known as the Division of Work and Industry).

Other Finding Aids

Inventory available; contact the Archives Center for more information.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Harding, 1984

Preferred Citation

Elisha Gray Collection, 1871-1938, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

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 Note

Elisha Gray (1835-1901) was an inventor and the co-founder of the Western Electric Company. Gray is best known for his part in a bitter controversy with Alexander Graham Bell over the priority of invention of the telephone.

Scope and Contents

Legal documents, photographs, articles, copies of correspondence, three folders of original Gray correspondence on the Gray-Bell controversy; most of the collection consists of copies of material, or printed matter, collected by Lloyd W. Taylor of the museum staff.

Arrangement

Divided into 8 series: (1) Correspondence; (2) Memoirs and Unpublished Manuscripts; (3) Legal Material; (4) Patents; (5) Biographical; (6) Lloyd W. Taylor; (7) Diagrams, Sketches; (8) Clippings.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Electric engineering
- Electrical science and technology
- Electricity
- Telegraph

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence -- 1930-1950
- Patents
- Photographs -- 1850-1900
- Photographs -- 1900-1950

Names:

- Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Electricity and Modern Physics
- Taylor, Lloyd W.
- Western Electric Company.

Functions:

- Invention of telegraph