



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the James W.
Queen & Company Collection

NMAH.AC.0015

Robert S. Harding, archivist

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	James W. Queen & Company Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0015
Date:	1850-1952
Extent:	3.5 Cubic feet (7 boxes)
Creator:	Leeds and Northrup Company Gray Instrument Company Queen, James W., & Company Queen Gray Company
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	Collection documents James W. Queen & Company and its successors Leeds and Northrup Company, Queen-Gray Company, and Gray Instrument Company, manufacturers of instruments for laboratory and industrial use. The collection contains catalogs, circulars, photographs, and miscellaneous publications and documents.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

This collection was transferred from the Division of Electricity (now the Division of Work and Industry) National Museum of American History on April 13, 1983.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

AC0215, Instrument Society of America Collection, 1911-1969

Other Finding Aids

[Inventory](#) available.

Processing Information

Processed by Robert S. Harding, archivist, November, 1981.

Preferred Citation

James W. Queen & Company Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

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

James W. Queen & Company of Philadelphia manufactured scientific instruments for laboratory and industrial use. The company was founded in 1853 by James W. Queen (1811-1890), and J.G. Gray became the president in the 1890s. The company won several awards, including the Franklin Institute's John Scott Medal for the invention of the self-regulating aspect of their x-ray tubes. In 1912 James W. Queen & Company was reorganized into the Queen-Gray Company. After J.G. Gray's death in 1825, it became the Gray Instrument Company.

Sources

Charles E. Smart, [The Makers Of Surveying Instruments In America Since 1700](#), (Troy, New York: Regal Art Press, 1962) (accessed 6 August 2010).

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, "[Queen,](#)" [Physical Sciences Collection-Surveying and Geodesy](#)(accessed 6 August 2010).

Scope and Contents

The collection contains catalogs, circulars, blueprints, and photographs describing equipment and supplies offered for sale by James W. Queen & Company and its successors, including the Leeds and Northrop Company, the Queen Gray Company, and the Gray Instrument Company.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1, Catalogs and Circulars, 1896-1952

Series 2, Photographs, circa 1907

Series 3, Miscellaneous Materials, 1850-1951

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Scientific apparatus and instruments
- Scientific apparatus and instruments industry

Types of Materials:

- Books
- Catalogs
- Photographs -- 1850-1900
- Photographs -- 1900-1950

Functions:

- Scientific instruments manufacturing

Container Listing

Series 1: Catalogs and Circulars, 1896-1952

This series consists of catalogs and circulars describing the scientific instruments sold by the James W. Queen Company, the Queen-Gray Company, the Gray Instrument Company, and the Leeds and Northrup Company. The instruments were targeted towards professionals and institutions, but were also used by hobbyists. Instruments sold included galvanometers and other electrical instruments, pneumatics, x-ray equipment, meteorological equipment, and optical instruments.

Box 1, Folder 1	Queen & Company, 18 circulars 4-366, 1896-1899
Box 1, Folder 2	Queen & Company, 7 circulars 366-454, 1898-1904
Box 1, Folder 3	Queen & Company, 6 circulars 474-1204, 1899-1905
Box 1, Folder 4	Queen & Company, 4 catalogs of electrical instruments for light and power stations 1-90, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Queen and Gray Company 8 Bulleting E-2 E-100, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Queen Self Regulating X-ray tube, 1897-1898
Box 1, Folder 7	Queen & Company, galvanometer, 1900
Box 1, Folder 8	Queen & Company, Catalogue of Physical Apparatus for Students Use, 1901-1902
Box 1, Folder 9	Queen & Company, Standard X-ray apparatus, 1902
Box 1, Folder 10	Queen & Company, physical laboratory supplies and accessories, 1903
Box 1, Folder 11	Queen & Company, standard instruments for resistance measurements, 1904
Box 1, Folder 12	Queen & Company, Queen standard photometric apparatus, 1909
Box 1, Folder 13-14	Queen & Company, Queen-Gray Company, Gray Instrument Company, miscellaneous publications and advertisements, circa 1901 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 1	Queen & Company, catalog, undated
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Queen & Company, catalogs 1105, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Queen & Company, Bulletin of Scientific Apparatus, 1907
Box 3, Folder 2	Queen & Company, circulars, circa 1905
Box 3, Folder 3-4	Queen & Company, catalogs, 1906

Box 3, Folder 5	Queen & Company, catalog, undated
Box 4, Folder 1	Queen & Company, catalog, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Queen & Company, catalog of chemicals, undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Borden Electric Company catalogs, circa 1830-1839
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Gray Instrument Company, catalogs, 1901-1952
Box 5, Folder 4-6	Leeds and Northrop Company, catalogs and product blueprints, 1912-1927

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Series 2: Photographs, circa 1907

This series consists of photographs of the James W. Queen and Company and the Gray Instrument Company's scientific instrument products. Some of the photographs have captions.

Box 6, Folder 1-4;	Queen and Company, product line, circa 1907
Box 6, Folder 6	Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 5	Queen and Company, unidentified , undated

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Series 3: Miscellaneous Materials, 1850-1951

The materials consist of a chemistry textbook; a history of James W. Queen and Company; a circular published by the United States Department of Agriculture about measuring salinity with the wheat stone bridge; a description of a testing set; and some business documents, including invoices and purchase orders.

Box 7, Folder 1	Fownes, George, F.R.S. Elementary Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical. Lea and Blanchard, Philadelphia, 1850
Box 7, Folder 2	Queen & Company, Inc. company history and description "Fifty Years, 1853-1903"
Box 7, Folder 3	Wire Gauge Standards Notebook with clippings, circa 1921
Box 7, Folder 4	Queen & Company, miscellaneous, circa 1932
Box 7, Folder 5	Miscellaneous papers, circa 1951
Box 7, Folder 6	Pyrovolter type instruments, undated

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