



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Warsaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Buttons

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Buttons

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Buttons
Date:	1830-1917
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Buttons
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	1.19 Cubic feet (consisting of 2.5 boxes, 2 folders, 1 oversize folder.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Buttons</i> forms part of the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Subseries 1.1: Subject Categories. The Subject Categories subseries is divided into 470 subject categories based on those created by Mr. Warshaw. These subject categories include topical subjects, types or forms of material, people, organizations, historical events, and other categories. An overview to the entire Warshaw collection is available here: Warshaw Collection of Business Americana

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Buttons is a portion of the Business Ephemera Series of the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana, Accession AC0060 purchased from Isadore Warshaw in 1967. Warshaw continued to accumulate similar material until his death, which was donated in 1971 by his widow, Augusta. For a period after acquisition, related materials from other sources (of mixed provenance) were added to the collection so there may be content produced or published after Warshaw's death in 1969. This practice has since ceased.

Materials in the Archives Center

Archives Center Collection of Business Americana (AC0404)

Forms Part Of

Forms part of the [Warshaw Collection of Business Americana](#) .

Missing Title:

- [Series 1: Business Ephemera](#)
- [Series 2: Other Collection Divisions](#)
- [Series 3: Isadore Warshaw Personal Papers](#)
- [Series 4: Photographic Reference Material](#)

Processing Information

Oversize material is unprocessed.

Processing Information

In 2016, with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund, the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History implemented the use of minimal level processing standards to increase information about and facilitate access to more of our collections. A large portion of stored material from the original acquisition received minimal level processing, which resulted in additions to this Subject category. This effort included basic arrangement and replacement of non-archival housing for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed. Revisions to the encoded finding aid were made to reflect the added content in context to the previously processed material.

Minimal level processing and enhancement of the machine-readable finding aid completed by Nicole Blechynden, September 2017.

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Buttons, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Some items may be restricted due to fragile condition.

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.

Scope and Contents

This material consists primarily of scattered correspondence on letterhead stationery, bills/receipts, import/export documents, shipping invoices trademarks and patents from importers, manufacturers and dealers of buttons. The buttons are made of pearl, metal, bone, cloth and horn for military, naval, railway, police, and livery use. The companies also sold other items including combs, earrings, pins, clasps, thimbles, hooks and eyes, brooches, badges, whips, shells, tacks, nails, medallions, banners, and advertising novelties. Some of the companies manufactured machinery for making buttons and combs. There are not many images, however, there is an engraving of an early button maker in the "miscellaneous" folder. There are also import/export documents, sample cards, buttons, and a small group of metal button badges. The material dates from 1830-1917, but the bulk is late nineteenth century.

Arrangement

Arranged in two subseries. Subseries one is organized by name of company. Subseries 2 is organized by type.

- Subseries 1: Companies
- Subseries 2: Related Materials

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Buttons
Combs

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera
Ephemera

Container Listing

Buttons, 1869-1940

Box 1, Folder 1	Adams, B. F., Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 2	American Button Company, Newark, New Jersey Notes: Manufacturers of Military Buttons, Ladies Fancy Metal Buttons, Youth Gilt Buttons and All-Metal Buttons
Box 1, Folder 3	Annaberg Button Works, Annaberg, Saxony
Box 1, Folder 4	Barry Manufacturing Company, Muscatine, Iowa Notes: Manufacturers of Automatic Button Machinery and Supplies
Box 1, Folder 5	Bay State Machine Company, Newton's Lane, Fitchburg, Massachusetts Notes: Manufacturers of Comb and Button Machinery
Box 1, Folder 6	Blumenthal, B. & Company, Incorporated, New York Notes: Importers and Manufacturers of Buttons
Box 1, Folder 7	Boepple Button Company, Muscaline, Iowa Notes: Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in Pearl Buttons
Box 1, Folder 8	Boston Button Company, Boston, Massachusetts Notes: Manufacturers of Cloth Covered Buttons, Tacks and Nails
Box 1, Folder 9	Boughton, R., Birmingham, Alabama Notes: Manufacturer of Buttons
Box 1, Folder 10	Bridgeport Brass Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 11	Brophy, Charles A., Aurora, Illinois Notes: Manufacturer of Uniform Buttons
Box 1, Folder 12	Brooke, Joseph & Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 13	Buhlmann, August, Berlin, Germany
Box 1, Folder 14	Burnham, Welton & Company, Boston, Massachusetts Notes: Importers and Dealers of Buttons
Box 1, Folder 15	City Button Works, New York
Box 1, Folder 16	Cook, Levi & Company, New York Notes: Importers of English, French and German Buttons
Box 1, Folder 17	Dreyfuss, Weiller & Company, New York

Notes: Sole Agents for the United States & Canada for the Austrian Pearl Buttons

Box 1, Folder 18	Elliott Button Fasteher Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Box 1, Folder 18	Everson-Ross Company, Incorporated, New York, New York Notes: Successors to Garragan & Tilson; Manufacturers of Badges
Box 1, Folder 19	Fenton, James, Birmingham, Alabama Notes: Manufacturer of Pearl Buttons, Thimbles, Hooks and Eyes
Box 1, Folder 20	Fletcher, J. B. & Company, Boston, Massachusetts Notes: Dealers in Buttons
Box 1, Folder 21	Foster, D. J. & Company, Boston, Massachusetts Notes: Manufacturers of Covered and Bone, and Dealers in all Kinds of Buttons
Box 1, Folder 22	French Self-Fastening Button Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 23	Gardner, Pratt & Mackintire, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 23	Gaunt, J. R. & Son, Birmingham, Alabama Notes: Military, Naval, Railway & Police Button & Ornament Manufacturers
Box 1, Folder 24	German-American Button Company, Rochester, New York
Box 1, Folder 25	Grove, James & Sons, Bloomfield Works, Halesowen, Birmingham [?] Notes: Manufacturers of Horn & Ivory Buttons
Box 1, Folder 26	Hall's Bazar Form Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 27	Harrison, Carter & Coleman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Notes: Wholesale Button and Whip Warehouse
Box 1, Folder 28	Howell, Henry, Birmingham, Alabama Notes: Pearl Button Manufacturer
Box 1, Folder 28	Imperial Manufacturing, Chicago, Illinois Notes: Company Buttons and Novelties
Box 1, Folder 29	Jacot, William & Edward, Birmingham, Alabama
Box 1, Folder 29	Johnson, J. G., Roxbury [?] Notes: Fringe, Gimp and Button Manufacturers
Box 1, Folder 30	Keystone Badge Company, Reading, Pennsylvania Notes: Manufacturers of Badges, Buttons, Medallions and Advertising Novelties

Box 1, Folder 30	Klotz, Felix S. & Company, New York Notes: Importers, Jobbers & Manufacturers of Ladies Buttons
Box 1, Folder 31	Lautenbach, Charles W. & Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Notes: Importers of Buttons, Braids, Trimmings and Fancy Goods
Box 1, Folder 31	Lawles, S. L. & J. H., New York Notes: Manufacturers of Pearl Buttons
Box 1, Folder 31	Leete, Pudan & Company, Springfield, Massachusetts Notes: Manufacturers of Buttons & Small Wares
Box 1, Folder 31	Leshner & Whitman, New York Notes: Importers and Manufacturers of Clothiers' Trimmings and Fancy Buttons
Box 1, Folder 32	Marcy, Fred I. & Company, Providence, Rhode Island Notes: Manufacturers of the Acme Lever Sleeve Button
Box 1, Folder 32	McCardie, J.W., Birmingham, Alabama Notes: Button Manufacturer and General Merchants
Box 1, Folder 33	Mitchell, A. W. & Company, Boston, Massachusetts Notes: Door Plate and Badge Makers and Engravers
Box 1, Folder 33	National Seal & Stamp Work, Baltimore, Maryland Notes: Headquarters for Lapel Buttons and Watch Charms
Box 1, Folder 33	Newark Pearl Button Works, M. Wiley, Agent, Newark, New Jersey Notes: Manufacturers of Pearl, Sleeve, Collar & Press Buttons
Box 1, Folder 34	Robbins, C., Birmingham, Alabama
Box 1, Folder 35	Robinson, R. & W.
Box 1, Folder 35	Rogers & Hubbard Company, Middletown, Connecticut Notes: Manufacturers of Bone Goods
Box 1, Folder 36	Scovill Manufacturing Company, Waterbury, Connecticut
Box 1, Folder 36	Spackman, George, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Notes: Importers of Buttons
Box 1, Folder 37-38	Steele & Johnson Manufacturing Company, New York Notes: Manufacturers of Gilt, Fancy Dress, Army, Navy and Livery Buttons
Box 1, Folder 39	St. Louis Button Company, St. Louis, Missouri Notes: Manufacturers of Advertising Specialties

Box 1, Folder 40	Thornton, John & Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Notes: Sole Agent in the United States for James Smith & Son's Needles; Importers and Manufacturers of Pearl Shirt Buttons and Small Wares
Box 1, Folder 41	Vienna Pearl Button Manufacturing Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 42	Walcott Brothers, Boston, Massachusetts Notes: Sole Proprietors and Manufacturers of Button Hole Gutters
Box 1, Folder 42	Waterbury Button Company, Waterbury, Connecticut Notes: Manufacturers of Military and All-Metal Buttons
Box 1, Folder 43	Welsh, Cameron & Comany, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 43	Western Sleeve Button Company, Chicago, Illinois Notes: Manufacturers of Patent Lever Sleeve Buttons
Box 1, Folder 43-47	Whitehead & Hoag Company Notes: Makers of Badges, Buttons, Banners, Advertising

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Subseries 2: Related Materials

Box 1, Folder 48-50	Patents
Box 1, Folder 51	Trademarks
Box 1, Folder 52	Button Holders & Fasteners
Box 2, Folder 53	Engraving of Button Maker, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Foreign Publications
Box 2, Folder 2-17	Import/Export Documents

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Oversize and Supplemental, 1869-1914

Box 3	Buttons
Box SUPP 7, Folder 1	Marketing Material, 1869-1914 Notes: Scant material includes a catalogue for souvenir badges, pins, and buttons plus two pieces of marking literature.
Box SUPP 7, Folder 2	Pin and Button Specimens, undated

Notes: Contains several sleeves of promotion and membership pin buttons as well as metal and plastic garment buttons.

Oversize 9, Folder 10	Buttons
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