



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Corsets

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons and Nicole Blechynden

Funding for partial processing of the collection was supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF).

1999, Revised 2017

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Subseries 1: Manufacturers and Distributors	3
Subseries 2: Related Materials, undated	10
Subseries 3: Publications	11

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Corsets
Date:	1865-1896 undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Corsets
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	2.33 Cubic feet (consisting of 5 boxes, 1 folder, 2 oversize folders, 1 map folder.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Corsets</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

Corsets 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](#) .

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

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, 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.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Corsets

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera
Ephemera

Container Listing

Subseries 1: Manufacturers and Distributors

Box 1, Folder 1	Adams' Wholesale and Retail Bodice and Corset Warerooms, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 1	Abdominal, H.P.
Box 1, Folder 2	Adams & Weller Corset Company, Newburgh and Middletown, New York
Box 1, Folder 3-4	A Law couronne Corset Manufacturers, Paris, France
Box 1, Folder 5	American Lady Corset Company, Incorporated, Detroit, Michigan
Box 1, Folder 6	Arnold, D.S., New York
Box 1, Folder 7	Aubry, Mme, New York
Box 1, Folder 7	Baltimore Corset Factory, Baltimore, Maryland
Box 1, Folder 8	Barber, Palmer & Bush, New York
Box 1, Folder 9-16	Barnard, D.H., New York
Box 1, Folder 17	Barnes & Cruttenden, New York
Box 1, Folder 18	Barritt & Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 19	Bates, L.M. & Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 20	Baudry, I.N., Grand Haven

Beck, James, New York

Box 1, Folder 21

Beckel, Joseph, New York

Box 1, Folder 22-27

Bertschy, Samuel, New York

Box 1, Folder 28

Birdsey and Somers F.P. Corsets, New York, New York

Oversize 17, Folder 1

Bolton & Neely Corset, Company

Box 1, Folder 29

Bortee Manufacturing Company, New York

Box 1, Folder 30

Boston Corset Skirt Company

Box 1, Folder 31

Bound, Fred, New York

Box 1, Folder 32-37

Bourne, Addley, London, England

Box 1, Folder 38

Bowles, J., English and Parisian Corset Manufacturer, New York

Box 1, Folder 39

Brown, Cooley & Nichols, New York

Box 1, Folder 40

Burlock, William E. Hoop Skirt and Corset Manufacturer, New York

Box 1, Folder 41-42

Chicago Corset Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois

Box 2, Folder 1

Coffin, C.W., Bangor, Maine

Box 2, Folder 2

Gould's Corset Store, Providence, Rhode Island

Box 2, Folder 23

Greenough, Cook L., and Company, Boston, Massachusetts

Box 2, Folder 24

Grumbacher, S., New York

Box 2, Folder 25

Hart & Gaines Manufacturers, Middletown, Connecticut

Box 2, Folder 26

Box 2, Folder 27	Hart, F.A. Manufacturer Middletown, CT
Box 2, Folder 28	Hart, Julius, New York
Box 2, Folder 29	Haskell, S.D., Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 30-31	Hawks, Henry Corset Manufacturer, New York
Box 2, Folder 32-33	Hawks, William E., New York
Box 2, Folder 34	Herrick Corset Company, Chicago, Illinois
Box 2, Folder 35	Horn, Theodore, Baltimore, Maryland
Box 2, Folder 36	Jackson Corset Manufacturing Company, Jackson, Michigan
Box 2, Folder 37	Jacobs, Strouge & Corset Manufacturing Company, New York
Box 2, Folder 38	Kabo Corset Company, Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; and New York
Box 2, Folder 39	King, C.E., Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 40	L.A. Son, New York
Box 2, Folder 41-42	Langdon & Batcheller, New York
Box 2, Folder 43	Lewis, Titus & Cooke, New York
Box 2, Folder 43	Lilly of France
Box 2, Folder 44-46	Livingston, H. and Manufacturing Company, New York

Box 2, Folder 47	Lockwood, G.W., New York
Box 2, Folder 48	Loebenstein, L., New York
Box 2, Folder 49	Luscomb, Charles, New York
Box 3, Folder 1	Madame Griswold Corset Parlors, New York
Box 3, Folder 2	Maroy, William T. and Company, Lockport, New York
Box 3, Folder 3	Massachusetts Corset Company, Worcester, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 4; Oversize 94, Folder 5	Mayer Strouse and Company, New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 4	McCaber, M., St. Louis, Missouri
Box 3, Folder 4	McGraw Son, P. H., McGrawville, New York
Box 3, Folder 5	Mesdames Mario and Maitland, London, England
Box 3, Folder 6-8	Meyer, S.T. and D.T. Corset Patentees and Manufacturers, New York
Box 3, Folder 9	Mix, George, Camden., New Jersey
Box 3, Folder 10	Nathan, I., New Haven, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 11	New England Corset and Skirt Company, Springfield, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 11	Olmstead, H.P.
Box 3, Folder 12-13	Oppenheim and Ginsburg, New York
Box 3, Folder 14-16	Osborne and Chessman Manufacturers, New York
Box 3, Folder 17-22	Ottenheimer Brothers Woven, New York
Oversize 17, Folder 1	P. D. Corset Company, Location Unknown
Box 3, Folder 23	Philbrook
Box 3, Folder 24	Pomeroy Corset Company, Newark, New Jersey
Box 3, Folder 25	Poppenhusen and Konig Manufacturers, New York
Box 3, Folder 26	Puritan Corset Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Box 3, Folder 27; R & G Corsets, New York, New York
Oversize 17, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 27 [\[Woman modeling a corset for R & G Corset Co. of New York City : black and white advertisement\], 1898](#)
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 6.5" x 8".)
Advertiser: R & G Corset Co.
Language: English.
Notes: 02006062.tif (AC Scan)
In Corsets, Box 3, Folder 27.
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
Advertisement printed by Charles Austin Bates of New York City; photographer unidentified.
Topic: Artists' models
advertising -- 1890-1900
Women in advertising
Corsets -- 1890-1900
Genre/Form: Advertisements -- 1890-1900
Photographs -- 1890-1900 -- Reproductions

Box 3, Folder 27 [\[Woman wearing a corset and looking in a full-length mirror, advertisement for Potter's Double Store. \[Photolithographic trade card, copy of a painting.\]](#)
1 Item (Ink on cardboard.; 16 x 10.5 cm (6-1/4"x 4-1/8").)
Advertiser: R & G Corset Co.
Potter's Double Store
Lithographer: H.A. Thomas & Wylie, Lith. Co., N.Y.
Language: English.
Notes: AC0060-0000444.tif (AC Scan)
The Potter store credit is stamped at the bottom of the card.
Topic: Mirrors
Lingerie
Corsets
Genre/Form: Photolithographs
Lithographs

Box 3, Folder 27 Reid and Magee's

Box 3, Folder 28 Reynolds, G.W. and Company, England

Box 3, Folder 29 Robinson, M. H.

Box 3, Folder 30-31 Roeder, R., New York

Box 3, Folder 32 Saunders, D.B., Boston, Massachusetts

Box 3, Folder 33 Schiele, Lewis and Company, New Haven, Connecticut

Box 3, Folder 33	Scott's, Dr.
Box 3, Folder 34	Sevey, J.A., Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 35	Silver Corset Manufacturing Company, New York
Box 3, Folder 35	Spencer, New Haven, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 36	Stadermann, John Corset, New York
Box 3, Folder 37-40	Stein, Willi
Box 3, Folder 41	Stemmler, T.W., New York
Box 3, Folder 42	Strawbridge and Clothiers
Box 3, Folder 43	Strong's Corsets
Box 3, Folder 44	Strouse, Adler Manufacturing Company
Box 4, Folder 1	Taylor, Thomas P., Bridgeport, Connecticut
Box 4, Folder 2	Tivey Manufacturing Company, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 2	Triplex Corset
Box 4, Folder 3	Union Skirt and Corset Manufacturing Company, New York
Box 4, Folder 4	United States Corset Company, New York
Box 4, Folder 4	Van Bolkenburgh and Company, New York
Box 4, Folder 5	Van Orden Corset Company, New York
Box 4, Folder 6-9	Warner Brothers Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Box 4, Folder 6	<p>Warner Bro's. [sic] Coraline Corset advertisement [trade card, [ca. 1890-1900] 1 Item (3-1/8" x 5".)</p> <p>Advertiser: Warner Brothers (353 Broadway, New York, N.Y.) Carpenter, F., & Co. (Tiffin, Ohio) Keefer, J.P. (Chambersburg, Pa.)</p> <p>Creator: Trautmann, Bailey, & Blampey, N.Y.</p> <p>Language: English.</p> <p>Notes: 00006011.jpg (AC Scan no.) AC0060-0000901.tif (AC scan no.) 87-10515 (OPPS Neg.)</p>

Two examples in collection: the one shown in neg. no. 87-10515 bears the maker's identification, but it is partly cut off in the other copy. This one also has a black-and-white Warner Brothers advertisement on the verso, with sale imprint of "F. Carpenter & Co., Tiffin, O." shown, while the other copy shows "J. P. Keefer, Chambersburg, Pa." as the seller.

Color illustration shows two cherubs or putti with a view camera, photographing a corset with a long-leafed plant growing from it. Mark of "Trautmann, Bailey & Blampey, N.Y." (printers?) below image. Coraline, a substitute for whalebone, was manufactured from ixtle, a plant grown in Mexico. "Scattered through the centre of these pulpy leaves are a number of round, tough, elastic fibres like bristles, which average about two feet in length. These leaves are gathered by the natives, and in a crude manner they are pounded and bruised until these fibres are separated from the pulpy portion. This is then dried and put into bales, in which condition it is shipped to our factory. Here we go over it again, carefully hackling and combing it until we have separated all the waste material, leaving only the long and perfect fibres. These fibres are then fed into the winding machine and are bound by stout thread into a firm, continuous cord, This cord, or "coraline," as it is now called, is then ready to be stitched into the corset, which is done in the same manner that ordinary cord is stitched between the folds of cloth. After the Coraline is stitched into the cloth, it passes through a tempering process by passing between heated dies. This is the most wonderful part of the invention, and it is its ability to receive a temper that makes Coraline so valuable as a stiffener for corsets. There is not more difference between soft iron and tempered steel, than between Coraline in its natural state and the same article after it has passed through this tempering process. No starch or artificial sizing of any kind is used, but it is a development of the natural elastic quality already existing in the Coraline, and this elasticity is therefore permanent. Corsets boned with cord may be so loaded with starch or glue that they will seem stiff when new, but this will disappear after a few days' use. Those stiffened with Coraline, on the other hand, grow more elastic with use. This is particularly noticeable in our bosom pads, and in the bust of the Health corsets, both of which are stiffened with Coraline cloth. Rub these until the starch is out of the cloth, and they are much more elastic than when new." (From another Coraline corsets advertisement, quoted in Wikipedia, http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Warner_Bros._Coraline_Corsets.)

SI Neg. No. 87-10515. Probably public domain (copyright expired) but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: fees for commercial use.

Selected for use in NMAH virtual (Web) exhibit, "America Wired" (originally called "American Expressions"), 2001/07, at <http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=273>.

Topic:

Corsets

	Cameras View cameras -- 1890-1910 Photography -- Apparatus and supplies Angels Putti Genre/Form: Advertising cards -- 19th century. Trade cards -- 19th century
Box 4, Folder 10	Warren Featherbone Company, Three Oaks, Michigan
Box 4, Folder 10	Warren, Madame, Ithaca, New York
Box 4, Folder 11; Oversize 17, Folder 1	Weingarten Brothers, New York, New York
Box 4, Folder 12	Weldon, R., New York
Box 4, Folder 13	West, Bradley and Cary Manufacturing Company, New York
Box 4, Folder 14	White, R.H. Company, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 15	Wilcox, J. and Company, New York
Box 4, Folder 16	Williamsburgh Skirt Company, Williamsburgh, New York
Box 4, Folder 17-25	Wimpfheimer, A. and Brother, New York
Box 4, Folder 26-30; Oversize 17, Folder 1	Worcester Corset Manufacturing Company, Worcester, Massachusetts

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Subseries 2: Related Materials, undated

Box 5, Folder 1	Corset Covers
Box 5, Folder 2	Machinery
Box 5, Folder 3	Caricatures
Box 5, Folder 4	Patents and Trademarks
Box 5, Folder 5	Import and export documents

Box 5, Folder 10-14 Miscellaneous

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Subseries 3: Publications

Box 4, Folder 6-9 Related Publications

Oversize 94, Folder 5 Ridley's Fashion Magazine, Spring and Summer, 1896

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Box SUPP 10, Folder 4 Business Records and Marketing Material, 1865-1896

Map-folder 4 Corsets