



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Corsets

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Corsets
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Corsets
Date:	1865-1896 undated
Extent:	2.33 Cubic feet (consisting of 5 boxes, 1 folder, 2 oversize folders, 1 map folder.)
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
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

Coronet Corset Manufacturing Company, Jackson, Michigan

Box 2, Folder 3

Cox, George, Gallipolis, Ohio

Box 2, Folder 4

Delsaret Corset Manufacturing Company, New York

Box 2, Folder 5

Dewey, M., Chicago, Illinois

Box 2, Folder 6

Duplex Corsets

Box 2, Folder 6

Ferris Brothers Corset Patentees and Manufacturers, New York

Box 2, Folder 7

Fifth Avenue Corset Company, Incorporated, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Box 2, Folder 8

Fishel, M. and Company, New York

Box 2, Folder 9-15

Fiske, J. W., New York

Box 2, Folder 16

Fitzpatrick & Summers Corset Dealer, New York

Box 2, Folder 17

Foster, Charles W., New Haven, Connecticut

Box 2, Folder 18

Gage-Downs Corset Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois

Box 2, Folder 19

Globe Corset Manufacturing Company, Worcester, Massachusetts

Box 2, Folder 20-21

Gold, U., Brooklyn, New York

Box 2, Folder 22

Oversize 17, Folder 1 Gossard, H.W. Company, Chicago, Illinois

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; Oversize 17, Folder 1	R & G Corsets, New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 27	[Woman modeling a corset for R & G Corset Co. of New York City : black and white advertisement], 1898 <i>1 Item (Ink on paper.; 6.5" x 8".)</i> Image(s): [Woman modeling a corset for R & G Corset Co. of New York City : black and white advertisement]. R & G Corset Co., Advertiser Advertisement printed by Charles Austin Bates of New York City; photographer unidentified.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Local Numbers

02006062.tif (AC Scan)

In Corsets, Box 3, Folder 27.

Topic: Artists' models
Corsets -- 1890-1900
Women in advertising
advertising -- 1890-1900
Genre/ Advertisements -- 1890-1900
Form: 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").)

[Image\(s\)](#)

R & G Corset Co., Advertiser
Potter's Double Store, Advertiser
H.A. Thomas & Wylie, Lith. Co., N.Y., Lithographer
The Potter store credit is stamped at the bottom of the card.

Local Numbers

AC0060-0000444.tif (AC Scan)

Topic: Corsets
Lingerie
Mirrors
Genre/ Lithographs
Form: Photolithographs

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	Warner Bro's. [sic] Coraline Corset advertisement [trade card, [ca. 1890-1900]

1 Item (3-1/8" x 5".)

Image(s): Warner Bro's. [sic] Coraline Corset advertisement [trade card, ca. 1890-1900].

Warner Brothers (353 Broadway, New York, N.Y.), Advertiser

Carpenter, F., & Co. (Tiffin, Ohio), Advertiser

Keefer, J.P. (Chambersburg, Pa.), Advertiser

Trautmann, Bailey, & Blampey, N.Y. (printer?)

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.)

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Local Numbers

00006011.jpg (AC Scan no.)

AC0060-0000901.tif (AC scan no.)

87-10515 (OPPS Neg.)

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.

Exhibitions Note

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: Angels
Cameras
Corsets
Photography -- Apparatus and supplies
Putti
View cameras -- 1890-1910
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

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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

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Subseries 3: Publications

- Box 4, Folder 6-9 Related Publications
- Oversize 94, Folder 5 *Ridley's Fashion Magazine*, Spring and Summer, 1896

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