



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Express

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Express
Date:	1841-1975
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Express
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	3.15 Cubic feet (consisting of 6 boxes, 1 folder, 4 oversize folders, 2 map case folders, 1 flat box (partial).)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Express</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

Express 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.

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.

For this subject, minimal processing included arrangement to the folder level, based on prior processing and preservation action, with retention of the pre-existing arrangement when possible, if applicable. Otherwise, an order was imposed by the Processing Archivist. Some materials were consolidated to eliminate excess bulk but items within folders were not arranged further. The guide may or may not include a more refined list of folder contents. Nonarchival housing was replaced for long-term stability, but staples and other fasteners have not all been removed.

Minimal level processing and machine-readable finding aid completed by Nicole Blechynden, 2016 October.

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Express, 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

Express, local and general, companies offered the following services: money orders, express shipments including parcels and packages, money, valuables to any part of the world including bills, notes and drafts for collection typical referred to as C.O.D's (cash on demand, cash on delivery). There is some material from railroad express freight lines.

Foreign express companies had international offices used by the travelling public as a headquarters when aboard. Agents in the offices would receive and forward mail and assist with information about routes, baggage, rates and localities.

The materials are comprised of business records related to daily transactions and the promotion of express services and include correspondence, invoices, receipts, advertisements, price lists, reward posters, pamphlets, photographs and publications. Wax seals are present on some envelopes. There is very little in the way of illustrations, but those present have been noted.

Significantly represented companies are Adams Express, American Express, National Express Company, and Wells Fargo. There is no supplemental general topic/industry material.

Arrangement

Express contains one subseries.

- Business Records and Marketing Material

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](#)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Consumer goods -- Catalogs
Money

Money -- 19th century
Overnight delivery service
Shipping

Types of Materials:

Advertisements
Advertising
Advertising cards
Advertising fliers
Advertising mail
Business cards
Business ephemera
Business letters
Business records
Catalogs
Catalogues
Commercial catalogs
Correspondence
Correspondence -- 1880-1950
Ephemera
Invoices
Letterheads
Manufacturers' catalogs
Newsletters
Periodicals
Print advertising
Printed ephemera
Printed material
Publications -- Business
Receipts
Sales catalogs
Sales letters
Sales records
Signs (declaratory or advertising artifacts)
Trade cards
Trade catalogs
Travelers' checks

Container Listing

Business Records and Marketing Material, 1841-1975

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by company or proprietor name. Materials within the folders are in no particular order.

Scope and Contents: Contains transactional documents such as receipts and invoices for goods and services, cash on delivery notes (COD), correspondence, and general marketing material like advertisements, product information, circulars, posters, and mailers. One advertising sign for American Express is included. Some company history or publications may also be present.

Box 1, Folder 1 A, 1852-1909 (bulk 1852-1891)
Notes: Includes booklet *Railway Express Service: Distinctly an American Institution* (American Railway Express, 1929).

Adams Express

Box 1, Folder 2 Advertisements, 1852-1857

Box 1, Folder 3-5 Bills of Lading, 1863-1903
Notes: Most relate to transactions done by the Richle Brothers and Banks Dinsmore and Company, both of Philadelphia.

Box 1, Folder 6 Correspondence, 1849-1889
Notes: Most documents originate within the mid-Atlantic region, particularly Philadelphia, but also includes some from other locations. A few empty, branded envelopes, some with wax seals.

Box 1, Folder 7 History, 1853-1872
Notes: One B&W news clipping illustration of the Adam's Express Company in San Francisco (1853 February 1853). *Reports and Opinions in Cases Against Express Companies* (booklet, 1865). *The Express Business* (book chapter excerpt, 1872). Alvin Adams, leading partner, biography (single page book excerpt with B&W printed drawn portrait, circa 1854).

Box 2, Folder 1 Receipts and Transactions, 1841-1903
Notes: Documents from offices in many US states. Includes a complimentary Frank book (No. 707 issued to A.B. Chandler) with 20 unused stamps. Present also are several commission payment receipts attached to vouchers processed by the New-York Central Railroad Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

American Express

Box 2, Folder 2 Advertisements, circa 1853-1944

Notes: Includes a tri-fold brochure featuring *Insignia of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps* (circa 1943).

Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1975, 1860-1925 Notes: Contains general inquiries, mostly related to loss statements and claims. The letter dated 1975 February 17 from Dacca is in reference to the Smithsonian's "A Nation Among Nations" exhibit.
Box 2, Folder 4	Credit Card, circa 1956
Box 2, Folder 5	Envelopes, 1863-1899 Notes: Empty. American Express branded. A significant quantity of Expense envelopes stamped by E.M. Grover, Sec'y Div. 30, Boston. Two envelopes fused together due to a wax seal.
Map-folder 7	European Agent Map, 1913
Box 2, Folder 6	History and Administration, 1868-1919 Notes: Appointment announcements. Business cards. Organizational chart (1902 June 2). <i>Building Business Around the World</i> (booklet, 1919). Stock holder notices and dividend declarations. Employees' Aid Society Annual Report (1894). Legal contract between the Boston and Maine Railroad and the American Express Company (1907 April 25).
Box 2, Folder 7	Images, 1880-1929 Notes: B&W photographs of offices and touring cars in the Netherlands and Italy (1919, 1928-1929), tradecards (1880-1881), post card with New York office (1921).
Box 2, Folder 8	International, 1906-1975 Notes: Some materials in Dutch, German, French, [Hindi], Bengali.
Oversize 101, Folder 2	Military Personnel Services Flier, 1941 Notes: Promoting the business growth opportunity to servicemen and women, and those conducting war-related travel.
Posters	
Oversize 101, Folder 3	Holiday Packages, 1898-1900
Oversize 101, Folder 1	Military Personnel Tour, undated Notes: Advertising Riviera and Paris trips.
Oversize 101, Folder 2	Traveler's Cheques, 1919

Notes: In color, painted scene depicting western travelers being served tea in Japan, overlooking a city and ocean with a steamer in the water.

Oversize 101, Folder 2	Tour, Amerique 74, 1974 Language: In French. Notes: Promoting travels to New York, Florida, California, US National Parks, and Canada.
Oversize 101, Folder 2	Unclaimed Property Auction, Maine, 1899 February 6
Box 2, Folder 9	Receipt Books, 1891-1895 Notes: Containing transactions at Concord, New Hampshire.
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Receipts and Transactions, 1854-1918 Notes: Some receipts may have attached notes and correspondence.
Oversize 20, Folder 11	Receipts and Transactions Oversized, 1898 Notes: Shipping document for goods sent from Naples to New York via the American Express Company.
Oversize 226	Sign, American Express Company Agency, 1902 March Notes: Metal sign. In enclosure.
Map-folder 6	Steamer Schedule Broadside
	1889 Notes: Two issues: April, October.
	1890 Notes: Three issues: July, August, September.
	1897 Notes: One issue: December.
	1898 Notes: Five issues: March, April, May, November, December.
	1899 Notes: Four issues: July, August, October, December.
	1900 Notes: Two issues: June, August.
	1901 Notes: One issue: February.
Box 3, Folder 3	Travel Guides and Tours, 1917-circa 1940

Box 3, Folder 4	Traveler's Cheques, 1896-1911 Notes: List of Foreign Correspondents. General information booklets.
Box 3, Folder 5	B, 1851-1915
Map-folder 7	Borgfeldt, Geo. and Company, 1888 Notes: Import/export records with detailed list of consigned goods, shipped to Philadelphia via Red Star Line.
Box 3, Folder 6	C, 1850-1892
Box 3, Folder 7	D, 1871-1889
Box 6, Folder 8	E, 1849-1909 Notes: Includes a copy of the <i>Express Gazette</i> , Vol. XVI. No. 6., June 1891 (Express Service of America).
Box 3, Folder 9	F, 1847-1903
Box 4, Folder 1	G, 1850-1912
Box 4, Folder 2	H, 1846-1869
Box 4, Folder 3	J, 1854-1899
Box 4, Folder 4	K, 1867-1887
Box 4, Folder 5	L, 1847-1927
Box 4, Folder 6	M, 1855-1910
Box 4, Folder 7	Merchant's Union Express Company, 1864-1871
Box 4, Folder 8	N, 1848-1909
	National Express Company
Box 4, Folder 9	Bills of Lading and CODs, 1857-1908
Box 4, Folder 10	Correspondence and Memos, 1848-1909
Box 5, Folder 1	Directory of Offices, 1884
Box 5, Folder 2	Receipts, 1873-1900
Box 5, Folder 3	P, 1851-1899

Map-folder 7	Pony Express Route, April 3, 1860-October 24, 1861, undated Notes: Illustrated map published by Union Pacific Railroad.
Box 5, Folder 4	Q, R, 1828-1962 (bulk 1860-1890)
Box 5, Folder 5	S, 1856-1901
Box 5, Folder 6	T, 1847-1880
Box 5, Folder 7	U, 1842-1914
Box 6, Folder 1	U, 1842-1914
Box 6, Folder 2	U, Receipt Books, 1872-1873 Notes: United States and Canada Express. One book has entries, the other is blank.
Box 6, Folder 3	V, 1872, 1902
Box 6, Folder 4	W, 1848-1900
	Wells Fargo
Box 6, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1856-1890
Oversize 20, Folder 11	Oversize Correspondence, 1890 October 22 Notes: Letter to A.G. Murphy from [W.J. Hancock] regarding investments.
Box 6, Folder 6	History and Operations, 1852-1967 Notes: Booklets with company history. Catalogue for the Historical Exhibit at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Descriptive brochure with photo of the San Francisco new building dated 1899 February 28. Backer Industries, Inc. 1967 Annual Report. Listings of key officers and staff (1851-53, 1855, 1898). Stock documents (1867, 1910).
Box 6, Folder 7	Images, undated Notes: Color reprint titled <i>The Pony Express, 1860</i> (Maynard Dixon, 1925). 14 large, color stamps promoting Wells Fargo services.
Box 6, Folder 8	Promotional, 1946-1947 Notes: Includes holiday cards from the Wells Fargo History Center.
Box 6, Folder 9	Receipts and Transactions, 1848-1915
Box 6, Folder 10	Reward Posters, 1875-1876 Notes: Facsimiles.

Box SUPP 13, Folder
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Business Records and Marketing Material, 1860-1930
Notes: Coupon book, transaction receipts, advertisements, and a booklet on
Holland published by American Express.

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