



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Gems

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

1999

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Business Records, Marketing Material, and Other, circa 1859-1957.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Gems
Date:	circa 1859-1957
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Gems
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	0.23 Cubic feet (consisting of .5 box.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Gems</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

Gems 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](#)

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Gems, 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

The material in this collection consists of papers and images dealing with gems and precious stones. Items include business materials such as business cards, invoices, shipment lists, as well as photographs, informational pamphlets, booklets, and articles. The types of gems mentioned in these materials include diamonds, pearls, onyx, amethyst, star stones and precious stones. The bulk of materials are from the early 20th century. Researchers interested in the business, history and study of gems will find this material useful.

Company materials include the papers of companies involved in the production, manipulation, and distribution of gems such as importers, manufacturers, miners, merchants, and jewelers. Materials in this collection include business cards, invoices, repair notices, sales and information pamphlets, shipment lists, correspondence, and a gem measurement card. There are also booklets on the stories of pearls, star stones, and diamonds and a 1907 book "Illustrating Modern Methods of Diamond Dealing". The bulk of the material is from the early twentieth century. Most of the companies were based in the United States, primarily in New York and Chicago but also New Jersey and Atlanta, Georgia. The Chicago company of Jesus J. Villafuerte also had a store in Mexico. Tiffany & Co. of New York also has a store in Paris, France. The last folder in the series includes foreign companies from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. The material is arranged alphabetically by company name for folders one-five with the foreign companies in folder six.

General information has a price list and an invoice summary for various stones and jewelry, a 1924 appraisal form, engravings of a diamond mine and the Koh-i-noor diamond on display in London, a birthstone chart including the month, stone, and character trait represented on one side with birthday horoscopes on the other side, a photograph of the Kimberley Diamond Mine in Cape Colony, South Africa, and an information pamphlet for "Crater of Diamonds" in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, circa 1957. The material is arranged according to the type of material - customs, images, photograph, and diamond mines.

Publications consists of booklets and articles on various gems. Materials include booklets on the amethyst (1880), man-made diamonds (1955), "The Story of Diamonds" (1935), "Diamonds at the New York World's Fair" (1939), "Famous Diamonds" (1929), "The Diamond Industry of South Africa" (1893), and "The Art of Lapidary" (1926). Article subjects include life in a new diamond mine (1873), diamonds and diamond-cutting (1894), a new diamond mine in Tanganyika discovered in 1941, source, properties, and uses of the diamond, "The Great Diamonds of the World: Their History and Romance" (1882), pearls, pearl-fisheries, opals, "Precious Stones in the United States" (1889) and "Marketing of Precious Stones" (1925). There is also a fraction of an article with pictures of "the King of Diamonds", "Solly" Joel (1931). The materials are arranged alphabetically by the gem.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Gems

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera
Ephemera

Container Listing

Business Records, Marketing Material, and Other, circa 1859-1957

Subseries 1: Companies, circa 1859-1954

Scope and Contents: This subseries includes the papers of companies involved in the production, manipulation, and distribution of gems such as importers, manufacturers, miners, merchants, and jewelers. Materials in this collection include business cards, invoices, repair notices, sales and information pamphlets, shipment lists, correspondence, and a gem measurement card. There are also booklets on the stories of pearls, star stones, and diamonds and a 1907 book "Illustrating Modern Methods of Diamond Dealing". The bulk of the material is from the early twentieth century. Most of the companies were based in the United States, primarily in New York and Chicago but also New Jersey and Atlanta, Georgia. The Chicago company of Jesus J. Villafuerte also had a store in Mexico. Tiffany & Co. of New York also has a store in Paris, France. The last folder in the series includes foreign companies from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. The material is arranged alphabetically by company name for folders one five with the foreign companies in folder six.

Box 1, Folder 1	Baum, Albert, New York Notes: Importer of Diamonds, Pearls, and Precious Stones
Box 1, Folder 1	Chambers, J.B. & Company, Chicago Notes: Jewelers
Box 1, Folder 1	De Yongh, B.S. & Company, New York Notes: Importer and Commission Merchant in Precious Stones
Box 1, Folder 1	Dessau, Maurice S. Company, Incorporated, New York Notes: Manufacturers of Diamond Tools for All Industrial Purposes
Box 1, Folder 1	Dickinson, John, New York Notes: Importer of Diamonds and Carbon
Box 1, Folder 1	Dix, Harry L., Incorporated, Atlanta, Georgia Notes: Diamond Merchants
Box 1, Folder 2	Hagerstrom Company, DR. Incorporated, New Jersey Notes: Manufacturers of Jewelry
Box 1, Folder 2	Heller Hope Company, Incorporated, New York Notes: Dealer of Hope Ruby and Hope Sapphire
Box 1, Folder 3	Marcus & Company, New York Notes: Jewelers
Box 1, Folder 4	New Pedrara Onyx Company, Chicago, New York, and Mexico Notes: Onyx Miner and Dealer
Box 1, Folder 4	Ovington's, New York

	Notes: The Gift Shop of Fifth Avenue
Box 1, Folder 5	Sussmann, H. and Company, New York Notes: Manufacturer of Diamond, Gold, Silver, and Blond Powder
Box 1, Folder 5	Tiffany & Company, New York and Paris Notes: Importers and Manufacturers
Box 1, Folder 5	Villafuerte, Jesus J., Chicago and Mexico Notes: Dealer in Opals
Box 1, Folder Unknown	Foreign Companies
Box 1, Folder 6	Birks, Henry & Sons Limited, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, Canada; Paris, France Notes: Diamond Merchants, Goldsmiths, and Silversmiths
Box 1, Folder 6	Locher, Edouard, Switzerland Notes: Synthetic Cut Jewels
Box 1, Folder 6	Snellenburg, N. & Company, Germany Notes: Precious Stones and Jewelry
Box 1, Folder 6	Boncinelli, Giovanni & Figli, Italy Notes: Precious Stones

Subseries 2: General Information, circa 1924-1957, undated

Scope and Contents: includes a price list and an invoice summary for various stones and jewelry, a 1924 appraisal form, engravings of a diamond mine and the Koh-i-noor diamond on display in London, a birthstone chart including the month, stone, and character trait represented on one side with birthday horoscopes on the other side, a photograph of the Kimberley Diamond Mine in Cape Colony, South Africa, and an information pamphlet for "Crater of Diamonds" in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, circa 1957. The material is arranged according to the type of material - customs, images, photograph, and diamond mines

Box 1, Folder 7	Customs: price list for various goods, invoice summary for jewelry and stones, appraisal form,, 1924
-----------------	--

Images

Box 1, Folder 8	Catalogue cut-out "Prize Medals Awarded by the United States Centennial Commission
Box 1, Folder 8	Engravings of Kimberly Mine
Box 1, Folder 8	Engraving of Koh-i-noor diamond on display in London
Box 1, Folder 8	Diagram of the Earth's crust

Box 1, Folder 8	Birthstone chart: month, stone, and character trait; Birthday horoscope
Box 1, Folder 9	Photograph of a diamond mine, Kimberley, Cape Colony, South Africa, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Diamond Mines: information pamphlet for "Crater of Diamonds", Murfreesboro, AR, circa 1957

Subseries 3: Related Publications, circa 1873-1955, undated

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of booklets and articles on various gems. Materials include booklets on the amethyst (1880), man-made diamonds (1955), "The Story of Diamonds" (1935), "Diamonds at the New York World's Fair" (1939), "Famous Diamonds" (1929), "The Diamond Industry of South Africa" (1893), and "The Art of Lapidary" (1926). Article subjects include life in a new diamond mine (1873), diamonds and diamond-cutting (1894), a new diamond mine in Tanganyika discovered in 1941, source, properties, and uses of the diamond, "The Great Diamonds of the World: Their History and Romance" (1882), pearls, pearl-fisheries, opals, "Precious Stones in the United States" (1889) and "Marketing of Precious Stones" (1925). There is also a fraction of an article with pictures of "the King of Diamonds", "Solly" Joel (1931). The materials are arranged alphabetically by the gem.

Box 1, Folder 11	Article about Amethyst, 1880
Box 1, Folder 12	Articles about Diamonds, 1873, 1894, 1931, 1947
Box 1, Folder 13	Booklets about Diamonds, 1893, 1929, 1935, 1939
Box 1, Folder 14	Booklet about Man-Made Diamonds, 1955
Box 1, Folder 15	Article about Gems, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Booklet about Lapidary, 1926
Box 1, Folder 16	Article about Opals, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Articles about Pearls and Pearl-fisheries, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Articles about Precious Stones, 1889, 1925

[Return to Table of Contents](#)
