



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Lighting

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Business Records, Marketing Material, and Other, circa 1833-1943	3
Packaging Samples, undated	36

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Lighting
Date:	circa 1833-1943
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Lighting
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	2.9 Cubic feet (consisting of 5 boxes, 1 folder, 5 oversize folders, 2 map case folders, 2 flat boxes (partial), plus digital images of some collection material.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Lighting</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

Lighting 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 Subject Categories: Lighting, 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 subject category- Lighting-consists of numerous examples of business ephemera relating to manmade illumination. The material dates from the early-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries, although the bulk of the material is from 1880 to 1910.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Lighting

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera
Ephemera

Container Listing

Business Records, Marketing Material, and Other, circa 1833-1943

Subseries 1: Manufacturers, Dealers and Distributors of Lighting Fixtures and Supplies, 1833-1943

Oversize 121, Folder 4	Acetylene Manufacturing Company, 1911 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 1	Adams & Westlake Company, 1911-1912 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 2	Aikman & Company, 1882 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	Albany Incandescent Gas Lamp Company, undated Notes: Albany, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	Albany Stamp Exchange, undated Notes: Albany, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	Alcohol Utilities Company, circa 1910 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	Allen, Son & Company, R. J., 1883 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 2	Almy & Company, H. S., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 3	Alta Manufacturing Company, 1858-circa 1890 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 4	American Carbon Company, 1898 Notes: Noblesville, Indiana
Oversize 31, Folder 7	American Electric Lamp Company, The; and Craighead & Kintz Manufacturing Company, 1885 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 4	American Gas Machine Company, circa 1915 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 4	Angle Manufacturing Company, circa 1890 Notes: New York, New York

Box 1, Folder 4	Ansonia Electric Company, circa 1890 Notes: Ansonia, Connecticut
Box 1, Folder 4	Anthony & Company, L. D., 1859 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 5	Archer & Pancoast Manufacturing Company, circa 1850 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 5	Archer, Warner & Company, 1854 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 5	Armspear Manufacturing Company, 1927 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 5	Arnold & Company, T. G., 1863 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 5	Aubin Portable Gas Works Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 5	Auto Lighter Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 5	Automatic Gas Light Company, 1907 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 5	Automatic Lamp Company, circa 1885 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 5	Avery & Son, A. H., circa 1870 Notes: Gloversville, New York
Box 1, Folder 6	Babcock & Company, F. W., 1891 Notes: Somerville, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 6	Bacon, Edward T., 1872 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 6	Badger Brass Manufacturing Company, 1908 Notes: Kenosha, Wisconsin
Box 1, Folder 6	Bailey, Banks & Biddle, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 6	Bailey, I., 1852 Notes: Location Unknown

Box 1, Folder 6	Bailey Company, The James, undated Notes: Portland, Maine
Box 1, Folder 6	Bailey Reflector Company, circa 1884 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 6	Baker, Arnold & Company, 1871-1873 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 6	Bartlett, J. W., circa 1877 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 6	Bassett, George W., 1864 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 7	Bead Specialty Company, undated Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 7	Beardslee Chandelier Manufacturing Company, 1908-1917 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 7	Bellaire Stamping Company, undated Notes: Bellaire, Ohio
Box 1, Folder 7	Benner Brothers, 1880 Notes: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Box 1, Folder 7	Benner & Hallowell, 1882 Notes: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Box 1, Folder 7	Berkshire Electric Company, 1887 Notes: Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 7	Beseller, Charles, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 8	Best Street Light Company, The, 1900-1903 Notes: Canton, Ohio (1900-1903)
Box 1, Folder 9	Birdsey & Company, E., 1861 Notes: Bridgeport, Connecticut
Box 1, Folder 9	Blackman, E., 1890 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 9	Bloom & Company, S. M., undated Notes: Hagerstown, Maryland

Box 1, Folder 9	Bly, Charles L., undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 9	Booth, Peck and Barlow, 1864 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 10	Boston Faucet Company, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 10	1 10 Boston Incandescent Lamp Company, 1894 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 10	1 10 Boston Lamp Company, 1882 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 10	1 10 Boston Safety Vapor Stove Company, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Bradley & Hubbard Manufacturing Company, The, 1886 Notes: Meriden, Connecticut, and New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Brady, F. J., 1896 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Bray & Company, George, 1886 Notes: Leeds, United Kingdom
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Bridgeport Brass Company, 1895 Notes: Bridgeport, Connecticut
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Briggs & Company, 1860-1863 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Brown & Barker, 1845 Notes: Providence, Rhode Island
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Brown & Helme, 1854 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Brundige, Rufus M., 1867 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Brunswick-Balke-Callender Company, 1903 Notes: No location
Box 1, Folder 11	1 11 Bryant Park Electric Lamp Company, The, circa 1930 Notes: New York, New York

Box 1, Folder 12	1 12 Buffalo Specialty Company, 1910 Notes: Buffalo, New York
Box 1, Folder 12	1 12 Buffalo Steam Gauge and Lantern Company, 1878 Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 1, Folder 12	Buffalo Union Lantern Works, 1864 Notes: Buffalo, New York
Box 1, Folder 12	Burke, Geo. H., 1860 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 12	Burnet Company, The, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 12	Burrell's Sons, D., 1883 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 12	Butler & Brother, John, 1850 Notes: Brooklyn, New York
Box 1, Folder 13	Callender & Pierce, circa 1869 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 13	Carleton, William, 1856-1865 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 13	Carton, John, 1863-1866 Notes: Utica, New York
Box 1, Folder 13	Cary & Young, undated Notes: Newark, New Jersey
Box 1, Folder 13	Case, L. R., 1865 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 13	Cassidy & Son Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 13	Central Oilgas Stove Company, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 13	Chicago Calcium Light Company, 1896 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 13	Chicago Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Chicago, Illinois

Box 1, Folder 13	Clarke's, undated Notes: No location
Box 1, Folder 14	Cleveland Non-Explosive Lamp Company, 1872 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Oversize 121, Folder 3	Coleman Lamp Company, undated Notes: Wichita, Kansas; Merchandising display for "Daylite" lamps
Box 1, Folder 14	Colt Company, J. B., 1909 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 14	Colt & Whittelsey, circa 1850 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 14	Conde, A. B., 1901 Notes: Delmar, New York
Box 1, Folder 14	Consolidated Electric Lamp Company, undated Notes: Danvers, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 14	Consolidated Lamp & Gas Company, 1929 Notes: Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 15	Co-operative Electrical Supply House, undated Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 16	Cornelius & Baker, 1866-1871 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 16	Cornelius & Company, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 16	Cornelius & Rowland, 1892 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 16	Cornelius & Sons, 1873-1875 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 16	Corban, J. S., undated Notes: Plainville, Connecticut
Box 1, Folder 17	Covell, C. H., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 17	Covell & Company, 1867 Notes: New York, New York

Box 1, Folder 17	Cox, J. & I., 1833 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 17	Cox, P. & A., undated Notes: No location
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Craighead & Kintz Manufacturing Company and the American Electric Lamp Company, The, 1885 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 17	Crystal Carbon Company, The, 1886 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 1, Folder 17	Crowther & Wray, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 18	Dana Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 18	Dardonville, H., 1858 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 18	Day, Edwin B., 1859 Notes: Providence, Rhode Island
Box 1, Folder 18	Daylight Burner Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 18	Detroit Engine Works, 1911 Notes: Detroit, Michigan
Box 1, Folder 18	Devoe & Reynolds Company, Incorporated, 1928 Notes: No location
Box 1, Folder 18	Dewald & Company, L., 1870 Notes: No location
Box 1, Folder 18	Dewey, F. O., 1860-1890 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 18	Dewey, Jr., S. B., 1865 Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 1, Folder 19	Dietz, Brother & Company, 1844 Notes: Brooklyn, New York
Box 1, Folder 20	Dietz Company, R. E., 1882-1941 Notes: New York, New York; Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 21	Dietz Company, R. E., 1893-1940 Notes: New York, New York; Brochure, pamphlets and catalogs
Box 1, Folder 22	Dignan, J. W., undated Notes: Trenton, New Jersey
Box 1, Folder 22	Dikeman, Weed & Company, Ira, 1850 Notes: New Haven, Connecticut
Oversize 121, Folder 4	Dinanderie Francaise, 1907 Notes: Paris, France; Broadside advertisement
Box 1, Folder 22	Dodge, E. P., 1850-1854 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 22	Donaldson & Young, 1868 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 22	Donnell & Company, J. F., 1886 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 23	Doran, J. & J., undated Notes: Albany, New York
Box 1, Folder 24	Doty Light Company, circa 1875 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 24	Downer Kerosene Oil Company, circa 1870 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 24	Dressel & Company, George C., 1892 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 24	Dressel Railway Lamp Works, 1914 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 24	Duffner & Kimberly Company, The, 1906 Notes: New York, New York
Oversize 31, Folder 8	Dyott & Kent Manufacturers, M. B., 1851 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 25	Economic Lamp Company, 1912 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 25	Economy Light Company, undated Notes: Kansas City, Missouri

Oversize 31, Folder 7	Edison United Manufacturing Company, The, circa 1881 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 25	Edwards, George, circa 1845 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 25	Edwards Parlor Lamp Stove Company, undated Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 25	Electric Gas Lighting Company, The, circa 1888 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 25	Electric Gas Lighting Company, circa 1880 Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 25	Elmor & Welch's, circa 1862 Notes: No location
Box 1, Folder 25	Empire Lamp Company, Ltd, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 25	Evans & Company, T. G., undated Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 25	Everett & Company, James, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 26	Farmer, Edward I., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 26	Fay Gas Fixture Company, undated Notes: St. Louis, Missouri
Box 1, Folder 26	Fay, H. A., 1882 Notes: Concord, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 26	Fellows, Hoffman & Company, C. H., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 27	Fisher, Bruce & Company, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 27	Fleming, William, circa 1870-1881 Notes: Troy, New York
Box 1, Folder 27	Fletcher & Brothers, 1852-1861 Notes: Providence, Rhode Island

Box 1, Folder 27	Fletcher Brothers & Company, 1861-1866 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 27	Fletcher Manufacturing Company, 1866 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 27	Flinn & Breneman, undated Notes: Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 27	Ford Manufacturing Company, 1890 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 27	Fostoria Glass Company, undated Notes: Moundsville, West Virginia
Box 1, Folder 27	Fox Brothers & Company, 1908 Notes: New York, New York
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Franklin Institute, The, 1885 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 28	Frink, I. P., 1869-1893 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 1	Gallagher & Company, L. P., 1894-1895 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 1	Galy, H., 1889 Notes: Paris, France
Box 2, Folder 1	Gary & Company, 1880 Notes: Petersburg, Virginia
Box 2, Folder 1	Gavett, Andrew J., 1858 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 2	General Electric Company, 1898-1923 Notes: Harrison, New Jersey, and Schenectady, New York; Correspondence, product catalogs, published articles and pamphlets, and promotional material
Box 2, Folder 3	General Electric Company, circa 1925 Notes: Harrison, New Jersey, and Schenectady, New York; The Blue Carton Book, an advertising and sales guide for General Electric agents
Oversize 31, Folder 9	General Electric Company's National Lamp Works, The, 1914 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio; Over-sized advertisement
Box 2, Folder 4	Gibson, Shaw & Company, 1879-1883

	Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 4	Gilbert & Parker, undated Notes: Springfield, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 4	Gill Brothers & Company, 1895 Notes: Steubenville, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 4	Gill Glass Company, Incorporated, circa 1920 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 4	Gleason Manufacturing Company, E. P., 1880-1901 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 4	Glenny, Sons & Company, W. H., 1874 Notes: Buffalo, New York
Box 2, Folder 4	Globe Carbon Company, 1892 Notes: Ravenna, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 4	Globe Gas Light Company, circa 1895-1915 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 4	Gold Car Heating and Lighting Company, 1904 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 4	Gooding & Gavett, 1868 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 4	Goodwin & Stillman, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 4	Graves Electrical and Machine Works, The W. D., 1896 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 4	Gray & Sons, Petert, 1908 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 4	Graybill & Company, circa 1880 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 4	Gregory Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 5	Guth Company, The Edwin F., 1923-1927 Notes: St. Louis, Missouri
Box 2, Folder 6	H. B. & H. Packed Safety Lanterns, undated

	Notes: No location
Oversize 31, Folder 9	Hackenberg & Vorse, circa 1890 Notes: Milton, Pennsylvania; Broadside advertisement
Box 2, Folder 6	Haley-Stewart Electrical Company, Incorporated, undated Notes: Atlanta, Georgia
Box 2, Folder 6	Ham Manufacturing Company, C. T., circa 1900 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 2, Folder 6	Hammer & Company, 1870 Notes: Bradford, Connecticut
Box 2, Folder 6	Handel Company, The, 1911 Notes: Meriden, Connecticut
Box 2, Folder 6	Harrington, E. S., 1854 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 6	Harrold, George W., 1872 Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 2, Folder 6	Havens, Jr., Morton, 1907 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 2, Folder 6	Hawley & Company, H. Q., 1855 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 2, Folder 6	Haynes & Company, D. F., 1877 Notes: Baltimore, Maryland
Box 2, Folder 6	Hektograph Manufacturing Company, The, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 6	Hewitt, W. M., circa 1889 Notes: Peachton, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 6	Hicks & Smith, 1884 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 6	Hinrichs, C. F. A., 1876 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 6	Hitchcock Lamp Company, circa 1880 Notes: Waterton, New York
Box 2, Folder 7	Holden, Stephen B. and Luther I., undated

	Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Hollings & Company, R., circa 1880-1887 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Holmes, Booth & Haydens, 1861-1878 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Holmes, W. D., undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Holtzer Cabot Electric Company, The, undated Notes: Brookline, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Home Supply Company, 1914 Notes: Kansas City, Missouri
Box 2, Folder 7	Homer & Company, William P., 1857-1860 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Hood & Company, H., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 7	Hooper & Company, Henry N., 1849-1853 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 7	Hopkins, Stephen, 1875 Notes: Auburn, New York
Box 2, Folder 8	Hopson & Shepard, 1875 Notes: Utica, New York
Box 2, Folder 8	Horn & Brannen Manufacturing Company, The, 1923 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 8	Horn, Edwin B., 1854-1857 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 9	Hudson, M. A., undated Notes: Syracuse, New York
Box 2, Folder 9	Hurd, Benjamin L., 1852 Notes: No location
Box 2, Folder 9	Hutchins, G. & C. P., 1860 Notes: Providence, Rhode Island
Box 2, Folder 9	Iden & Company, circa 1890

	Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 9	Incandescent Lamp Company, circa 1886 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 9	Irish Manufacturing Company, 1914 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 9	Ives' Patent Lamp Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 10	James, S. R., 1875 Notes: Schenectady, New York
Box 2, Folder 10	Jarves & Cormerais, G. D., 1854-1858 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 10	Johns-Manville Company, H. W., 1908-1909 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 10	Johnson, V. S., undated Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 2, Folder 10	Johnston, Brothers, 1865 Notes: London, United Kingdom
Box 2, Folder 10	Jones & Company, E. F., 1858 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 10	Jones, McDuffee & Stratton, 1882 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 11	Kasschau Manufacturing Company, circa 1890 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 11	Kelly Lamp Company, 1881 Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 2, Folder 11	Kelly Lamp Works, 1872-1873 Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 2, Folder 11	Kern Incandescent Gas Light Company, 1902 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 11	Kerosene Utilities Company, circa 1900 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 11	Keystone Lantern Company, 1903

	Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 11	Keystone Safety Gas Machine Company, 1875 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 11	King & Sons, William, 1883 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 11	Kinsman, John, 1872 Notes: Portland, Maine
Box 2, Folder 11	Kitchen & Company, George H., 1861 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 11	Kitson Light Foreign Supply Company, 1905 Notes: London, United Kingdom
Box 2, Folder 11	Krause, Ingham & Hiester, circa 1895 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 12	Lamp and Brass Works of W. J. Gordon, 1887-1888 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 12	Latham & Company, E. B., 1904 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 12	Lawrence Gas Fixture Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2, Folder 12	Lees Manufacturing Company, The, 1898 Notes: Westport, Connecticut
Box 2, Folder 12	Leonard & Sons, H., circa 1895 Notes: Grand Rapids, Michigan
Box 2, Folder 13	Liberty Lamp & Shade Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 13	Lichtenstadt, P., 1865 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 13	Lightning Lamp Company of New York, 1884 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 13	Lighting Mart, circa 1945 Notes: Westwood, New Jersey
Box 2, Folder 14	Lightolier Company, 1923-1924

	Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 15	Lightolier Company, 1940 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 16	Lindner & Remig Manufacturing Company, circa 1865 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 16	Lindsay Light Company, 1937 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 2, Folder 16	Lloyds, Fosters & Company, 1839 Notes: No location
Box 2, Folder 16	Locke, Craigie & Company, 1833-1943 Notes: New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 16	Lyon, C. E., undated Notes: Worcester, Massachusetts
Box 2, Folder 16	Lyon & Healy, undated Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 2, Folder 16	Lyons, Carroll & Company, 1898 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 1	Macleod & Company, Walter, 1907 Notes: Cincinnati, Ohio
Box 3, Folder 1	Manhattan Brass Company, 1904 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 2	Mantle Lamp Company of America, Incorporated, 1930-1940 Notes: Chicago, Illinois; Correspondence and price lists
Box 3, Folder 3	Mantle Lamp Company of America, Incorporated, 1919-1940 Notes: Chicago, Illinois; Product catalogs and broadside advertisements
Box 3, Folder 4	Mantle Lamp Company of America, Incorporated, 1919-1940 Notes: Chicago, Illinois; Product directions, pamphlets and cards
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Mantle Lamp Company of America, Incorporated, circa 1890 Notes: Chicago, Illinois; Broadside advertisement
Oversize 31, Folder 9	Mantle Lamp Company of America, Incorporated, circa 1915 Notes: Chicago, Illinois; Broadside advertisement
Box 3, Folder 5	Marshall, E. D., 1874

	Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 5	Marvin, Edwin R., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 5	Massachusetts Gas Company, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 5	Maxcy, Sawyer & Company, undated Notes: Portland, Maine
Box 3, Folder 5	May's Electricians, S., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 5	McKenney & Company, C. H., 1888 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 5	McLeod & Reardon, 1881-1882 Notes: Troy, New York
Box 3, Folder 5	McNell, J. N., 1860 Notes: Wheeling, West Virginia
Box 3, Folder 5	Meriden Britannia Company, The, circa 1880 Notes: Meriden, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 5	Meriden Malleable Iron Company, The, circa 1880 Notes: Meriden, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 5	Merrill & Company, R. S., 1854-1861 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 5	Messenger & Sons, Thomas, 1835 Notes: Birmingham, United Kingdom
Box 3, Folder 5	Metropolitan Lighting Fixture Company, Incorporated, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 6	Michigan Chandelier Company, 1926 Notes: Detroit, Michigan
Box 3, Folder 6	Milburn Company, Alexander, 1910-1915 Notes: Baltimore, Maryland
Box 3, Folder 6	Milhender Electrical Supply, 1925 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 6	Miller & Company, Edward, 1900-1904

	Notes: Meriden, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 6	Miller, George O., undated Notes: Tonawanda, New York
Box 3, Folder 6	Miller & Sons, 1886 Notes: London, United Kingdom
Box 3, Folder 6	Miskey, Merrill & Thackara, 1868-1870 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 6	Mitchell, Bailey & Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 6	Mitchell, Vance & Company, 1876-1883 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 7	Modern Lighting Company, 1917 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 7	Moe-Bridges Company, circa 1915 Notes: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Mooney & Company, James, circa 1894 Notes: Bangor, Maine
Box 3, Folder 7	Moore, J. B., 1890 Notes: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Box 3, Folder 7	Munroe, William, 1864 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 7	Munsig, William, 1853 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 7	Muran Company, L. E., 1937 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 7	Murphy, T. J., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 8	Napoleon Gas Burner Manufacturing Company, circa 1860 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 8	National Carbide Sales Corporation, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 8	National Electric Company, 1890-1891

	Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 8	Nernst Lamp Company, 1903-1906 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 8	New Era Gas Machine Company, 1876 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 8	New Incandescent Gas Lighting Company, undated Notes: Holburn, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 8	New Lamp Chimney Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 8	New Light, 1894 Notes: Newark, New Jersey
Box 3, Folder 8	New York Calcium Light Company, 1886 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 9	New York Central Railroad Company, 1856-1870 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 3, Folder 10	New York Electric Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 10	New York Electric Brush & Ozone Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 10	New York Lamp Company, 1876 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 10	New York Lantern Company, 1882 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 10	New York and New Jersey Globe Gas Light Company, 1883 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 10	New York & Ohio Company, 1897 Notes: Warren, Ohio
Oversize 121, Folder 4	Newcomb, T., 1907 Notes: New York, New York; Over-sized brochure illustrating views of nighttime illumination of New York City; views include Herald Square, Madison Square (several), Sixth Avenue from 42nd Street, Delmonico's and Fifth Avenue from 45 Street and the New York City skyline from the North River and the East River Bridge Tower
Box 3, Folder 10	Newell, Caldwell & Coffin, 1852

	Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 10	Norcross, Mellen & Company, 1881 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 11	Ohio Electric Works, undated Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 3, Folder 11	Ohio Lantern Company, undated Notes: Tiffin, Ohio
Box 3, Folder 11	Osler, F. & C., 1859 Notes: London, United Kingdom
Oversize 121, Folder 3	Otis & Streeter, 1852 Notes: Lynn, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 11	Oxley & Enos Manufacturing Company, 1895 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 12	Palmic Sperm Works, 1883 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 12	Park & Wood, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 12	Parker Company, Charles, circa 1959 Notes: Meriden, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 12	Patent Mechanical Lamp Company, circa 1895 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 12	Paull's Leader, 1853 Notes: [Research name of manufacturer]
Box 3, Folder 12	Peaslee Gaulbert Companies, 1896 Notes: Louisville, Kentucky
Box 3, Folder 13	Peirce, M. W., 1861 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 13	Pennsylvania Globe Gas Light Company, The, 1882-1891 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 13	Perfected Inverted Gas Burner Company, undated Notes: Buffalo, New York
Box 3, Folder 13	Perkin's & House's, circa 1872

	Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Oversize 121, Folder 4	Pettit, C. B., undated Notes: New Orleans, Louisiana
Box 3, Folder 13	Pettit Protection Oil Company, C. B., undated Notes: New Orleans, Louisiana
Box 3, Folder 13	Phoenix Manufacturing Company, circa 1888 Notes: Newark, New Jersey
Box 3, Folder 13	Pierce & Company, S. P., 1875 Notes: Syracuse, New York
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Pittsburgh Brass Company, circa 1890 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 13	Pittsburgh Lamp, Brass & Glass Company, undated Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Oversize 121, Folder 4	Pittsburgh, Lamp, Brass & Glass Company, circa 1915 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Broadside advertisement
Box 3, Folder 13	Pittsfield Electric Company, 1894 Notes: Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 14	Plume & Atwood Manufacturing Company, The, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 14	Porter, H., 1849 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 14	Porter & Company, John, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 14	Porter, William, 1856 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 14	Porter's Sons, William, 1874-1883 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 14	Potter, N. F., 1856 Notes: Providence, Rhode Island
Box 3, Folder 15	Prescott, F. M., circa 1898 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 15	Presto-O-Lite Company, Incorporated, 1914

	Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 15	Princess Assorted Lamps, undated Notes: No location
Box 3, Folder 15	Providence Steam and Gas Pipe Company, 1851 Notes: Providence, Rhode Island
Box 3, Folder 15	Puffer & Kelley, 1850 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 15	Pyle-National Electric Headlight Company, 1902 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 3, Folder 15	Quaker City Chandelier Company, 1875 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 16	Radiant Light Company, undated Notes: Prairier Du Chien, Wisconsin
Box 3, Folder 16	Ratcliff, J. & E., 1859 Notes: Birmingham, United Kingdom
Box 3, Folder 16	Raton Electric Light & Power Company, undated Notes: No location
Box 3, Folder 16	Rice & Miller, undated Notes: Bangor, Maine
Box 3, Folder 16	Ridgway Refrigerator Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 16	Roberts, James H., undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 16	Robin Company, J. I., 1905 Notes: Brooklyn, New York
Box 3, Folder 17	Robinson & Company, F. W., 1859 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 17	Robinson, G. & S. (1859-1862), 1859-1862 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 3, Folder 17	Rochester Kerosene Lamp Manufactory, 1877 Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 3, Folder 17	Rochester Lamp Company, 1893-1897

Notes: London, United Kingdom

Box 3, Folder 17	Roller Lamp Burner Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 17	Rorke & Company, Edward, 1885 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 18	Rose Manufacturing Company, circa 1910 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 18	Royce & Marean, 1895 Notes: Washington, D. C.
Box 3, Folder 18	Russell & Company, Henry, 1880 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 18	Russell & Company, J., undated Notes: Holyoke, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 19	Sangster & Sons, H., 1853 Notes: Buffalo, New York
Box 3, Folder 19	Schaum, John P., undated Notes: Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 19	Scheetz, R., 1892 Notes: Norristown, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 19	Scott, H. Clay, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 19	Scovill Manufacturing Company, 1938 Notes: Waterbury, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 19	Sears Roebuck & Company, 1937 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 19	Shaw, William F., 1846-1847 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 19	Shelby Electric Company, The, 1902 Notes: Shelby, Ohio
Box 3, Folder 19	Shepard, R. M., 1885 Notes: Hudson, New York
Box 3, Folder 20	Shoemaker Brothers, undated

	Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 20	Shupp & Company, Irvin, 1881 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 20	Siedenbach & Enburg, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 20	Simmons, George H., 1877 Notes: North Bennington, Vermont
Box 3, Folder 20	Simmons Company, John, circa 1890 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 20	Sklar Company, Morris, 1920 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 21	Smith & Bullard, 1867 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 21	Smith, Son & Company, J. P., circa 1875-1879 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 21	Smith & Tarbell, 1854 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 21	Spalding, R. H., 1852 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 21	Splicker, W. & H., undated Notes: Baltimore, Maryland
Box 3, Folder 21	Splitdorf Wire Company, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 21	Springfield Gas Machine Manufacturing Company, circa 1880 Notes: New York, New York; [Also file under Gilbert & Baker Manufacturing Company]
Box 3, Folder 22	Standard Oil Company, undated Notes: No location
Box 3, Folder 22	Stanwood & Company, Henry B., circa 1880 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 22	Star Electrix Company, The, 1891 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 22	Star Head Light Company, The, 1891-1915

	Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 3, Folder 22	Sterling Electrical Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Warren, Ohio
Box 3, Folder 23	Steam Gauge & Lantern Company, circa 1895 Notes: Syracuse, New York
Box 3, Folder 23	Stearns' Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: No location
Box 3, Folder 23	Stetson & Company, S. A., 1856-1865 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 23	Stevens, J. F., circa 1867 Notes: Washington, D. C.
Box 3, Folder 24	Stock & Son, circa 1870 Notes: Birmingham, United Kingdom
Box 3, Folder 24	Storrs Mica Company, 1902 Notes: Matteawan, New York
Box 3, Folder 24	Story, A.G., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 24	Stout-Meadowcroft Company, The, 1886 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 24	Stoutenburgh, William E., 1844 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 24	Swasey & Company, E. W., circa 1890-1905 Notes: Portland, Maine
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Swasey & Company, E. W., circa 1890 Notes: Portland, Maine; Broadside advertisement
Oversize 31, Folder 9	Swasey & Company, E. W., circa 1890 Notes: Portland, Maine; Broadside advertisement
Box 3, Folder 24	Swivelier Company, Incorporated, circa 1940 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 24	Sylvania Electric Products, Incorporated, 1943 Notes: No location
Box 3, Folder 25	Taylor, E. B., undated

	Notes: Richmond, Virginia
Box 3, Folder 25	Taylor Manufacturing Company, The, 1872 Notes: New Britain, Connecticut
Box 3, Folder 25	Thayer & Chandler, 1925 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 3, Folder 25	Thomas, M., & Sons, circa 1850 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 25	Thomas Manufacturing Company, The, undated Notes: Dayton, Ohio
Oversize 31, Folder 9	Thomas Manufacturing Company, The, undated Notes: Dayton, Ohio; Broadside advertisement
Box 3, Folder 25	Thomason & Company, T., 1859 Notes: Birmingham, United Kingdom
Oversize 31, Folder 7	Thomson-Houston International Electric Company, circa 1895 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 25	Tiffany Studios, 1914 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 26	Tirrill's Gas Machine Company, 1890 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 26	Todhunter, Incorporated, 1929 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 26	Toldeo Pressed Steel Company, The, 1928 Notes: Toldeo, Ohio
Box 3, Folder 26	Tompkins, Peter, 1871 Notes: Batavia, New York
Oversize 121, Folder 4	Tongue & Brothers Company, Incorporated, R. E., 1938 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Advertising bulletin
Box 3, Folder 26	Turner & Company, N. W., circa 1860 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 3, Folder 27	Union Carbide Company, 1905 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 3, Folder 27	Union Supply Company, circa 1895

Notes: Chicago, Illinois

Box 3, Folder 27	United Gas Improvement Company, circa 1905 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 27	United States Battery Company, circa 1900 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 27	United States Electric Lighting Company, 1883 Notes: New York, New York
Oversize 31, Folder 9	United States Glass Company, undated Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 27	Universal Electric Stage Lighting Company, 1912 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 27	Universal Fixture Corporation, undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 28	United States Glass Company, undated Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 3, Folder 29	Usona Light Company, 1906 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 29	Victor Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Jersey City, New Jersey
Box 3, Folder 29	Vitrite and Luminoid Company, circa 1886 Notes: New York, New York
Box 3, Folder 29	Vose & Company, P. H., undated Notes: Bangor, Maine
Box 4, Folder 1	Wahle Company, Albert, circa 1920 Notes: Atlanta, Georgia
Box 4, Folder 1	Wakefield Lighting Fixtures, 1911 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 4, Folder 2	Wallace & McAfee, circa 1890 Notes: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Box 4, Folder 2	Walworth & Company, J. J., 1871 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 2	Walworth Manufacturing Company, undated

	Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 2	Wanzer & Company, Manufacturers, R. M., undated Notes: Hamilton, Ontario
Box 4, Folder 2	Warner, Miskey & Merrill, circa 1860 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 4, Folder 2	Weidener, A. J., 1886 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Oversize 121, Folder 4	Weidener, A. J., circa 1885 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Over-sized catalog page
Box 4, Folder 2	Wellington Scientific Vacuum Lamp Company, The, 1886 Notes: New York, New York
Box 4, Folder 3	Wells Light Manufacturing Company, 1901-1903 Notes: New York, New York
Box 4, Folder 3	Welsbach Gas Lamp Company, circa 1899-1909 Notes: New York, New York
Box 4, Folder 4	Westland Safety Lamp Company, undated Notes: No location
Box 4, Folder 4	Whitin & Sons, P., 1848 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 4	Whitney Brothers, 1863 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 4	Whitney Glass Works, The, undated Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 4	Whitney & Tappan, 1865-1870 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 4	Wilheim & Neumann, undated Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 4, Folder 4	Whitney Telephone Manufacturing Company, 1867-1879 Notes: Buffalo, New York
Box 4, Folder 5	Will, Albert, undated Notes: Rochester, New York
Box 4, Folder 5	Williams, Brown & Earle, undated

Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Box 4, Folder 5	Williams, Irvin A., 1863-1869 Notes: Utica, New York
Box 4, Folder 6	Williams, William B., 1862-1869 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 7	Williamson, L. A., Company, 1910 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 7	Williamson & Company, R., 1907 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 4, Folder 8	Winfield Manufacturing Company, The, undated Notes: Warren, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 8	Wingrave, Jr. & Company, J., 1869 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 4, Folder 8	Witters & Company, 1864 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 4, Folder 8	Wood, Greene & Company, 1860 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 8	Woodworth & Company, C. R., undated Notes: New York, New York
Box 4, Folder 8	Wright, I. C., undated Notes: Fitchburg, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 8	Wright, James T., 1871-1872 Notes: New York, New York
Box 4, Folder 8	Wrigley, Jr. & Company, William, circa 1900 Notes: Chicago, Illinois
Box 4, Folder 8	Wyman & Tyler, 1862-1863 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 9	York & Boothby Company, circa 1920 Notes: Portland, Maine
Box 4, Folder 10	Young & Company, Daniel, 1890 Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Subseries 2: Municipal Lighting Companies, 1857-1924

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of one folder of items relating to municipal lighting companies dealing with both gas and electric illumination, and is organized alphabetically by company name. Materials include bills, receipts, payment slips and announcements.

Box 4, Folder 11	Albany Board of Underwriters, 1894 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 4, Folder 11	Albany Electric Illuminating Company, 1903-1905 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 4, Folder 11	Albany Gas Light Company, 1870 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 4, Folder 11	American Lighting Company, 1903 Notes: Baltimore, Maryland
Box 4, Folder 11	Boston Gas Light Company, 1903 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 11	Camden Power and Light Company, 1895 Notes: Camden, New Jersey
Box 4, Folder 11	Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, 1908 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 11	Cleveland Vapor Light Company, 1903 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 11	Edison Light and Power Company, 1893 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 4, Folder 11	Electric Gas Lighting Company, The, 1887 Notes: Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 11	Hartford City Gas Light Company, 1857 Notes: Hartford, Connecticut
Box 4, Folder 11	Municipal Gas Company of Albany, 1912 Notes: Albany, New York
Box 4, Folder 11	Peoples Gas Light Company of Cleveland, 1880 Notes: Cleveland, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 11	Raton Electric Light and Power Company, undated Notes: No location
Box 4, Folder 11	Utica Gas & Electric Company, 1924 Notes: Utica, New York

Box 4, Folder 11 Vale Electric Light Company, 1897
Notes: Vale, Oregon

Subseries 3: Lighting Associations and Societies, 1887-1909

Scope and This subseries consists of one folder of correspondence, pamphlets, brochures and other literature
Contents: published by national lighting associations and societies. Material is organized alphabetically by
the name of the organization.

Box 4, Folder 12 American Gas Light Association, 1887
Notes: New York, New York

Box 4, Folder 12 Carbon Manufacturers' Association, undated
Notes: No location

Box 4, Folder 12 Lighting Fixture Dealers Society of America, The, 1921
Notes: Buffalo, New York

Box 4, Folder 12 National Electric Lamp Association, 1909
Notes: Cleveland, Ohio

Box 4, Folder 12 National Electric Light Association, 1891
Notes: Providence, Rhode Island

Box 4, Folder 12 Underwriters Association of New York State, 1893
Notes: Albany, New York

Subseries 4: Export, Import and Patent Documents, 1851-1886

Scope and This subseries consists of one folder of patent certificates and drawings organized alphabetically
Contents: by the name of the patent holder, importer or exporter.

Box 4, Folder 13 Baldwin Company, A., 1874
Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Box 4, Folder 13 Cooke, Joseph, 1886
Notes: Birmingham, United Kingdom

Box 4, Folder 13 Gresson, John C., 1851
Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Box 4, Folder 13 Almond, Thomas R., 1874
Notes: Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Box 4, Folder 13 Johnson, George, 1877
Notes: Buffalo, New York

Box 4, Folder 13 McLewee, Frederick, 1882

Notes: New York, New York

Box 4, Folder 13 Schley, John, 1860
Notes: Savannah, Georgia

Box 4, Folder 13 Stevens, J. F., 1867
Notes: Washington, D.C.

Subseries 5: General Images, 1890, undated

Scope and Contents: This subseries represents a significant accumulation of illustrations, lithographs and advertisements of lighting implements and paraphernalia that cannot be linked to a specific inventor, manufacturer, dealer or supplier. The bulk of this material consists of loose pages of trade literature, clippings from periodicals, trade cards, and advertisements.

Box 4, Folder 14-17 General images

Oversize 31, Folder 7 Over-sized photograph of "First order of five wick lamp", 1890
Notes: Unknown manufacturer; no location

Oversize 121, Folder 4 Over-sized catalog page illustrating Chinese lanterns, undated
Notes: Unknown manufacturer; no location

Subseries 6: Articles, Brochures and Pamphlets on the Subject of Lighting, 1851-1930

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of one folder of miscellaneous articles, clippings from periodicals, pamphlets and brochures on the general subject of lighting and illumination.

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. Acetylene: A Light That Tells the Truth., 1898
Notes: New York, New York: J. B. Colt & Company

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. Gas Fixtures & Lamps., 1872

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. The Home Lighting Primer, undated

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. "Home-made Gas-Light from Crushed Stone," Country Life in America Magazine, 1911 March 1
Notes: p. cdxiii

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. It Imitates the Sun: The Big Search Light at the World's Fair, 1893

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. Light: Its Use and Misuse., 1912
Notes: New York, New York: Illuminating Engineering Society

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. Report of the Franklin Institute on the Dioptric System of Augustin Fresnel for the Illumination of Lighthouses., 1850
Notes: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Grattan & McLean

Box 4, Folder 18 Anonymous. Town and Village—Acetylene Lighting., undated

	Notes: Portland, Maine: Wood-Morris Acetylene Gas Company
Box 4, Folder 18	Carruth, Edith. "The Evolution of a Lamp," The Delineator., 1908 January Notes: p. 128
Oversize 31, Folder 8	Duffus, R. L. "Our Electric Light Has Its Jubilee—Edison's First Lamp Was Involved After Long and Trying Experiments," The New York Times Magazine, 1928 October 14
Box 4, Folder 18	Horgan, Josephine M. The Story of Lighting., 1931 Notes: New York, New York: Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University
Box 4, Folder 18	Kennedy, John E. Passing of the Lamp., undated
Box 4, Folder 18	Oday, A. B. and A. S. Turner, Jr. Reflectors for Incandescent Lamps., 1921 April Notes: Harrison, New Jersey: Edison Lamp Works of the General Electric Company; Index 22, Bulletin L.D. 123
Box 4, Folder 18	Salomons, Sir David. Electrical Light Installations and the Management of Accumulators., undated Notes: New York, New York: D. Van Nostrand Company
Box 4, Folder 18	Smith, Clarence R. "Lamps of the Early Days at the Museum," Aurora Historical Society Bulletin, 1945 October Notes: Vol. 1, No. 3
Box 4, Folder 18	Williams, Hamp. How to Run a Retail Store at a Profit., 1921 Notes: Wichita, Kansas: The Coleman Lamp Company
Box 4, Folder 18	Worth, J. Chemical Fluid Gas-Light, circa 1875
<hr/>	
Box SUPP 17, Folder 2	Marketing Material and Trade Literature, 1887-1939 Notes: Trade cards, circulars, product brochures, product specification, design guides, price lists, and catalogues.
	Catalogues, 1877 , undated
Oversize ADDOV6	Archer and Pancoat Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Archer and Pancoat Manufatcturing Company. Combination and Electrical Fixtures. Catalogue No. 1.
Oversize ADDOV29	Beardslee Chandelier Manufacturing Company, undated
Oversize ADDOV6	Bergmann and Company, undated
Oversize ADDOV6	Cornelius and Company Manufacturers, 1877

Oversize 32	Gillinder and Sons, undated Notes: Catalogue 12.
Map-folder 6	Lighting
Map-folder 16	Lighting

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Packaging Samples, undated

Box ADD46	Edison Mazda Lamp Bulb Packages Notes: General Electric Company. Three lightbulb containers, some tabs and flaps detached and loose in container, for various products (packaging only, no blubs).
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[Return to Table of Contents](#)