



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Lighting

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons and Nicole Blechynden

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1999, Revised 2017

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Lighting
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Lighting
Date:	circa 1833-1943
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.)
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: 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

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Box 1, Folder 2	Albany Stamp Exchange, undated Albany, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	Alcohol Utilities Company, circa 1910 New York, New York
Box 1, Folder 2	Allen, Son & Company, R. J., 1883 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 2	Almy & Company, H. S., undated New York, New York
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Subseries 2: Municipal Lighting Companies, 1857-1924

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
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- Box 4, Folder 11 Albany Electric Illuminating Company, 1903-1905
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- Box 4, Folder 11 Camden Power and Light Company, 1895
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- Box 4, Folder 11 Edison Light and Power Company, 1893
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- Box 4, Folder 11 Raton Electric Light and Power Company, undated
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- Box 4, Folder 11 Utica Gas & Electric Company, 1924
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- Box 4, Folder 11 Vale Electric Light Company, 1897
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Subseries 3: Lighting Associations and Societies, 1887-1909

This subseries consists of one folder of correspondence, pamphlets, brochures and other literature 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
New York, New York
- Box 4, Folder 12 Carbon Manufacturers' Association, undated
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- Box 4, Folder 12 Lighting Fixture Dealers Society of America, The, 1921
Buffalo, New York
- Box 4, Folder 12 National Electric Lamp Association, 1909
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- Box 4, Folder 12 National Electric Light Association, 1891
Providence, Rhode Island
- Box 4, Folder 12 Underwriters Association of New York State, 1893
Albany, New York

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

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

- Box 4, Folder 13 Baldwin Company, A., 1874
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Box 4, Folder 13 Cooke, Joseph, 1886
Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Box 4, Folder 13 Gresson, John C., 1851
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Box 4, Folder 13 Almond, Thomas R., 1874
Fitchburg, Massachusetts
- Box 4, Folder 13 Johnson, George, 1877
Buffalo, New York
- Box 4, Folder 13 McLewee, Frederick, 1882
New York, New York
- Box 4, Folder 13 Schley, John, 1860

Savannah, Georgia

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

Subseries 5: General Images, 1890, undated

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
Unknown manufacturer; no location

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

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

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
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
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
New York, New York: Illuminating Engineering Society

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

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

Portland, Maine: Wood-Morris Acetylene Gas Company

- Box 4, Folder 18 Carruth, Edith. "The Evolution of a Lamp," *The Delineator.*, 1908 January 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
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
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
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
Vol. 1, No. 3
- Box 4, Folder 18 Williams, Hamp. *How to Run a Retail Store at a Profit.*, 1921
Wichita, Kansas: The Coleman Lamp Company
- Box 4, Folder 18 Worth, J. *Chemical Fluid Gas-Light*, circa 1875
- Box SUPP 17, Folder 2 Marketing Material and Trade Literature, 1887-1939
Trade cards, circulars, product brochures, product specification, design guides, price lists, and catalogues.

Catalogues, 1877 , undated
- Oversize ADDOV6 Archer and Pancoat Manufacturing Company, undated
Archer and Pancoat Manufacturing 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
Catalogue 12.

Map-folder 6 Lighting

Map-folder 16 Lighting

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Packaging Samples, undated

Box ADD46 Edison Mazda Lamp Bulb Packages
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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