



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Scales

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Scales

Max Howell

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	2
Arrangement .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Business Records and Marketing Material, 1791-1933 .....	4
Genre, 1801-1943 .....	5
Subject, 1839-1941, undated .....	6

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Scales
<b>Date:</b>	undated 1791-1943
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Scales
<b>Creator:</b>	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
<b>Extent:</b>	3.25 Cubic feet (consisting of 7 boxes, 1 folder, 2 oversize folders, 1 map case folder.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	A New York bookseller, Warshaw assembled this collection over nearly fifty years. The <i>Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Accounting and Bookkeeping</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: <a href="#">Warshaw Collection of Business Americana</a>
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Warshaw Subject Category: Scales</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Scales 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.

### 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.

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 Max Howell, 2017 February.

## Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Scales, 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.

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## Scope and Contents

Scales contains business records and advertisements created by manufacturers and distributors of scales, as well as companies employed to weigh items for communities. Additional materials include scale design patents and educational material on weights and measures.

Extensive business documentation for the Riehlé Brothers is present. The Riehlé Brothers were a scale and testing-machine manufacturer based in Philadelphia. In 1865, Frederick Riehlé purchased two-fifths of interest in the Banks, Dinmore and Company and later helped coordinate the purchase of the Abbott Scale Works company. Frederick's brother Henry later purchased another three-fifths of interest in Banks, Dinmore and Company and the brothers changed the company name to the Riehlé Brothers in 1867.

Material concerning specific subject areas within the topic of scales provides a narrow window into the field of scales, weights, and measures but nonetheless a unique one. The subject category contains a broad view of the business of manufacturing scales and measuring goods for communities, as well as a small amount of social commentary on the necessity of the field in the 19th and 20th centuries.

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## Arrangement

Scales is arranged in three subseries.

- Business Records and Marketing Material
- Genre
- Subject

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Consumer goods -- Catalogs
- Measuring instruments
- Measuring instruments industry
- Patents
- Retail trade
- Scales (Weighing instruments)

### Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Advertising
- Advertising cards
- Advertising fliers
- Advertising mail
- Business cards
- Business ephemera
- Business letters
- Business records
- Catalogs
- Catalogues
- Commercial correspondence
- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- Exhibition catalogs
- Illustrations
- Invoices
- Letterheads
- Mail order catalogs
- Manuals
- Manufacturers' catalogs
- Periodicals
- Photographs
- Print advertising
- Printed ephemera
- Publications
- Publications -- Business
- Receipts
- Reports
- Sales catalogs
- Sales letters
- Sales records
- Technical manuals -- 20th century
- Trade cards
- Trade catalogs
- Trade literature

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## Container Listing

### Business Records and Marketing Material, 1791-1933

Scope and Contents: Contains business records, advertisements, and correspondence. Any material where the company name is indecipherable or unwritten has been filed under Miscellaneous. Records and marketing material for proprietorships may be filed under either the first or last name of the individual, researchers should look in all applicable alphabetical folders.

Companies that are heavily represented in the collection include Buffalo Company, John Chatillon and Sons, Fairbanks Company, and the Riehlé Brothers.

Box 1, Folder 1            A, 1865-1880, undated

A.B. Davis and Company

Box 7, Folder 5            Daybook, 1855-1861

Box 7, Folder 6            Receipt Book, 1855-1863

Box 7, Folder 7            Bills, Notes, and Receivables, 1858-1873

Box 1, Folder 2-3        B, 1860-1903

Box 1, Folder 4            C, 1868-1904

Box 1, Folder 5            D, 1854-1896, undated

Box 1, Folder 6            E, 1866-1887

Box 2, Folder 1-3        F, 1830-1930, undated

Box 2, Folder 4            G, 1869-1930

Box 2, Folder 5            H, 1865-1916, undated

Map-folder 3            Howe Company, undated

Notes:            Advertisement. Image of woman stepping on a scale.

Box 3, Folder 1            J, 1865-1929, undated

Box 3, Folder 2            K, 1859-1901, undated

Box 3, Folder 3            L, 1862

Box 3, Folder 4            M-N, 1865-1893, undated

Box 3, Folder 5	O-P, 1881-1908, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	R, 1857-1868
Box 3, Folder 7-9	Riehlé Brothers, 1865-1933, undated
Box 4, Folder 1-5	Riehlé Brothers, 1865-1933, undated
Box 5, Folder 1-2	Riehlé Brothers, 1865-1933, undated
Box 5, Folder 3	S, 1853-1915
Box 5, Folder 4-5	T, 1862-1881
Map-folder 3	Toledo Computing Scale Company, undated Notes: List of companies that use the company scale products.
Box 6, Folder 1	W, 1869-1903, undated
Box SUPP 27, Folder 4	Business Records, 1791-1927 Notes: Weight services receipts, correspondence and purchase of scales, and an envelope that contained reports for 1927 (empty but retained in the event its original contents are elsewhere in the scales materials.)
Box 7, Folder 8	Ledger, 1866-1869
Box 7, Folder 9	Ledger, List vs. Sold for prices, 1882-1885
Box 6, Folder 2	Load Weight Receipts, 1790-1899
Map-folder 3	Standard of weights and measures in the Exchequer list, 1746
Box 6, Folder 3	Miscellaneous, 1852-1899, undated
Oversize 183, Folder 1	Oversize Advertisements, 1900, undated Notes: Contains company posters and advertisements.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Genre, 1801-1943

Scope and Contents: Contains company catalogues, guides and literature souvenirs from Fairbanks' Souvenir of the World's Columbian Exposition, and patents for scale designs.

Catalogues, 1801-1943, undated

Box 6, Folder 4	A-F, 1854-1919, undated Notes: Duryee and Forsyth Manufacturing Company (2 catalogues. 1854-1857), Fairbanks Company (7 catalogues. 1877-1919, undated).
Box 6, Folder 5	G-J, 1865-1940, undated Notes: Hanson Scale Company (1940), Howe Scale Company (1865), Jacobs Brothers Company Incorporated (6 catalogues. Undated), John Chatillon and Sons (2 catalogues. 1921-1925), Jones of Binghamton (1895).
Box 6, Folder 6	K-Z, 1801-1943, undated Notes: Ready Reckoner (1801), Standard Scale and Supply Company (2 catalogues. 1916, undated), Tacho (1943).
Map-folder 3	Mills Novelty Company, 1916 Notes: Company scale product catalogue.
Box 6, Folder 7	Riehlé Brothers, 1909-1915, undated Notes: 7 catalogues.
Map-folder 3	Watling Manufacturing Company, undated Notes: Company scale product catalogue.
Box 6, Folder 8	Exposition Literature, 1893 Notes: <i>Fairbanks' Souvenir of the World's Columbian Exposition</i> , Chicago, Illinois.
Box 7, Folder 1	Images, undated Notes: Two B&W photos of scales.
Oversize 55, Folder 7	Oversize Miscellaneous, undated Notes: Contains scale designs, patents, and business advertisements.
Box 7, Folder 2	Patents, 1828-1889

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Subject, 1839-1941, undated

Box 7, Folder 3	Scale Education, 1872-1941, undated Notes: Contains information about statistics and measurements, arithmetical tables, background literature on the functions of scales, and the the construction and use of transmission dynamometers and shallow pit wagon scales.
Box 7, Folder 4	Scales and Society, 1839-1886



Notes: Contains literature focusing on the role of scales in society, including debates about the necessity of legitimate balances and weights, commentary on scale legislation, and adjustments of scale standards.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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