



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Sewing Machines

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Sewing

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons and Nicole Blechynden

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Sewing Machines
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Sewing
Date:	circa 1854-1951
Extent:	2.6 Cubic feet (consisting of 5.5 boxes, 1 folder, 4 oversize folders, 1 map case folder, 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: Sewing Machines</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
Digital Content:	Image(s): Warshaw Subject Category: Sewing Machines

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Sewing Machines 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: Sewing Machines, 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- Sewing consists primarily of advertising cards, printed advertisements, bills, receipts, scattered correspondence on letterhead stationery, pamphlets, trade catalogues, patents, trademarks, import/export documents and calendars from manufacturers and distributors of sewing machines. There is a substantial amount of material for each company with numerous visual images of machines.

The material is arranged into three series: Series consists of materials relating to Manufacturers and Distributors of Sewing Machines including

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Business ephemera

Ephemera

Container Listing

Series 1: Manufacturers and Distributors of Sewing Machines

Box 1, Folder 1-2	American Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts
Oversize 56, Folder 8	American Sewing Machine Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 3	Avery Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 4	Bartholf Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, New York
Oversize 183, Folder 5	Bell, J.P. and Company, Lynchburg, Virginia
Box 1, Folder 4	Bolgiand Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Baltimore, Maryland
Box 1, Folder 4	Boston Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 4	Bradburg Sewing Machine Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 4	Butterfield & Stevens Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 5	Chicago Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 6	Coles Universal Feed Sewing Machine Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 7-9	Davis Sewing Machine Company
Oversize 56, Folder 8	Davis Sewing Machine Company, Watertown, New York
Box 1, Folder 10	Demorest Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Williamsport, Pennsylvania
Box 1, Folder 11-14	Domestic Sewing Machine Company, Buffalo, New York Image(s)
Oversize 56, Folder 8	Domestic Sewing Machine Company, Buffalo, New York
Oversize 183, Folder 5	Domestic Sewing Machine Company, Buffalo, New York

Oversize 183, Folder 5	DuLaney, G.L. and Company, Belvidere, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 15	Eldredge Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Belvidere, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 15	Empire Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts.
Box 1, Folder 15	Erie Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Buffalo, New York and Chicago, Illinois
Box 1, Folder 16	Field, Marshall and Company
Box 1, Folder 17	Finkie & Lyon Sewing Machine Company, New York
Box 1, Folder 18	Florence Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Florence, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 19	Foley & Williams Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio
Oversize 56, Folder 8	Foley and Williams Manufacturing Company
Box 1, Folder 20	Grover & Baker Sewing Machine Company Image(s)

A Home Scene; or Mr. Aston's First Evening with Grover & Baker's Celebrated Family Sewing Machine [two instruction manuals], 1859
2 Items (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\): A Home Scene; or Mr. Aston's First Evening with Grover & Baker's Celebrated Family Sewing Machine \[two instruction manuals\], 1859.](#)

[Image\(s\): A Home Scene; or Mr. Aston's First Evening with Grover & Baker's Celebrated Family Sewing Machine \[two instruction manuals\], 1859.](#)

Grover & Baker Sewing Machine Company (New York), Publisher
English.

2 editions of an instruction manual for sewing machines, from "Sewing Machines" series, box 1, folder 20. One has date imprint without full company name, the other has the company name but is undated.

60.98-156 : Complete title is "A Home Scene / or / Mr. Aston's First Evening / with / Grover & Baker's / Celebrated / Family Sewing Machine; / Containing / Directions for Using, / and a Discussion of / the Relative Merits of Stitches."
New York, 1959.

60.174450 : Shortened title; "etc., etc." after "Using". Has complete company name with address, 495 Broadway, New York. Slightly smaller format.

Fees for commercial use. Copyright probably expired. Order from neg. no. 98-156 (shows covers of both books).

Local Numbers

AC0060-0001062.tif (AC scan no.)

AC0060-0001063.tif (AC scan no.)

98-156 (OPPS Neg.)

Topic: Sewing machines -- 1850-1860
 Genre/ Manuals -- 1850-1860
 Form: Operating manuals -- 1850-1860

Oversize 56, Folder 8	Hadlock, John, Milford, New Hampshire
Box 1, Folder 21	Hartford Sewing Machine Company, Hartford, Conn.
Box 1, Folder 22	Hartford Sewing Machine Company, Patent for Sewing Machine Ornamentation, Hartford, Conn.
Box 1, Folder 23	Household Sewing-Machine Company, Providence, Rhode Island
Box 1, Folder 24	Household Sewing Machine Company, Providence, Rhode Island
Oversize 183, Folder 5	Howe Machine Company, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 1, Folder 25-27	Howe Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Illinois Sewing Machine Company, Rockford, Illinois and Chicago, Illinois
Oversize 56, Folder 8	Johnson, Clark and Company, New York, New York
Box 2, Folder 3	June Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois and Albany, New York
Box 2, Folder 4	Ledder Sewing Machine Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Box 2, Folder 5	Montgomery Ward & Company
Box 2, Folder 6	National Sewing Machine Company, Belvidere, Illinois
Box 2, Folder 2-20	New Home Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Orange, Massachusetts Image(s)
Oversize 56, Folder 8	New Home Sewing Machine Company, Orange, Massachusetts

Nichols and Buss, Manufacturer of Howe's Sewing Machine, New York

- Box 2, Folder 22 Nichols, J.B. & Company, Manufacturers of Howe's Sewing Machines Boston, Massachusetts
- Oversize 56, Folder 9 Reliance Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Box 2, Folder 23 Remington Sewing Machine Company, Iloin, New York
- Box 2, Folder 24 Remington Sewing Machine Company, Iloin, New York
- Box 2, Folder 25 Sears, Roebuck & Company, Chicago, Illinois
- Oversize 56, Folder 9 Sears, Roebuck & Company, Chicago, Illinois
- Box 2, Folder 26 Secomb & Company, Agents-Common Sense Family Sewing Machine, Boston, Massachusetts
- Box 2, Folder 26 Self Threading Sewing Machine Company New, York
- Box 2, Folder 26 Shaw & Clark Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Biddieford, Maine
- Box 3, Folder 1-19 Singer Sewing Manufacturing Company
[Image\(s\)](#)

Instructions for Singer sewing machines [flyer], [ca. 1880?]
1 Item (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\): Instructions for Singer sewing machines \[flyer, ca. 1880?\]](#)

Singer Sewing Machine Co., Author
English.

From Sewing Machines, box 3, Singer folder no. 3. Directions for sewing machines: flyer, undated.

Copy prints available. Possible reproduction restrictions due to trademark.
Order from neg. no. 98-158 (copy negative of text only, not illus.).

Local Numbers

AC0060-0001064.tif (AC scan no.)

98-158 (OPPS Neg.)

Topic: Sewing machines -- 19th century
Genre/ Instructional materials -- 19th century
Form:

Singer Sewing Machines [illustrated print,], 1868

1 Item (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\): Singer Sewing Machines \[illustrated print,\] 1868.](#)

Crego, Russel, & Son, Advertiser

English.

Text: "Russel Crego & Son, General Agents for "The Singer" Sewing Machines, 564 Broadway, opposite Delavan House, Albany, N.Y." With illustration of woman at sewing machine. Box 3, folder 1 (?), Singer.

Fees for commercial use. Copyright restrictions probably expired, but trademark restrictions may apply. Order from neg. no. 98-159.

Local Numbers

AC0060-0001065.tif (AC scan no.)

98-159 (OIPP No.)

Item in "Sewing Machines," box 3, Singer folder 1.

Names: Singer Sewing Machine Co.
Topic: Sewing machines -- 1860-1870
Genre/ Advertisements -- 19th century
Form:

Japan [trade card]

1 Item (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\): Japan \[trade card\].](#)

[Image\(s\): Japan \[trade card\].](#)

Singer Manufacturing Company, Advertiser

J. Ottomann Lith. Co., Printer

English.

Image of Japanese woman using Singer Sewing Machine to sew a brown Western men's jacket. Woman wears purple kimono with yellow and red undershirt. Back contains brief text on the history of Japan. Card probably used at the Chicago World Exposition of 1893.

Local Numbers

AC0060-0000160-1.tif (AC Scan No.)

AC0060-0000160-2.tif (AC Scan No.)

Sewing Machines, Box 3, Folder 1.

Names: World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)
Topic: Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center
Kimonos
Sewing machines
World expositions
advertising
Place: Japan -- History

Genre/ Trade cards -- 19th century
Form:
Culture: Japanese

China. [trade card]
1 Item (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\): China. \[trade card\].](#)

[Image\(s\): China. \[trade card\].](#)

Singer Manufacturing Company, Advertiser

J. Ottomann Lith. Co., Printer

English.

Chinese woman in tan dress with dark red lining sitting at sewing machine.
Back of card contains brief history of China. Card probably used at the
Chicago World Exposition Fair of 1893.

Local Numbers

AC0060-0000162-1.tif (AC Scan No.)

AC0060-0000162-2.tif (AC Scan No.)

Sewing Machines, Box 3, Folder 1.

Topic: Bound Feet
Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center
Sewing machines
World expositions
advertising

Place: China

Genre/ Trade cards
Form:

Oversize 56, Folder 9	Singer Sewing Manufacturing Company
Box 4, Folder 1	St. John Sewing Machine Company, Springfield, Ohio Image(s)
Oversize 56, Folder 9	Standard Sewing Machine Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 2-6	Standard Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 7	Star, Shuttle Sewing Machine Company, Wilson W. G. and Company Proprietors, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 7	Tracy Sewing Machine, J.O. Woods - General Manager, Chicago, Illinois
Box 4, Folder 7	Trimble & Phillips, General Agents, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Oversize 56, Folder 9 Tripp, Frank, Manufacturer and proprietor, Boston, Massachusetts

Box 4, Folder 8 Union Buttonhole Sewing Machine, Boston, Massachusetts

Box 4, Folder 8 Union Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois

Box 4, Folder 9-10 Victor Sewing Machine Company, Chicago, Illinois

Oversize 56, Folder 9 Wardwell Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, Missouri

Box 4, Folder 11-12 Weed Sewing Machine Company

Oversize 56, Folder 9 Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Box 4, Folder 13-18 Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut

[Image\(s\)](#)

Directions for Using Wheeler & Wilson's Family Sewing Machines [instruction manual], undated

1 Item

[Image\(s\): Directions for Using Wheeler & Wilson's Family Sewing Machines \[instruction manual, undated\].](#)

Wheeler & Wilson M'fg [sic] Co., Author

English.

In Sewing machines, box 4, folder 18.

Copy prints available. Probably public domain, no copyright or trademark restrictions. Order from neg. no. 98-157.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0060-0001066.tif (AC scan no.)

98-157 (Photo Lab. No.)

Cover of manual, reproduced in neg. 98-157, shows woman with sewing machine plus title typography. Company principal office addresses given as "No. 44, 14th Street, New York, and Bridgeport, Conn."

Topic: Sewing machines -- 19th century

Genre/ Instructional materials -- 19th century

Form: Operating manuals -- 19th century

Directions for Using the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine : instruction manual, undated

1 Item

Wheeler & Wilson Mfg Co., Author

Ayres, J. G., Author

English.

With imprint of J. G. Ayres, 56 South Salina Street, Syracuse, N.Y. (agent or dealer?). Neg. no. 98-155 shows cover with Wheeler & Wilson address, 625 Broadway, New York City.

Copy prints available. Probably public domain, no copyright or trademark restrictions. Order from neg. no. 98-155.

Ink on paper.

Topic: Sewing machines -- 19th century
Genre/ Instructional materials -- 19th century
Form: Operating manuals -- 19th century

Oversize 56, Folder 9	White Sewing Machine Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Oversize 183, Folder 5	White Sewing Machine Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Box 4, Folder 19-24	White Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 25-27	Wilcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company, Jersey City, New Jersey Image(s)
Oversize 183, Folder 5	Wilcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 4, Folder 28	Williams Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Montreal, Quebec, Canada and Plattsburgh, New York
Box 4, Folder 28	Williams & Orvis Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts
Box 4, Folder 29	Wilson Sewing Machine Company, Chicago, Illinois
Box 4, Folder 30	Wilson Sewing Machine Company, Patent for Sewing Machine Ornamentation, Chicago, Illinois
Oversize 56, Folder 9	Wilson Sewing Machine Company, Cleveland, Ohio
Oversize 183, Folder 6	Wilson Sewing Machine Company, Cleveland, Ohio

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Series 2: General Materials

Box 5	General Advertisements and Price Lists
Box 5	Business Cards
Box 5	Miscellaneous Correspondence and Receipts
Box 5	Patents
Box 5	Information Relating to Button Holes
Box 5	Sewing Machines Parts and Attachments
Box 5	Foreign Materials
Box 6, Folder 1-18	Import/Export Documents
Oversize 183, Folder 6	Images

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Series 3: Related Publications

Oversize 183, Folder 5 Miscellaneous Correspondence and Receipts

Oversize 183, Folder 6 United States Sewing Machine Times, Published by the Bell Publishing Company, New York, New York, October 11, 1884

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Box SUPP 27, Folder 9 Marketing Material, circa 1880-1951
Trade cards, circulars, and fliers for sewing machines and cabinets, plus accessories such as needles.

Map-folder 11 Sewing Machines

Sewing machine [patent model], 1851

1 Item (object)

Singer, Isaac M., Inventor

English.

Patentee resided in New York, N.Y.

Patent granted August 12, 1851.

The National Museum of American History has the original patent model for this invention in its collection. Consult the United States Patent and Trademark Office web site for patent specifications, <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>.

Local Numbers

Patent No. 8294

16959B (SI Neg. No.)

Topic: Exchanges of patents and technical information
Inventors -- New York (N.Y.)
Models (Patents)
Patents
Sewing machines

Place: New York (N.Y.) -- Inventors