



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Telephone

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Telephone
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Telephone
Date:	1819-1974
Extent:	3.55 Cubic feet (consisting of 7 boxes, 1 folder, 3 oversized folders, 1 map case folder, 1 flat box (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: 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: Warshaw Collection of Business Americana
Digital Content:	Image(s): Warshaw Collection of Business Americana: Telephone

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Telephone 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 lists of folder contents. Non-archival 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 Kendra Jae, 2017 February.

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Telephone, 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 subject category Telephone largely represents business records and advertisements created by telephone companies. Additional materials include telephone design patents, documentation about legal cases involving telephone companies, material concerning the technical functions of telephones, phone call etiquette, and the history and development of the telephone.

No expansive business documentation exists for any single telephone company within the records. Material concerning specific subject areas within the topic of telephones provide a diverse historical overview of the telephone's global implementation, as well as snapshots of every day attitudes towards the telephone. Patents and other legal documents are strongly represented in the collection, in addition to business records.

Arrangement

Telephone 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:

Communications
Telecommunication
Telephone answering and recording equipment industry
Telephone communications
telephone
telephone -- Equipment and supplies
telephone -- History

Types of Materials:

Advertisements
Advertising
Advertising cards
Advertising fliers
Advertising mail
Almanacs
Bills of sale
Business cards
Business ephemera
Business letters
Business records
Commercial correspondence
Correspondence
Ephemera
Illustrations
Invoices
Legal documents
Letterheads
Manuals
Patents
Periodicals
Print advertising
Printed ephemera
Publications
Publications -- Business
Realia
Receipts
Sales letters
Sales records
Signs (declaratory or advertising artifacts)
Technical documents
Technical literature

Container Listing

Business Records and Marketing Material, 1878-1974, undated

Contains business records, detailed call/toll slips, advertisements, correspondence, and company annual reports. Any material where the company name is indecipherable or unwritten has been filed under Miscellaneous.

Businesses heavily represented include Hudson River Telephone Company, International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, and the New York Telephone Company.

Box 1, Folder 1	A, 1879-1933, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	B, 1878-1929, undated
Box 1, Folder 3-4	C, 1879-1909, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	D-E, 1878-1923, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	F-G, 1902-1972, undated
Box 2, Folder 2-4	H, 1879-1914, undated
Box 3, Folder 1-2	H, 1879-1914, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	I, 1908-1974, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	K-L, 1897-1912, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	M, 1888-1904, undated
Box 3, Folder 6-7	N, 1878-1921, undated
Box 4, Folder 1-2	N, 1878-1921
Box 4, Folder 3	O-P, 1888-1918, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	R-S, 1883-1909, undated
Box 4, Folder 5	T, 1878-1911, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	U-V, 1881-1905, undated
Box 4, Folder 7	W, 1894-1955, undated

Box 4, Folder Western
Electric

From the Far Corners of the Earth [catalogue]
1 Item (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\): From the Far Corners of the Earth \[catalogue\].](#)

Western Electric Company., Advertiser

English.

Black, red, white, grey coloring. Various peoples of the world gathered in triangular shape, all behind Chinese man holding pole over shoulders. In background is giant telephone, globe.

Local Numbers

AC0060-0000186 (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center
advertising
telephone

Genre/ Catalogues

Form:

Culture: Arabic
Chinese
Hispanic Americans
Hispanic Americans
Indians
Japanese
Peruvians

Box 4, Folder 8

Y, 1955

Box SUPP 31, Folder
9

Business Records and Marketing Material, 1894-1959

Call slips with toll charges, phone rental receipt, and a bond circular. Marketing materials include installation service, rotary phones, and answering machines, plus one image of a circa 1913 wall mounted electric call box.

Box 4, Folder 9

Call/Toll Slips, 1879-1908

Box 4, Folder 10

Miscellaneous, 1895-1912, undated

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Genre, 1877-1959, undated

Contains serial publications, almanacs, company telephone directories, legal ordinances, records of lawsuits between individuals and phone companies, and patents.

Box 5, Folder 11

Almanacs, 1932-1959

Box 5, Folder 1-3

Directories, 1884-1941, undated

Map-case 2, Drawer 5,
Folder 9 Bell Telephone Company, 1878
List of subscribers. Text on lists indicates that the list is a facsimile of the first phone directory in New York City. Includes a single sheet of 271 listings from summer and early fall of 1878, before phone numbers were used and calls were made by giving a subscriber's name to an operator.

Box 5, Folder 4 Images, undated

Box 5, Folder 1-4 Legal, 1884-1909, undated

Box 5, Folder 5 Patents, 1877-1886

Realia

Oversize 226 Sign, Public Station Local and Long Distance Telephone, undated
Glass sign in wooden frame. In enclosure with tag INV 80 80572 Z53.

Box 7, Folder 1 Serial Publications, 1879-1938

Bell Telephone Quarterly, 1938

2 copies. Judson S. Bradley article reprint titled *The Bell System Meets Its Greatest Test*. 1938 October.

"Edison Decorated by the President", 1928 October
Publication title unknown.

"Edison is Decorated by Nation and Hailed by the President", 1928 October
Publication title unknown.

"How Could We Get Along Without It?", 1926 August
Publication title unknown.

Naturalists' Leisure Hour and Monthly Bulletin, 1879-1884

2 issues. 1879 July, 1884 September.

New York Herald, 1877 March 31

Article titled "Telephone Rehearsal at Stein Way Hall."

Sterling Weekly, 1897 April 03

Volume 2, Number 10.

Telephone Magazine, 1895-1905

2 issues. 1895 July, 1905 May.

Box Oversize 61, Folder
10 *Telephone Review*, 1911-1913

9 issues. 1911 January, 1912 June (5 issues), 1913 July, 1913 September (2 issues).

Box 7, Folder 2 Technical Documentation, 1860-1936
Construction of telephone booths, and educational literature about how telephones function.

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Subject, 1860-1947, undated

Box 7, Folder 3 Etiquette, 1910, undated
Material on proper telephone conversation etiquette.

Map-case 2, Drawer 5, Western Telephone Construction Company, 1898 July 20
Folder 9 Poster providing instruction for long-distance telephone calls.

Box 7, Folder 4 History of Telephone, 1913-1945, undated
Literature focusing on the creation of the telephone, telephone accounting, and the spread of telephone communication through the United States and around the world.

Box 7, Folder 5 History of Telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, 1880-1947, undated
Material discusses the history of the telephone with a focus on Alexander Graham Bell. Contains educational literature, and images of Bell.

Oversize 61, Folder Oversize Miscellaneous, 1819-1933, undated
8-9 Contains newspaper clippings, advertisements, phone box construction directions, and blank phone logs.

Box 7, Folder 6 Telephone and Society, 1886-1912, undated
Documentation on telephone use statistics and fictional narratives centering telephones.

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