



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Thread

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Thread
Date:	undated circa 1834-1923
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Thread
Creator:	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
Extent:	2.23 Cubic feet (consisting of 4.5 boxes, 6 folders, 2 oversize folders, 2 map case folders, 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: Thread</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: Thread

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Thread 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](#) .

Missing Title:

- [Series 1: Business Ephemera](#)
- [Series 2: Other Collection Divisions](#)
- [Series 3: Isadore Warshaw Personal Papers](#)
- [Series 4: Photographic Reference Material](#)

Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Thread, 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 collection consists primarily of materials produced for and by manufacturers of cotton, silk, and wool threads and yarns. The bulk of the material consists of advertising or "trade" cards; advertisements, bills, receipts, and publications are also present. A number of samples of threads and yarns are included. Most of the material is undated.

Of particular interest may be the great variety of colorful illustrations found on the advertising trade cards. Babies, children, and adults are featured as well as numerous comic characters, celebrities, and royalty. Flowers, birds, animals, and scenic views are also used. A small group of articles ca. 1870 details the then current techniques of thread manufacturing as well as a history of the industry. Series 1, Manufacturers of Thread and Yarns, circa 1834-1923; undated, is arranged alphabetically by name of manufacturer. The greatest part consists of trade cards produced for Clark and Company and J. & P. Coats. The cards are arranged by the subjects depicted and are so listed. Trade cards from several other companies are also found in smaller quantities. A small amount of business materials is present for some of the companies.

Series 2, Related Materials, circa 1837-1898; undated, is arranged as follows: Thread Retailers, Thread Samples, and Articles about Thread. These are followed by: Images, Miscellaneous materials, and Import /Export documents.

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

Business Records, Marketing Material, and Other, circa 1834-1923; undated

Subseries 1: Manufacturers of Thread, circa 1834-1923; undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Adams, A. and Company Notes: Philadelphia, PA
Box 1, Folder 1	American Linen Thread Company Notes: Mechanicville, New York
Box 1, Folder 1	Amory's Enamelled Thread Notes: Location unknown
Box 1, Folder 1	Ashworth's [thread] Notes: No location
Box 1, Folder 2	American Thread Company, Incorporated Notes: New York, New York The Story of Cotton Thread, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Banner Thomas Notes: Philadelphia, PA
Box 1, Folder 3	Barstow Thread Company Notes: New York, NY
Box 1, Folder 4	Barbour Brothers Notes: New York, NY
Box 1, Folder 4	Barbour, William and Sons Notes: Patterson, NJ and Lisburn, Ireland
Map-folder 3	Barbour's Thread Notes: Poster for company centennial
Box 1, Folder 5	Barbour's Linen Threads and Twines, 1923
Box 1, Folder 6	Belding Brothers and Company Notes: New York, NY Trade cards and advertisements
Box 1, Folder 7	Belding Brothers and Company Notes: New York, NY Instructional Booklets

Picture booklets for children

Box 1, Folder 8	Belding Brothers and Company Notes: New York, NY Business materials
Box 1, Folder 9	Brainerd and Armstrong Company Notes: New London, CN Trade Cards
Box 1, Folder 10	Brooks, Adam Notes: Sewing Silks (1834) South Scituate, MA
Box 1, Folder 10	Brown, L.D. and son Notes: Middletown, CN
Box 1, Folder 11	Brooks, Jonas and Brothers Notes: New York, NY Trade Cards
Box 1, Folder 12	Carlisle Company Notes: Rockville, CN
Box 1, Folder 12	Carlisle Company Notes: Rockville, CN
Box 1, Folder 12	Carlson Courier Company Notes: San Francisco, CA
Box 1, Folder 12	Chadwick, James and Brother Notes: New York, NY
Box 1, Folder 12	Clark, Jeremiah Notes: Lowell, MA
Box 1, Folder 12	Chase, Oliver Notes: Fall River, MA
Box 1, Folder 13	Clark, George A. Notes: New York, NY Sole Agent for Clark and Company Paisley, Scotland
Box 1, Folder 14	Clark and Company, Children's books

Box 1, Folder 15	Clark and Company, Sewing and crochet instruction books
Box 1, Folder 16	Clark and Company, Calendars, 1880s and 1890s
Box 1, Folder 17	Clark and Company, Calendar cards, 1879-1880
Box 1, Folder 18	Clark and Company, Calendar cards, 1881-1883
Box 1, Folder 19	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Infants and Children
Box 1, Folder 20	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Children
Box 1, Folder 21	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Children
Box 2, Folder 1	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Women and Seasons
Box 2, Folder 2	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring People and Occupations
Box 2, Folder 3	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Famous People
Box 2, Folder 4	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring People and Miscellaneous
Box 2, Folder 5	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Flowers, Birds, and Animals
Box 2, Folder 6	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring the "National Flower Series"
Box 2, Folder 7	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring views of New York and Washington, DC
Box 2, Folder 8-9	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Scenic Views in the U.S.
Box 2, Folder 10	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring the Columbian Exposition, 1893
Box 2, Folder 11	Clark and Company, Trade cards featuring Ships
Box 2, Folder 12	Scrapbook of Clark's "O.N.T." and "Mile End" Spool Cotton trade cards, 1880-1890
Map-folder 3; Map-folder 4	Clark and Company Notes: Advertising Posters
Box 2, Folder 13	Coats Thread Company Notes: New York, NY et. Al. Agents for J. & P. Coats Paisley, Scotland
Box 2, Folder 14	J. & P. Coats Notes: Instructional booklets, crochet and sewing

Box 2, Folder 15	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring Children
Box 2, Folder 16	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring Children
Box 2, Folder 17	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring Children
Box 2, Folder 18	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring Children
Box 2, Folder 19	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring Animals and Birds
Box 2, Folder 20	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring Animals and Birds
Box 3, Folder 1	J. & P. Coats Notes: Trade cards featuring People and Scenes
Box 3	<p>Katisha [advertisement for thread] [trade card] 1 Item (Ink on paper.) Image(s) Image(s) Image(s) Advertiser: J. & P. Coats Printer: Donaldson Brothers Language: English. Notes: AC0060-0000119-1.tif & AC0060-0000119-2.tif Color image of woman in kimono, with a poem, possibly intended as an advertising jingle, at bottom. Text advertsing J & P Coats' Best Six Cord Thread and picture of a spindle of thread on verso.</p> <p>Topic: Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center Sewing Thread</p> <p>Genre/Form: Trade cards</p>
Box 3	<p>Pish-Tush [trade card] 1 Item (Ink on paper.) Image(s) Image(s): Katisha [advertisement for thread] [trade card]. Image(s) Advertiser: J. & P. Coats Printer: Donaldson Brothers Language: English. Notes: AC0060-0000121.tif & AC0060-0000119-2.tif Illustration: A man in a yellow kimono with red underclothes and a blue sash. He points right with a yellow fan. Part of the Mikado</p>

card collection by J & P Coats (printed by Donaldson & Bros).
There is a short poem on the bottom of the card.

Topic: Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center
Thread
Kimonos
Mikado
Genre/Form: Trade cards
Culture: Japanese

Box 3

Yum-yum [trade card]
1 Item (Ink on paper.)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\): Katisha \[advertisement for thread\] \[trade card\].](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Advertiser: J. & P. Coats

Printer: Donaldson Brothers

Language: English.

Notes: AC0060-0000122.tif & AC0060-0000119-2.tif

Illustration: Woman in white kimono with light blue and yellow designs sitting on a large spool of thread. She is holding a spool in her left hand and has blue and red fans in her hair. There is a pagoda over her right shoulder. Four-line poem in top left corner of trade card. The moon, slightly above her head, contains the words "J&P Coats' Best Six Cord."

Topic: Ethnic Imagery Project, Archives Center
Sewing
Thread

Genre/Form: Trade cards

Culture: Japanese

Box 3, Folder 2

J. & P. Coats

Notes: Calendar cards
1879-1880, 1886-1891

Box 3, Folder 3

[J. & P. Coats](#)

Notes: Calendar, 1888
Needle Chard cards

Box 3, Folder 4

Scrapbook: "J. & P. Coats Thread Advertising Cards 1880-1890"

Oversize 63, Folder
14

J. & P. Coats

Notes: Advertising poster

Box 3, Folder 5

Corticelli Silk Mills

Notes: [formerly Nonotuck Silk Company]
Florence, MA
Business materials

Box 3, Folder 6	Corticelli Silk Mills Notes: Florence MA Advertisements
Box 3, Folder 7	Corticelli Silk Mills Notes: Trade cards featuring various subjects
Box 3, Folder 8	Corticelli Silk Mills Notes: Silk: Its Origin, Culture, and Manufacture 1911
Box 3, Folder 9	Corticelli Silk Mills Notes: Instructional materials Books for children
Box 3, Folder 10	Columbia Yarns Notes: No location Trade cards
Box 3, Folder 10	Cutter, John D. and Company Notes: New York, NY Trade cards featuring silkworms
Box 3, Folder 11	Eureka Silk Company Notes: Boston, MA Trade cards featuring various subjects
Box 3, Folder 12	Finlayson, Bousfield and Company Notes: Manufacturers of spool linen Scotland, no location [J. R. Leeson and Company Boston, MA, sole importers]
Box 3, Folder 12	Fleisher's Worsted Yarns Notes: No location
Box 3, Folder 13	Globe Silk Works Notes: New Haven, CT
Box 3, Folder 13	Greene and Daniels Notes: Pawtucket, RI
Box 3, Folder 14	Hadley Company Notes: New York, NY
Box 3, Folder 15	Hayden Manufacturing Company

	Notes:	Haydenville, MA
Box 3, Folder 15	HB Wool Thread Notes:	No Location
Box 3, Folder 16	Heminway, M. and Sons Silk Company Notes:	New York, NY et. al.
Box 3, Folder 17	Kerr and Company Notes:	Fall River, MA Advertising materials Trade cards featuring "Jumbo"
Box 3, Folder 18	Kerr and Company Notes:	Trade cards featuring people and animals
Box 3, Folder 19	Lee Spinning Company Notes:	England, no location
Box 3, Folder 19	Lion Brand Notes:	German Worsted Knitting Yarn No Location
Box 3, Folder 19	Knox, W. and J. Notes:	Linen Thread Works Kilbirnie, Scotland
Box 3, Folder 20	McCallum and Robinson, Inc. Notes:	Memphis, TN
Box 3, Folder 20	Mechanical Net Manufacturing Notes:	And Weaving Stock Company Itzehoe, Germany
Box 3, Folder 20	Messinger and Brother Notes:	Boston, MA
Box 3, Folder 21	Merrick Thread Company Notes:	Boston, MA Business and advertising materials
Box 4, Folder 1	Nonantum Worsted Company Notes:	Newton, MA
Box 4, Folder 1	Orrs and MacNaught Notes:	Glasgow, Scotland

Box 4, Folder 1	Nonotuck Silk Company Notes: See "Corticelli Silk Mills"
Box 4, Folder 2	Parry and Rocke Notes: Swansea, Wales
Box 4, Folder 2	Potter's Spool Silk Notes: No Location
Box 4, Folder 3	Salter and Smith Notes: No Location
Box 4, Folder 3	Samoset Mills Notes: Plymouth, MA
Box 4, Folder 3	Seavey, Foster, and Bowman Notes: Boston, MA
Box 4, Folder 4	Semple, Samuel and Sons Notes: Mount Holly, NJ Business materials and trade cards
Box 4, Folder 5	Smith and Dove Manufacturing Company Notes: Andover, MA
Box 4, Folder 5	Stafford Brothers Enamelled Thread Notes: No Location
Box 4, Folder 5	Summit Thread Mills Notes: East Hampton, CN
Box 4, Folder 6	Travers Brothers Company Notes: Twines, sash cords, hammocks New York, NY
Box 4, Folder 6	Vrau, Ph. and Company Notes: "Fil au Chinois"
Box 4, Folder 6	Warren Thread Company Notes: Worcester, MA
Box 4, Folder 7	Willimantic Linen Company Notes: Hartford, CN
Box 4, Folder 8	Willimantic Thread Company Notes: Willimantic, CN Business materials

Box 4, Folder 8	Willimantic Thread Company Notes: A Fairy School Story book about thread and sewing
Box 4, Folder 9	Willimantic Thread Company Notes: Trade cards featuring infants and children
Box 4, Folder 10	Willimantic Thread Company Notes: Trade cards featuring children and adults
Box 4, Folder 11	Willimantic Thread Company Notes: Trade cards featuring animals and scenes
Box 4, Folder 12	Yale Silk Works Notes: New haven, CN

Subseries 2: Related Materials, circa 1837-1898; undated

Thread Retailers

Box 4, Folder 13	Allen, Isaac D. Notes: Boston, MA
Box 4, Folder 13	Bartlett, H. H. and Company Notes: Holyoke, MA
Box 4, Folder 13	Blackburn, George and Company Notes: Boston, MA
Box 4, Folder 13	Fleisher, S. B. and M. Notes: Philadelphia, PA
Box 4, Folder 14	Fuller [?], A. P. and Company Notes: No Location
Box 4, Folder 14	Gibbs, Josiah W. Notes: Philadelphia, PA
Box 4, Folder 14	Holmes, D. W. and Company Notes: Boston, MA
Box 4, Folder 15	Johnson and Wyman Notes: No Location
Box 4, Folder 15	Milliken, Alonzo Notes: Boston, MA

Box 4, Folder 15	Moore, Carlton R. Notes: Philadelphia, PA
Box 4, Folder 16	Rice, A. H. Notes: Pittsfield, MA
Box 4, Folder 16	Ross and Pearce Notes: Boston, MA
Box 4, Folder 17	Shaffner and Ziegler Notes: Philadelphia, PA
Box 4, Folder 17	Shorry and Company Notes: Boston, MA
Box 4, Folder 17	Whitney, John A. Notes: No Location, 1837
Box 4, Folder 17	Miscellaneous receipts, identity uncertain Notes: Ca.1850
Thread samples	
Box 4, Folder 18	American Thread Company, Inc. Notes: "Star Twist" and "Silkine" threads
Box 4, Folder 19	Brainerd and Armstrong Notes: "Asiatic" Filo Selle
Box 4, Folder 19	Clark's "O.N.T." Notes: Spool cotton and 6 strand cotton
Box 4, Folder 19	J. & P. Coats Notes: 6 strand floss
Box 4, Folder 20	Goff, D. and Sons Notes: Pawtucket, RI Samples of skirt braid
Box 4, Folder 21	Heminway, M. and Sons Notes: Silk Embroidery Floss
Box 4, Folder 22	Nawrath, J. P. and Company, Inc. Notes: New York, NY Carpet warps
Box 4, Folder 22	Nonantum Worsted Mills Notes: "Fleur de Lis" Floss

"Lady Gay" yarns

Box 4, Folder 23 Pearsall, Jas. and Co.
Notes: No Location
 "Filo-floss"

Box 4, Folder 24 Thayer, L.D. and Company
Notes: No Location
 Cotton yarns

Box 4, Folder 24 Tilt, B.B.
Notes: New York, NY
 Standard colors

Articles about Thread

Box 4, Folder 25 "Spool Cotton Thread"
Notes: [history of thread-making]
 Ca. 1870 [?]

Box 4, Folder 26 "Sewing Silk and Machine Twist"
Notes: 1872

Box 4, Folder 26 "Thread Machinery", undated

Box 4, Folder 27 Images related to Thread

Box 4, Folder 28 Miscellaneous Thread materials

Import /Export Documents

Box 5, Folder 1 Import /Export Documents, 1830s

Box 5, Folder 2 Import /Export Documents, 1840s, 1855

Box 5, Folder 3 Import /Export Documents, 1860s

Box 5, Folder 4 Import /Export Documents, 1870-1874

Box 5, Folder 5 Import /Export Documents, 1875-1879

Box 5, Folder 6 Import /Export Documents, 1880s

Box 5, Folder 7 Import /Export Documents, 1890s

Box SUPP 32, Folder 4	Advertisements and Sample Books, undated Notes: Contains several trade cards and two sample books.
Box ADD73, Folder 3-4	Sample books, undated Notes: Eight hand compiled (not commercial) thread sample books plus one small glassine envelope with additional samples. Handwritten entries with samples affixed. May have enclosures of advertisements, instructions, etc.
Box ADD74, Folder 1-3	Sample books, undated Notes: Continuance of the above.

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