



Smithsonian

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

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

NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Waterworks

Nicole Blechynden

Funding for partial processing of the collection was supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF).

2016 September

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	2
Arrangement .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Business Records, circa 1832-1930 (bulk 1840-1915) .....	5
Genre, 1832-1959 .....	6
Subject, circa 1832-1963 (bulk 1840-1930) .....	8

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Waterworks
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1832-1959
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0060.S01.01.Waterworks
<b>Creator:</b>	Warshaw, Isadore, 1900-1969
<b>Extent:</b>	1.83 Cubic feet (consisting of 3.5 boxes, 1 folder, 2 oversize folders, 1 map case folder, 1 flat box (partial).)
<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: Waterworks</a>

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Waterworks 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](#) .

Missing Title:

- [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 Nicole Blechynden, September 2016.

## Preferred Citation

Warshaw Collection of Business Americana Subject Categories: Waterworks, 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

Contains a broad scope of freshwater capture and use topics, with particular emphasis on the machinery and systems required for managing water resources and business aspects of the costs of goods and services. Includes coverage of home and farm use, agricultural solutions, and large scale operations such as public utilities such as dams, watersheds, reservoirs. Some of the technologies used are drilling, wells, hydraulics, engines and pumps, in addition to natural power sources in the form of windmills and turbines, and water wheels. both as methods of conveyance of water and in powering other devices such as grinders and saws. Purification and softeners address make up the bulk of treatment. Some materials address legal and regulatory issues but water rights is not significantly covered.

Materials include business records, marketing and advertising, some informational documentation in the form of guides and reports. A few schematics are present. A small amount of regulatory publications provide a glimpse of how municipalities dealt with local water issues, including billing and taxation. Miscellaneous writings includes a few tangential topics such as inland waterways and swimming pools, and a perspective essay on water.

---

## Arrangement

Waterworks is arranged in three subseries.

- Business Records
- Genre
- Subjects

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Beverages
- Consumer goods -- Catalogs
- Dams
- Drinking water
- Filters and filtration
- Hydraulic engineering
- Hydraulic structures
- Hydraulic testing
- Hydraulic turbines
- Irrigation
- Patents
- Public utilities
- Public works
- Pumps
- Reservoirs
- Retail trade
- Turbines
- Water -- Filtration
- Water -- Purification
- Water -- Purification -- Filtration
- Water conservation
- Water pumps
- Water resources development
- Water supplies
- Water transfer
- Water use
- Water-power
- Water-supply
- Water-wheels
- Waterways
- Waterworks
- Windmills

### Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Advertising
- Advertising cards
- Advertising fliers
- Advertising mail
- Business cards
- Business ephemera
- Business letters
- Business records
- Catalogs
- Catalogues

Commercial catalogs  
Commercial correspondence  
Correspondence  
Ephemera  
Illustrations  
Invoices  
Legal documents  
Legislation (legal concepts)  
Letterheads  
Mail order catalogs  
Manuals  
Manufacturers' catalogs  
Periodicals  
Photographs  
Print advertising  
Printed ephemera  
Printed material  
Printed materials  
Publications  
Publications -- Business  
Receipts  
Reports  
Sales catalogs  
Sales letters  
Sales records  
Technical manuals -- 20th century  
Technical reports  
Test reports  
Trade cards  
Trade catalogs  
Trade literature

## Container Listing

### Business Records, circa 1832-1930 (bulk 1840-1915)

Arrangement: Alphabetical by company name or municipality. Example: City of Auburn would be in folder "A".

Scope and Contents: Primarily business transactional records such as receipts for goods and services with a small amount of correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 1	A, circa 1832-1930 Notes: Includes: Albany Water Works; Auburn Water Works.
Box 1, Folder 2	B, circa 1853-1893 Notes: Includes: Buffalo Water Works; Bellows Falls Water Company.
Map-folder 2	Beatrice, City of, 1891 Notes: Nebraska. \$1000 bond certificate with \$25 notes.
Box 1, Folder 3	C, circa 1845-1917 Notes: Includes: Croton Aqueduct Board; Conger, J.B.; Cincinnati, City of.
Box 1, Folder 4	D-G, circa 1854-1927 Notes: Includes: Dayton Globe Iron Works Company; Denver, City of; Freeman, Peter; Gein, F. Jr.
Box 1, Folder 5	H-L, circa 1846-1908 Notes: Includes: Kingston Aqueduct; Knoxville Water Company; Leffel's.
Box 1, Folder 6	M, circa 1841-1900 Notes: Includes: Marseilles Water Power Company.
Box 1, Folder 7	N, circa 1853-1920 (bulk 1888-1898) Notes: Includes: New York, City of; Nyack Water Works; New Haven Water Company; Nassau Water Department.
Box 1, Folder 8	O-P, circa 1851-1901 Notes: Includes: Portland Water Company
Box 1, Folder 9	Philadelphia, City of, circa 1836-1905 (bulk 1861-1898)
Map-folder 2	Pierce Well Excavator Company, 1893
Box 1, Folder 10	R-T, circa 1853-1917 Notes: Includes: Reading Water Company; Stevens, G.C. and J.F.; Troy Public Works Company; Thomson Meter Company.
Box 1, Folder 11	U-Z, circa 1845-1917 Notes: Includes: Utica Water Works Company.

Box SUPP 34, Folder 7	Miscellaneous, 1848-1939 Notes: Correspondence and receipt. Marketing material include a promotional ribbon, trade cards, clipped magazine ads, and mailers. A small envelope contains seltzer water labels. Goods and services include drinking water, bath houses, mineral and spring water, artesian wells, drinking fountains, water treatment, and water wheels.
Oversize 203, Folder 7	Oversized Records, circa 1855-1897 Notes: Invoices, stock certificates for Watertown Water (unissued, undated), bond certificate for Springfield City Water Works, Ill. (1867 May 15).

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Genre, 1832-1959

### Advertising and Marketing

Notes: Contains catalogues, ads, price lists, circulars, mailers, and product specifications. May also include some general related topical publications such as use guides and supporting technical information.

### Consumption and Use

Box 1, Folder 12	Drinking Fountains and Beverage Dispensers, circa 1914-1940 Notes: Catalogues, ads, and promotional material. Emphasizing the sanitary and public health aspects of drinking fountains and bubblers. Includes coolers, heaters, and carbonation devices.
Box 1, Folder 13	Home and Farm Solutions, circa 1832-1941 Notes: Booklets and circulars.
Box 1, Folder 14	Mineral Water, circa 1880-1906 Notes: Ads and promotional material.
Box 1, Folder 15	Equipment, Products, and Supplies - General, circa 1890-circa 1910 Notes: Price lists, circulars, catalogs, advertisements.
Box 2, Folder 1	Equipment, Products, and Supplies - General, circa 1890-1910
	Extraction, Storage, and Delivery: Systems and Equipment Notes: Mechanisms for extracting, draining, or moving groundwater, water supplies, or reserves.
Box 2, Folder 2	Drilling and Wells, circa 1841-1902 Notes: Covering Artesian wells, water indicators and finders, boring and excavation. Containing informational booklets, catalogues, and advertisements.



Box 2, Folder 3	Hydraulics, Pumps, and Engines, circa 1866-1884 Notes: Informational pieces plus advertisements. Includes hydraulic rams and water elevators.
Oversize 222	Beating Swords Into Plowshares, 1926 Notes: Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. Post WWI exploration of converting naval facilities and technology to benefit industry, and the consumer market market, in peacetime.
Box 2, Folder 4	Meters, circa 1870-1898 Notes: Informational booklets on techniques and importance of metering, preventing waste, use of water alarms, design specifications, and statistical data. Studies on engineering aspects and scientific methods.
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Public Works - Dams, Reservoirs, and Storage, circa 1843-1926 Notes: Also covers aqueducts. Documentation on municipal infrastructure components. Select titles: <i>The Water Tower of the Falls of Niagara</i> (1890). <i>Kewanee System of Water Supply</i> covering pneumatic systems for small and large scale solutions (undated). <i>Illustrated and Descriptive Account of the Main Dams and Dikes of teh Ashokan Reservoir, Brown Station, NY</i> (undated). <i>The Romance of Water and Power</i> (1926). <i>The Water Works of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Obispado Distributing Reservoir</i> (undated). <i>Hetch Hetchy Water Supply</i> (1925). Loose illustrations, B&W and color, depicting public works projects.
Box 2, Folder 7	Windmills, Wind Turbines, Wind Engines, circa 1857-1895 Notes: Catalogues, advertisements, circulars, and loose illustrations, B&W and color, depicting wind-based solutions. Board-mounted printed cloth of small farm scene. B&W photograph of windmill advertising W.C. Wilson Florist.
Box 3, Folder 1-5	Water Wheels, circa 1865-1915 Notes: Covering wheels and turbines. Catalogues, advertisements, circulars, and loose illustrations, B&W and color. Booklets with device specifications and tables indicating power, speed, volume.
Box 3, Folder 6	Industry Publications, 1962-1963 , 1888 Notes: Marketing circulars for <i>Water Supply</i> by Fred H. Whipple (1888) and general Water Information Center publications.
	Treatment
Box 3, Folder 7	Filters and Purifiers, circa 1847-1929

	Notes:	Booklets and circulars detailing the operation and benefits of filtration and purification systems. Three blue prints of the Rider products: pressure filter, gravity filter, aeration wheel.
Box 4, Folder 1	Quality, circa 1852-1959 (bulk 1945-1951) Notes:	Analysis results, 13 issues of <i>Taste and Odor Control Journal</i> (May 1945-August 1951, incomplete), <i>Fluoridation is Treason</i> flyer, color plate <i>The Drop of Water</i> (1857) depicting microorganisms.
Box 4, Folder 2	Softeners, circa 1902-1926	
Oversize 203, Folder 7	Oversize Advertising and Marketing, 1855-1889 Notes:	Advertising posters for water wheels, hydraulic rams, well excavation, still.
Oversize SUPP 39, Folder 4	Blueprint. Ohio River Improvement Movable Dam No. 1, undated	
Box 4, Folder 3	Patents, 1883-1889 Notes:	Trademark for mineral waters, selters waters. Parker's Reaction Water-Wheel.
Box 4, Folder 4	Regulation and Taxation, circa 1854-1914 Notes:	Includes rate and tariff schedules, rules and regulation, ordinances, reports, municipal contract detail, policy statements, meeting proceeding, fire hydrants. Areas covered: New York (Watertown, Croton Aqueduct), Maine, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Interstate Traffic, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon (Portland),
Oversize 203, Folder 7	Schematic, 1897 Notes:	Details of Structures for Geneva, NY Sweragen.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Subject, circa 1832-1963 (bulk 1840-1930)

Box 4, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Writings, circa 1832-1933 Notes:	Various reports, articles, and essays on water-related topics including: <i>An Elementary Treatise on the Tides</i> (1839); <i>Study of Inland Waterway Situation</i> (reprint 1933); <i>Duffy's Wave Motor</i> (1886); <i>Father of Waters: The Mississippi</i> (1963); <i>Pure Water for Swimming Pools</i> (circa 1921); Penny Magazine excerpt <i>The Diving Bell</i> (1832);
-----------------	---	---

*Biography of a Drop of Water, or Drop of Water Personalized*  
(undated).

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

---