



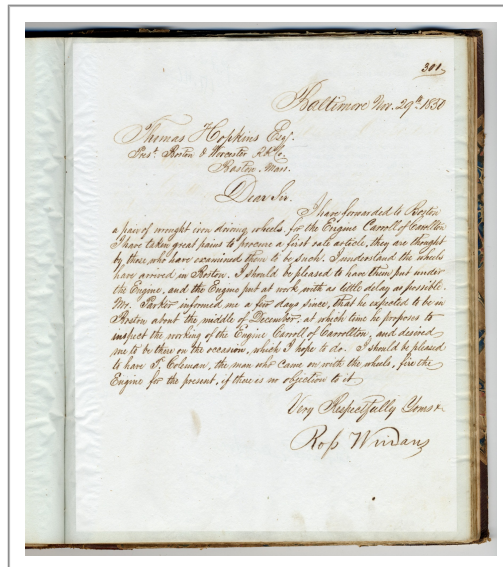
Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Ross Winans Letterbook

NMAH.AC.0155

NMAH Staff



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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Ross Winans Letterbook
Date:	1850-1851.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0155
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation (Collector)
Creator:	Winans, Ross, 1796-1877 (railroad equipment supplier) (Author)
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 volume)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Ross Winans Letterbook

Administrative Information

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Transportation (now Division of Work and Industry), 1979.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated

Preferred Citation

Ross Winans Letterbook, 1850-1851, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Winans was an inventor, mechanic, and builder of locomotives and railroad machinery, including wheels, axels, bearings trucks and carriages. In 1828 he developed a friction wheel with outside bearings which established a "distinctive pattern for railroad wheels for the next one hundred years or so. In the late 1820s also he became associated with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, eventually entering their service as an engineer. He retired from the locomotive business in 1860. When Winans died he left an estate worth over twenty million dollars.

Scope and Contents

Letterbook contains copies of 417 business letters, arranged chronologically, relating to the manufacture and sale of railroad equipment including locomotive engines, tenders, and car wheels. These letters were replicated in a process similar to carbon copies in an almost perfectly uniform handwriting.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Railroad equipment industry
- Railroads

Types of Materials:

- Letter books

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation

Places:

- Maryland

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder D	Ross Winan's Letterbook, 1850-1851
Box 1, Folder D	[Cover of Ross Winans' letterbook], January 7, 1850 to March 28, 1851 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 11.5" x 9.2".) Author: Winans, Ross, 1796-1877 (railroad equipment supplier) Language: English. Notes: AC0155-0000001 (AC scan no.) Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves. Topic: Railroad equipment industry Locomotives Genre/Form: Letter books
Box 1, Folder D	[Ross Winans' signature block: letterbook], Circa 1850 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 2.2" x 3.5".) Author: Winans, Ross, 1796-1877 (railroad equipment supplier) Language: English. Notes: AC0155-0000002 (AC scan no.) Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves. Topic: Signatures Genre/Form: Letter books
Box 1, Folder D	[Ross Winans to Thomas Hopkins: letterbook], November 29, 1850 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 11.5" x 10.2".) Image(s): Ross Winans Letterbook Author: Winans, Ross, 1796-1877 (railroad equipment supplier) Language: English. Notes: AC0155-0000003 (AC scan no.) Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves. Letter about the shipping of a replacement pair of wrought iron driving wheels for the engine 'Carroll of Carrollton.' Topic: Locomotives Genre/Form: Letter books