



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

J. Wiss & Sons Company records

NMAH.AC.0172

Don Darroch

1985

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	J. Wiss & Sons Company Records
Date:	1921-1925; 1948.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0172
Creator:	Kraeuter & Company, Inc. (Publisher) J. Wiss & Sons Company (Creator)
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Records of the J. Wiss and Sons Company, maker of shears and scissors.
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by J. Wiss & Sons Company, Newark, New Jersey, August 15, 1985.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Don Darroch, 1985

Preferred Citation

J. Wiss & Sons Company Records, 1921-1925, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

J. Wiss & Sons Company was founded in 1848 by Jacob Wiss, a thirty-one-year-old immigrant from Switzerland who was an experienced cutler and gunsmith. The company, headed by Wiss and his descendants in Newark, N.J., emphasized high quality in its products, which became known world-wide and sold to the U.S. Government in the Civil War and the two World Wars. In 1914, Wiss acquired the manufacturing facilities of a competitor and became the largest producer of fine scissors and shears in the world. Following World War I, Wiss weathered a severe depression in scissors markets, partly caused by dumping of European products. Increased U.S. help remedied this

situation. Cooper Industries purchased the company in 1976. After the purchase, the factory remained in Newark for a few years, then was moved south, and finally manufacturing was done overseas. According to a message from Don Wiss (April 22, 2010), Cooper bought the product line and the Wiss name to add to the other names they use in their Hand Tool Group (e.g., Weller, Lufkin, Crescent, Nicholson, etc).

Scope and Contents

Catalog and Salesman's Fact Book, 1921-1925, and "A Story of Shears and Scissors". The book includes a 1925 Wiss Catalog of scissors, snips, and shears and a 1925 catalog of Kraeuter and Company Inc., Newark, manufacturers of pliers, wrenches, chisels, automobile and machinists' tools and ticket punches. Also, numerous price lists and advertisements for the tools, apparently clipped from publications.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Cutlery -- 1920-1950
- Cutlery trade
- Mechanical engineering and technology
- Scissors and shears
- Shears

Types of Materials:

- Business records -- 1910-1930
- Catalogs
- Sales catalogs

Names:

- Cooper Industries
- Wiss, Jacob

Places:

- Newark (N.J.)