



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

E.R. Beers Electric Company Collection

NMAH.AC.0232

Robert W. Ageton

1989

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	E. R. Beers Electric Company Collection
Date:	1909-1938
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0232
Source:	Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of
Creator:	Beers, E.R.
Extent:	6.3 Cubic feet (6 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents E.R. Beers's business records, his personal collection of Edison trivia, and correspondence between Beers and General Electric (1909-1922).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by E.R. Beers, December 1985.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, August 7, 1986.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Ageton, 1989.

Preferred Citation

E.R. Beers Electric Co. Collection, 1909-1938, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

The Schuylkill Electric Construction & Supply Co., a small electrical operation in a very important period of time, 1909 to 1938, particularly for electrical appliances reflecting the conversion of gas lighting to

incandescent lighting to decorative and arc lighting. At first there were two stores, one in Reading, Pennsylvania and one in Shenandoah, PA. The partnership was dissolved January 1911, resulting in the closing of the Reading, Pennsylvania store and the continued operation of the Shenandoah, Pennsylvania store. The Kauffman Electric Co., Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania was purchased in 1919 and named the E.R. Beers Electric Company.

Scope and Contents

This collection consisting of records of the Schuylkill Electric Construction & Supply Co. and the E.R. Beers Electric Co. and includes correspondence, advertisements, sales receipts, limited cash statements, and bids for electrical modifications. The bulk of the data is from the period from 1909 through the 1920's and mid 1930's. The collection contains advertisements that reflect the introduction of the electrical appliance to the home. Important transitions in the electrical industry are represented. For example, in July 1910 there is an acceptance by Lehigh Valley Railroad of rewiring of the Shenandoah Station according to "the rules and regulations of the Underwriter's Association" and agreement to furnish certificate of approval. Further, in February 1922 there the statement "Service for direct current motors is gradually being eliminated and will eventually be discontinued"

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Electric apparatus and appliances
- Electrical engineering
- Electrical equipment

Types of Materials:

- Business records -- 20th century
- Papers

Names:

- E.R. Beers Electric Supply Company.
- Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931
- General Electric Company
- Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of Schuylkill Construction and Supply Company.

Places:

- Bloomsburg (Pa.)
- Shenandoah (Pa.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence

Scope and Contents: This series contains specifications and bids for electrical work including telephone installations. Reference is made to the "Underwriters Association" in 1910. Price schedules for incandescent lamps are given for each year. The date the partnership was dissolved (January 1911) is reported in May 1911. Advertisements of household appliances show changes in design and cost. Price list of "Perfection Oils and Greases" (May 1912) and reference to carburetors for Ford Model T and Model 10 Buick using a mixture of kerosene and gasoline (June 1913) are included.

Balance sheets (cash statements) are first reported in 1915 as are references to Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation reporting of accidents. Sales of electrical supplies by the E.R. Beers Electric Co. (Beers) to Schuylkill Electric Construction & Supply Co. (SEC & SC) appear. In March 1922 a comprehensive report to the Bureau of Statistics and Information is included.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1909-01
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1909-02
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1909-03
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1909-04
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1909-05
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1909-06
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1909-07
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1909-08
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1909-09
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1909-10
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1909-11
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1909-12
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1910-01
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1910-02
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1910-03

Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1910-04
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1910-05
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1910-06
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1910-07
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Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1910-09
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1910-10
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1910-11
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Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1911-01
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Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence, 1911-04
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Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence, 1911-06
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Box 1, Folder 39	Correspondence, 1912-03

Box 1, Folder 40	Correspondence, 1912-04
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Box 1, Folder 43	Correspondence, 1912-07
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Box 2, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1914-01
Box 2, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1194-02
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Box 2, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1914-04
Box 2, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1914-05
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Box 4, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1917-10
Box 4, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1917-11
Box 4, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1917-12
Box 4, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1918-01
Box 4, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1918-02
Box 4, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1918-03

Box 4, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1918-04
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Box 4, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1918-06
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Box 4, Folder 38	Correspondence, 1920-02
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Box 5, Folder 30	Correspondence, H, 1920-1921
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Box 5, Folder 32 Correspondence, K-L, 1918-1921

Box 5, Folder 33 Correspondence, M, 1918-1919

Box 5, Folder 34 Correspondence, R-s, 1920-1922

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Series 2: Bills, Receipts, and Invoices

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Box 5, Folder 6-7	Freight bills for Schuylkill Electric Construction and Supply Company, 1914
Box 5, Folder 8	Freight bills for Schuylkill Electric Construction and Supply Company, 1915-1917
Box 5, Folder 9	Receiving slips for Schuylkill Electric Construction and Supply Company, 1916-1918
Box 5, Folder 10	Receiving slips for Schuylkill Electric Construction and Supply Company, 1918-1919
Box 5, Folder 11	receipt, Adam Express Company/American Railway Express Company, 1917-1918
Box 5, Folder 12	Requisition, Atlantic Refining Company, 1917
Box 5, Folder 13	Invoices from E.R. Beers Electric Company, 1919-1920
Box 5, Folder 14	Invoices from Elliott-Lewis Electrical Company, Inc. , 1916-1919
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Box 5, Folder 16	Invoice, H.C. Roberts electric Supply COpany, 1913-1914
Box 5, Folder 17	Invoice, General Electric Company, 1919
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Box 5, Folder 21	Invoices, Brassart Fixture C, 1917
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Box 5, Folder 22	Invoice, The Crescent Brass Manufacturing Co, 1917-1918
Box 5, Folder 22	Invoice, Dunlap Hardware Co, 1917-1918
Box 5, Folder 22	Invoice, Thomas A. Edison, Inc, 1918
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Box 5, Folder 23	Invoice, Fullerton Electric Company, 1917-1918
Box 5, Folder 23	Invoice, Joseph E. Frechie & Co., Inc, 1918
Box 5, Folder 23	Invoice, Gaites Peace & Co. Inc., 1918-1919
Box 5, Folder 23	Invoice, The Horn & Frannen Manufacturing Co., Inc., 1917, 1919
Box 5, Folder 24	Lamp Consignment Memorandum, E.R. Beers Electric Co. to Schuylkill Electric Construction & Supply Co., 1919-1920

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Series 3: Fixture Drawings, Edison materials, and photographs

Scope and Contents: This series contains lighting fixture drawings, some unidentified photographs, newspaper or magazine photographs of Edison, and a typewritten unsigned biography of Edison.

Box 5, Folder 25; Edison related materials, 1931
Box 6

Box 5, Folder 26-27; Fixture drawings, undated
Box 6

Photographs

Notes: Includes Walter P. Johnson (1933) and an unidentified man (undated).

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