



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Pratt, Read Corporation Records

NMAH.AC.0320

Craig A. Orr

1990

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Pratt, Read Corporation Records
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0320
Date:	1839-1990
Extent:	84 Cubic feet (104 boxes, 28 oversize folders)
Creator:	Nickse, Hugo Johnson, Hanford Comstock, Cheney and Co. Pratt, Read and Company Steinway, Henry Ziegler
Language:	English
Summary:	Records documenting Pratt, Read and Company; its early competitor and later partner, Comstock, Cheney and Company; and a number of predecessor, subsidiary and related companies. Other topics include the late 19th century African ivory trade and Pratt, Read's production of troop-carrying gliders during World War II.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Pratt, Read Corporation Records: 1839-1990.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Pratt, Read Corporation in 1989. In addition to the papers donated by the company, several individuals donated Pratt, Read materials in their possession.

Provenance

Most of these records were housed in the Pratt Read Corporation's Ivory Museum, located at corporate headquarters in their factory in Ivoryton, Conn. The museum material was assembled by Peter H. Comstock, beginning in 1977, and had been looked after with loving care by Edith M. DeForest since 1982. The remaining records were stored elsewhere in the Ivoryton factory. The bulk of the records were donated directly to the Archives Center by the Pratt Read Corporation on January 6, 1989. The corporation made a second, very generous donation to the Archives Center on June 25, 1992, consisting primarily of minute books and ledgers.

Several individuals also contributed Pratt, Read material to the Archives Center. Hugo Nickse, pharmacist in Ivoryton, donated a number of photographs of the town, the factory, and the company's facilities, in September 1990. Henry Z. Steinway, who served as one of the company's directors in the 1970s and 1980s, donated financial statements, board papers, and reports from that period in August 1992. Hanford Johnson, Postmaster of Ivoryton,

donated two letters dating from 1890 in August 1992. Jack Spangler of Deep River provided a photocopy of the company's "West Factory" time book, which is on loan to him from the Deep River Historical Society.

Additional news clippings and information on related collections were gathered by the archivist while processing the collection.

Separated Materials

The Pratt Read Corporation also donated a number of objects to the National Museum of American History at the same time as their 1988 donation of archival records. Included were combs and letter openers and other examples of products made from ivory; piano components, such as gauge boards, key actions, and keys; and such diverse items as tools used in the factory, World War II employee I.D. badges, and a uniform from the company sponsored basketball team.

Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Records relating to Pratt, Read and to Comstock, Cheney can be found in a number of other collections, both within the Archives Center and in other repositories. The Wood & Brooks Company Records (Archives Center coll. #457) contain significant information on Pratt, Read's operations and an important record of production statistics gathered by George Wood while he was factory superintendent and taken with him when he set up a rival firm in Buffalo. While the Ernst Moore Collection (Archives Center coll. #321) primarily documents the purchase of ivory in Africa (much of which was ultimately used by Pratt, Read), it also includes a history of Pratt, Read written by Moore while he was employed by them. The Sohmer & Company Records (Archives Center coll. #349) document the piano manufacturing firm that Pratt Read acquired in 1982.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Craig Orr, 1990.

Preferred Citation

Pratt, Read Corporation Records, 1839-1990, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

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Conditions Governing Use

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Historical

PRATT, READ & COMPANY. Pratt, Read & Company is one of the oldest companies in the state of Connecticut. The firm traces its origins to 1798, when an Essex goldsmith and clockmaker named Phineas

Pratt invented a circular saw to cut the teeth on ivory combs. In 1809, George Read and his brother in law, Phineas Pratt II, dammed the Deep River in the nearby town of Deep River and constructed a waterwheel to power ivory cutting machinery. Read left the partnership in 1816, and Phineas Pratt II joined with Alfred Worthington to manufacture ivory combs under the name of Pratt Worthington & Company. When Worthington died in 1830, two of Phineas Pratt II's sons, Ulysses and Alexis, took over the business, operating as U & A Pratt. The name was changed in 1844 to Pratt Spencer & Company, when a new partner was added, and changed again in 1850, to Pratt Brothers & Company. In 1856 the company erected a much larger factory in Deep River.

In the meantime, Julius Pratt, another of Phineas Pratt I's sons, had joined with Thomas Howard to set up an ivory comb factory in the town of Meriden. This firm was known as Howard, Pratt & Company. After Howard's death in 1822, it became Julius Pratt & Company. In 1854, the firm began to produce wooden piano keyboards, which then were fitted with keys of ivory. One half interest in this firm was owned by George Read.

When Read left his original partnership with Phineas Pratt II in 1816, he joined with Essex comb maker Ezra Williams to set up a new ivory working factory in Deep River. This new firm was known as Ezra Williams & Company. In 1829, Read became the senior partner and the company's name was changed to George Read & Company. This company later secured a very important contract to supply ivory keys for the first American manufacturer of pianos, Chickering & Sons of Boston.

In 1863, the firms of George Read & Company, Julius Pratt & Company, and Pratt Brothers & Company, were merged to form Pratt, Read & Company. The new company further enlarged its factory in Deep River in 1866. In 1871, the old Julius Pratt & Company factory in Meriden was closed and its operations moved to Deep River. Though this factory was destroyed by fire in 1881, a larger factory was quickly rebuilt and the company was back in business early in 1882.

With the election of George L. Cheney as president in 1892, Pratt, Read & Company began a period of continued expansion. In December of that year the company joined with another Connecticut piano component manufacturer, Comstock, Cheney & Company, to organize a midwestern manufacturing branch, under the name of the Piano & Organ Supply Company. This firm was to serve the territory west of Toledo, Ohio, operating in competition with its parent companies. In 1929 Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney combined to buy out the Piano & Organ Supply Company and it was dissolved.

In 1910 Pratt, Read & Company decided to begin the manufacture of piano actions. An independent manufacturer of piano actions, New York based Wastle & Company, and its subsidiary, the Wastle Unique Player Action Company, were acquired that same year. In 1914, Pratt, Read built a second factory solely for the production of player piano actions in Deep River. Wastle & Company was dissolved in 1919 and its production was continued under the Pratt, Read name. The company soon acquired two additional keyboard and action manufacturers: the Sylvester Tower Company of Cambridge, Mass., was purchased, dissolved, and all its equipment was moved to Deep River in 1924; and Strauch Bros. Company of New York was purchased in 1926. The Deep River player action plant operated until 1928, when business declined and production of player piano actions was discontinued in favor of manufacturing small motorboats. This line of business also soon declined and the project was abandoned by 1932.

COMSTOCK, CHENEY & COMPANY. Meanwhile, other manufacturers of ivory products had been at work in the Essex area. Chief among these was the firm of Comstock, Cheney & Company of Ivoryton. The dominant figure in this company was Samuel M. Comstock. He had learned the ivory cutting trade while working in his older brother's Saybrook area ivory cutting shop, known as Joseph A. Comstock & Company. By 1838, Samuel had left his brother's shop and joined with Edwin Griswold to set up Comstock & Griswold Company further west up the Falls River in Centerbrook. In 1848, the company moved its operations to a new factory in the Ivoryton area, where combs, toothpicks, and other ivory products were made. At the same time, the firm's name was changed to S. M. Comstock & Company, reflecting Samuel's sole ownership.

In 1860, Samuel Comstock allied his firm with George A. Cheney to form Comstock, Cheney & Company. Cheney had invested in Comstock's firm and was one of the principals in the important New York based ivory importing firm of Arnold, Cheney & Company. The new firm began production of thin slices of ivory for mounting on wooden piano keys. It also had its own agents buying ivory in Africa, most of which went toward production of piano keys. The company was formally incorporated in 1872 and in 1873 it opened an even larger factory in Ivoryton.

1936 MERGER. On December 31, 1936, Pratt, Read & Company of Deep River was consolidated and merged with Comstock, Cheney & Company of Ivoryton. The resulting corporation was titled Pratt, Read & Company, Inc. By 1938, all manufacturing operations had been consolidated in Ivoryton and the Deep River factory closed. During World War II, both the Deep River factory and the Ivoryton factory were used to produce CG 4A "Waco" troop carrying gliders for the U.S. Army Air Forces, along with LNE 1 training gliders and the GLOMB experimental plane for the U.S. Navy. Production of piano keyboards and actions was sharply curtailed for the duration of the war, and was slow to resume afterward. In 1946 the Deep River factory was sold.

From 1948 to 1957, the Ivoryton factory was enlarged and modernized on a large scale. During the Korean War, the company contracted to make helicopter blades for the Kaman Corporation of Bloomfield, Conn., and this partnership lasted for fourteen years. In 1958, Pratt, Read transferred all of its piano action manufacturing operations to a newly built plant in Central, S.C. This move was made primarily in order to modernize production facilities at a lower cost than would have been possible through continued renovation of the Ivoryton plant.

With the election of Peter H. Comstock (a great grandson of one of the founders of Comstock, Cheney & Company) as President in 1954, the firm began an ambitious plan of diversification. The Cornwall & Patterson Company of Bridgeport, Conn., manufacturer of piano hardware, was purchased in 1957. In 1959, Pratt, Read joined with six British Commonwealth firms to acquire British Piano Actions, Ltd., of Wales. Keyboards, Inc., a Chicago based producer of keyboards for electronic organs, was acquired in 1960. The Tech Art Plastics Company of Morristown, N.J., a custom molder of plastics materials especially for the piano industry, was acquired in 1961. The F. Kelly Company of Derby, Conn., which specialized in the production of small metal parts, was acquired in 1964, and operated as a division of Cornwall & Patterson. In 1966, Pratt, Read purchased the Allen Rogers Corporation of Laconia, N.H., which produced wooden furniture and piano components.

MERGER WITH VOCALINE COMPANY. In February 1968, Pratt, Read & Company, Inc., was merged into the Vocaline Company of America, Inc., of Old Saybrook, Conn. Peter H. Comstock became chairman and chief executive officer of Vocaline Corporation, while remaining president of Pratt, Read. Vocaline was then organized into two major divisions the Vocaline Division and the Pratt, Read Division. The Pratt, Read Division concentrated on the production of piano keys and actions. It operated three subdivisions: the Ivoryton Division (keyboards, wooden and plastic moldings, and unfinished furniture); the Action Division (piano actions); and the Lund Division, formerly Keyboards, Inc., (electronic organ components). Both of the latter divisions operated out of the Central, S.C., plant. The Lund Division was known as the Electronics Division by 1970.

The Vocaline Division produced and sold electric motors, timing devices, and other small electromechanical mechanisms through its Electronics Section and its Bristol Motor and Timer Section. Another subsidiary of the Vocaline Division Altron, Inc., based in Westerly, R.I. produced wire coils. Through its Research and Development Center in Waldboro, Maine, Vocaline conducted antisubmarine warfare research for the U.S. Navy. By 1970, the Vocaline Division had been streamlined into four divisions: the Allen Rogers Corporation (small shaped wood products); Altron, Inc. (wire coils); the Bristol Division, later known as the Bristol Saybrook Company (electric motors and timers); and the Cornwall & Patterson Company (piano hardware and small tools). In addition, research for the Navy had been expanded and combined with other oceanographic research under the control of a subsidiary company, VAST, Inc., with operations in both Maine and the Caribbean.

PRATT READ CORPORATION. In October 1970, the Vocaline Corporation changed its name to the Pratt Read Corporation. This was done partly to increase identity with its oldest traditions and partly to reflect a shift away from the early emphasis on the Vocaline side of the corporation. The new corporation continued to refine its interests under the direction of Peter H. Comstock, who became company president in February 1970. The Tech Arts Plastic Company was sold off in May 1972, although it remained a source of supply for custom molded parts. In 1974 Pratt Read purchased the Atlas Plywood Company of Morrisville, Vt., in order to use its mill and kilns in the preparation of lumber for the Ivoryton factory, whose own facilities were overburdened. This company was operated as a subsidiary of Pratt Read.

By 1976, the Pratt Read Corporation was organized into five operating divisions. The Allen Rogers Corporation produced toys, golf tees, spools, knobs, and other turned and shaped wood products. Altron, Inc., produced bobbins and coils of copper wire. The Bristol Saybrook Company produced small electric motors and timers. The Cornwall & Patterson Company produced piano hardware parts, screwdriver blades, and other small hand tools. Pratt, Read & Company produced wooden components for pianos and other musical instruments. The company's ownership of VAST, Inc., was sold off in March 1976. Later that year, the company acquired Sight Line Corporation, a Freehold, N.J., manufacturer of golf clubs. This subsidiary, operated as the Sounder Sports Division, was sold in May 1979.

In October of 1979, James H. Tucker replaced Peter H. Comstock as president of Pratt Read; Comstock remained chairman of the board and chief executive officer. His nephew, Harwood B. Comstock, became the next president in October 1982. In June 1982, the Ivoryton factory was severely damaged by flooding after two dams burst upstream during a torrential rainstorm. Although the administrative offices were destroyed and the plant filled with several feet of mud and debris, the facility was back in production within two weeks. In August 1982, Pratt Read acquired the Sohmer Piano Company, a 111 year old Long Island based manufacturer of pianos, and in December 1982 Sohmer's production facilities were moved into the Ivoryton factory. By July 1983 Sohmer was producing about six upright pianos a day in its new location.

By the early 1980s, the American piano industry had entered a period of decline and even Peter Comstock's diversification efforts could not keep it out of trouble. A major blow came in 1984 with the loss of a large contract to manufacture keyboards for Mattel Electronics's Intellivision home video system. This was exacerbated by a slump in the piano industry in mid year. The increased import of Japanese and Korean pianos further undercut the American industry, resulting in slowdowns and profit losses for Pratt Read. Attempting to compete on the same basis with this foreign competition, Pratt Read joined with the Baldwin Piano and Organ Company in May 1985 to establish the Pratt Win Corporation. This joint venture resulted in the closing of Pratt Read's Central, S.C., piano action manufacturing plant and the transfer of its operations to a new Baldwin plant in Juarez, Mexico. Pratt Read sold its interest in Pratt Win to Baldwin in October 1986.

Piano sales continued to decline, however, and Pratt Read continued to suffer losses. In March 1986, the company was acquired by Crescent & Company, a corporation controlled by Harwood B. Comstock, president of Pratt, Read & Company. It became a wholly owned subsidiary of Crescent & Company, but retained the name Pratt Read Corporation. In April 1986, the company sold its Sohmer piano subsidiary together with the Ivoryton factory where it was housed; Sohmer & Company continued to produce upright pianos under independent ownership in Ivoryton until December 1988. In December 1986 the Bristol Saybrook Company was sold off. By 1990, the company had sold off all remaining assets except for a sawmill in Vermont and the Cornwall & Patterson Company in Bridgeport, Conn., where the remaining corporate staff relocated.

Sources

Deep River Historical Society, Inc. A History of Pratt Read & Co. 1973.

1899 Souvenir of Essex, Connecticut. Rpt., The Ivoryton Public Library, 1979.

Johnson, Curtiss S. "From Ivory Combs to Carnegie Hall and Today: The History of the Pratt Read Corporation." [Unpublished history in the collection.]

Moore, Ernst D. "History of Pratt, Read & Company." [Unpublished history in the Ernst D. Moore Collection, Archives Center Collection #321.]

Newspaper Clippings in the collection.

Pratt Read Corporation. Annual Reports.

Vocaline Corporation. Annual Report, 1970.

Scope and Contents

Pratt, Read & Company, located in the Essex area of Connecticut, was once the world's largest producer of ivory products. Beginning with the manufacture of combs, collar buttons, and toothpicks, the company moved on to the production of piano and organ key veneers, and soon dominated the field. Eventually, it began to produce complete piano and organ keyboards and actions, becoming the major supplier to the American piano industry. The records in this collection document Pratt, Read & Company; its early competitor and later partner, Comstock, Cheney & Company; and a number of predecessor, subsidiary, and related companies. Other topics of interest dealt with in this collection include the late nineteenth century African ivory trade and Pratt, Read's production of troop carrying gliders during World War II.

Arrangement

The Collection is divided into six series.

Series 1: Predecessor and Miscellaneous Companies, 1839-1870s

Series 2: Comstock, Cheney and Company, 1863-1936

Series 3: Pratt, Read and Company, 1863-1988

Series 4: Gould Aeronautical Division, 1941-1977

Series 5: Subsidiary and Related Companies, 1859-1980

Series 6: Information on Related Companies, 1977-1992

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Gliders (Aeronautics)
Ivory
Ivory industry
Piano

Piano makers

Types of Materials:

Advertisements -- 20th century
Annual reports
Correspondence -- 19th century
Correspondence -- 20th century
Design drawings
Employee records
Financial records
Labels
Legal documents
Manufacturing Records
Minute books
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs -- 19th century
Publications
Sales records
Stock records

Geographic Names:

Ivoryton (Conn.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Predecessor and Miscellaneous Companies, 1839-1870s

This series is composed primarily of early 19th century records from several of the ivory working companies that directly preceded the formation of Comstock, Cheney & Company. The records include a cash book, dated 1847, from S. M. Comstock & Company, an 1860 agreement between Julius Pratt & Company and Pratt, Read for the joint sale of ivory combs, and tintype negatives of some of George Read & Company's early ivory cutting machines. Other early records of importance include the minute book of Pratt, Spencer & Company, 184-1848, and the minute book of the Deep River Ivory Comb Company, 1860-1864.

The series also contains box labels or photoprints of labels from several manufacturers of ivory combs who were active in the same area of Connecticut in the early nineteenth century. Although largely unrelated to Pratt, Read, these labels were part of the collection as received by the Archives Center.

Oversize 1, Folder 1	American Ivory Comb Company, Label for Box of Ivory Combs, undated (Photoprint), [SI Neg. 89 14194]
Box 1, Folder 1	Center Brook Ivory Company, Label for Box of Ivory Combs, undated Image(s)
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Center Brook Ivory Company, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (7 items)
Box 1, Folder 2	S. M. Comstock & Company, Cash Book, September November, 1847
Box 1, Folder 2	S. M. Comstock & Company,, Engraving of Original Factory Building, 1854
Box 1, Folder 3	Comstock & Dickinson Ivory Company (Centre Brook, Conn.), Blank Checks, 1870s (5 items) [SI Neg. 91 6780]
Box 1, Folder 3	Comstock & Dickinson Ivory Company, Property Insurance Policy, undated
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Connecticut Valley Ivory Comb Company, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (2 items)
Box 1, Folder 4	Deep River Ivory Comb Company, Minute Book, 1860-1864
Box 1, Folder 4	Deep River Ivory Comb Company, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (2 items)
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Deep River Ivory Comb Company, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (9 items)
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Essex Ivory Comb Company, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (3 items)
Box 1, Folder 1	Silas Hurlburt's [Company], Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (2 items)
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Silas Hurlburt's [Company],, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (2 items)

Oversize 1, Folder 1	National Ivory Comb Company (Deep River, Conn.), Label for Box of Ivory Combs, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Julius Pratt & Company, Articles of Association, 1859 (photocopy)
Box 1, Folder 1	Julius Pratt & Company, Agreement with George Read & Company for Joint Sale of Ivory Combs, February 16, 1860
Box 1, Folder 1	Julius Pratt & Company, Catalogue, undated (cover only) Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Pratt, Spencer & Company, Minute Book, 1844-1848
Box 1, Folder 1	George Read & Company, Agreement with Julius Pratt & Company for Joint Sale of Ivory Combs, February 16, 1860 [filed with Pratt, Read & Company records]
Box 1, Folder 6	George Read & Company, Correspondence: Letter, December 1862. (photocopy)
Box 1, Folder 6	George Read & Company, Sales Records: Receipts, 1839 1862. (photocopies of four items)
Box 1, Folder 6	George Read & Company Photographs: Drawing for Box Label for Ivory Combs
Box 1, Folder 6	George Read & Company, Ivory Cutting Machines, from an old tintype [SI Neg.89 4239]
Box 1, Folder 6	George Read & CompanyGlass Plate Negative of Ivory Cutting Machines
Box 1, Folder 6	George Read & CompanyTintype Negatives of Ivory Cutting Machines (2 items)
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Saybrook Ivory Comb Company, Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (2 photoprints), [SI Negs. 89 14193 and 89 14197]
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Washington Ivory Comb Company (Deep River, Conn.), Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (2 items)

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Series 2: Comstock, Cheney and Company, 1863 - 1936

The records in series two, comprising approximately six cubic feet, relate to Comstock, Cheney & Company. They date from 1863 to the company's merger with Pratt, Read & Company in 1936. The series is divided into twelve subseries: Executive Records, Correspondence, Stock Records, Legal Records, Financial Records, Sales Records, Personnel Records, Real Estate Records, Machinery Records, Manufacturing Records, Photoprints, and Photonegatives. The EXECUTIVE RECORDS consist of organization papers from 1872 and the complete set of corporate minute books from the company's incorporation in 1872 through its merger with Pratt, Read & Company in 1936.

The incoming CORRESPONDENCE dates from 1875-1877. The general correspondence primarily concerns problems with orders for the ivory goods combs, billiard balls, and piano keys produced by the company, such as delays in shipping, the return of defective merchandise, and changes in the number and type of goods ordered. Letters from many piano and organ manufacturers, such as Knabe, H. Hardman, Vose & Sons, the Burdett Organ Company, the Shoninger Organ Company, and the Mason & Hamlin Piano Company, are included. The actual sales orders for 1876 have been placed among the Sales Records, thus maintaining the company's original separation of these two similar groups of records. Other general correspondence concerns Comstock, Cheney & Company's orders for goods needed in its manufacturing processes, from special woods to hardware components and labels for its boxes. Monthly statements from the company's banks in New York City and Essex, Conn., are also included.

The correspondence from McLean, Morris & Company, Comstock, Cheney's London ivory broker, contains a wealth of information about the London ivory market. The letters discuss sales trends, speculation about prices to be paid and information about prices actually realized, and provide statistics on the quantity and quality of ivory from various sources in Africa. This correspondence is complemented by the quarterly circulars published by Westendarp & Buch, which are printed reports on the latest ivory sales in London. These circulars, sent to Comstock, Cheney by McLean, Morris & Company, set forth the current values of all types and classes of ivory in tables and charts.

The STOCK RECORDS consist of a 1906 list of stockholders and two stock certificates, while the LEGAL RECORDS consist of the company's original license to operate, dated September 1, 1863.

FINANCIAL RECORDS date from 1876 and 1925-1936. They consist primarily of bills presented to the company for services and goods supplied, receipts, and account books. Except for a trial balance for the year 1876, all of the account books date from 1925-1936.

The SALES RECORDS, 1875-1936, in this collection include sales orders, sales account statements, labels from the company's boxes of ivory combs, and a few price lists and trade cards. Complete sales orders for the year 1876 are arranged in chronological order. They provide information on the types of ivory goods that Comstock, Cheney produced and the quantity and grades in which they were available. These orders complement the general correspondence since orders from the same piano and organ manufacturing firms are included. Additional customers of interest include Sohmer & Company, piano makers, and Brunswick Brothers, Decker & Company, and George E. Phelan, billiard ball manufacturers.

The sales account statements are interesting because they provide information on the way in which many of the company's smaller ivory goods were marketed. Comstock, Cheney sold its combs, tablets, toothpicks, and folders on a consignment basis through several companies in New York City. These monthly statements, 1875 1876, show the type and number of goods sold and their prices. The price lists include two for stationer's ivory goods, one for billiard balls, and one for repairs and repair materials for piano keys, actions, and hammers.

The PERSONNEL RECORDS, 1874-1936, consist of two volumes. The payroll ledger, 1874-1879, details wages paid to individual employees. The pay record book for clerical employees, 1913-1936, consists of miscellaneous notes, mainly about increases in the clerks' pay over the years; these are arranged by employee name. The REAL ESTATE RECORDS, 1867-1905, consist of several maps of the company's

property in Ivoryton. Included are a map from the 1867 edition of Beer's Atlas, two insurance maps drawn up by the Barlow Company prior to 1880, and a 1905 map of the keyboard factory.

MACHINERY RECORDS, 1910-1920, consist of mechanical drawings of machines used in piano keyboard production. There is a series of drawings for each machine. Most of the drawings are of very specialized machines designed for working with ivory, such as junking saws, planers, and laying machines (see p. 17).

The MANUFACTURING RECORDS, 1874-1936, document both the materials needed for keyboard production and that production. The ivory purchase journal, for example, provides information on the date, source, number of tusks, weight, price per pound, and total price paid for ivory, 1916-1936. The register of lumber received provides similar information on the many types of wood used in the period 1926- 1936. The piano and keyboard component order book is an alphabetical listing of parts such as locks, pins, and hinges ordered from various supply houses. Production figures are provided by the sharp production record book, 1874 1880, and the key production record book, 1916-1930. These records also include several schematic drawings of piano actions and information on the damp proofing of actions.

The PHOTOPRINTS, ca. 1870 -1989, document Comstock, Cheney's factory sites, ivory working, employees, and the town of Ivoryton. While the majority of these photoprints are the originals assembled for Pratt Read's Ivory Museum, several are reproductions made from original photographs and negatives, which were made available to the Archives Center by citizens of Ivoryton. A few of the photoprints were taken in 1988 1989, during the acquisition of this collection.

The photoprints are arranged according to topic into six groups: the original factory site, the keyboard factory site, ivory working, employees, Ivoryton, and miscellaneous images. They are arranged chronologically within each group. Each photoprint has been assigned an individual number based upon the collection number, the series, and the order of the photoprint within that series (i.e., 320/2/1, etc.). A complete caption for almost all the photoprints is provided in this finding aid. If a negative for a photoprint is on file with the Smithsonian's Office of Printing and Photographic Services, that negative number is provided along with the caption.

Photoprints of both the original factory site and the keyboard factory site up the road show external views of the factory buildings. Many of them include posed groups of employees and several show the bleach houses where ivory was bleached for piano keys. Ivory activities depicted include wagons and trucks filled with tusks and the unloading of tusks into the company's ivory vault. Employees are shown in posed groups; many of them are identified. Ivoryton's role as a company town is revealed in those photoprints that show workers' housing, the company's boarding house, the library, the company built theater, stores, the local bicycle club, the R. H. Comstock Drum Corps, and the company's semipro baseball team. Miscellaneous photoprints show rail and streetcar service to the factory. The PHOTONEGATIVES, 1924, are for five of the photoprints showing truckloads of ivory tusks.

Subseries 2.1: Executive Records

Box 1, Folder 7	Organization Papers, July 1872
Box 8	Minute Book, 1872 1917
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Minute Books, 1917 1936 (2 volumes)

Subseries 2.2: Correspondence

Box 3, Folder 1-8	Incoming: General, January April, 1876
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Box 4	Incoming: General, May August, 1876
Box 5	Incoming: General, September December, 1876
Box 6	Incoming: From McLean Morris & Co., London, January June, 1875
Box 6	Incoming: From McLean Morris & Co., London. July December, 1875
Box 6	Incoming: From McLean Morris & Co., London, January December, 1876
Box 6	Westendarp & Buch's Ivory Circulars, August 1873-February 1877

Subseries 2.3: Stock Records

Oversize 24	Stock Certificate Book, 1872-1921
Box 6, Folder 5	Stock Certificates, 1872-1936
Box 6, Folder 6	Misc. Stock Transfer Papers, 1932
Box 6, Folder 7	List of Stockholders, December 1906
Box 6, Folder 7	Certificates of Reduction of Capital Stock, 1932

Subseries 2.4: Legal Records

Box 6	License to Operate, September 1, 1863
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Subseries 2.5: Financial Records

Box 7, Folder 1	Trial Balances, January December, 1876
Box 7, Folder 2	Annual Financial Statement, 1889
Box 7, Folder 2	Audit Report and Balance Sheets for 1913 1936
Box 7, Folder 2	Balance Sheets for 1913 1936
Oversize 24	Audit Report of Accounts for both Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney for 1913-1941
Box 7, Folder 2	Audit Report, 1917
Oversize 2	Journal "C," 1925 1936
Oversize 3	Ledger No. 7, 1931 1936
Oversize 4	Expense Ledger, 1933 1936
Oversize 3	Statements of Indirect Expense Distribution, 1931 1936

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- Box 11, Folder 4 320/2/16 Ivory factory, ca. 1900 1908. (Postcard)
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- Oversize 2, Folder 2 320/2/41 Rear of keyboard factory, March 1906. Machine shop on left, built 1898; 5 story brick building, 1902; 3 story brick building, 1905. [SI Neg. 89 1429]
- Box 11, Folder 6 320/2/42 Rear of keyboard factory, showing "Ivory Lake," [SI Neg. 89 1444] , undated
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- Box 11, Folder 6 320/2/45 Interior of power plant at keyboard factory, showing switch panel, 1925.
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- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/49, Offloading shipment of tusks, 1890. Lower shops
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/49A shown behind original factory building. [Close up view, SI Neg. 90 9208]
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/50 Will Shailer posing with ivory tusk in front of ivory vault, 1890. [SI Neg. 89 1439]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/51 Ivory tusks outside of ivory vault, n.d. [SI Neg. 89 1463 and 89 15087]
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/52 Truck used to transport tusks, 1914.
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/53 Frank Santi shown with load of tusks in the company's truck, ca. 1914.
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/54 Frank Santi with truckload of ivory, 1915.
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/55 Company truck carrying load of tusks through the streets of Ivoryton, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 1437]
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/56 Company truck carrying load of tusks past the home of R. H. Comstock in Ivoryton, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 1438]
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/57 Transferring ivory from company truck to ivory vault, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 2476]
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/58 Transferring ivory from company truck to ivory vault, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 2477]
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/59 Transferring ivory from company truck to ivory vault, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 2478]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/60 Truck loaded with tusks parked at ivory factory, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 2479]

- Box 11, Folder 7 320/2/61 Unloading ivory from company trucks, 1924. [SI Neg. 89 2480]
- Box 11, Folder 8 320/2/62 Employees, September 9, 1897. Charlie Sizer's gang from the Lathe Room.
- Box 11, Folder 8 320/2/63 Employees in winter clothes, n.d.
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- Box 11, Folder 8 320/2/65 Group of women employed as matchers, butters, and packers in ivory factory, September 1905. [SI Neg. 89 1447]
- Box 11, Folder 8 320/2/66 Group of women employed in Matching Room, August 1907. Back row (L R): Alfreda Palm, Kata Canessa, Mrs. Ray Readon, Sarah Haskell, Margaret Cavanaugh, Beda Anderson. Front row (L R): Elizabeth Dahlstrom, Freda Zweibel, Emma Zweibel, Tessa Canessa, Lottie Peck, Beda Dahlstrom. [SI Neg. 89 1446]
- Box 11, Folder 8 320/2/67 Group of ivory cutters posed outside the ivory factory, ca. 1915. [SI Neg. 89 1441]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/68, Historical marker in Ivoryton, Conn., August 1989.
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/69 [SI Negs. 89 16370 5 and 89 16370 3]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/70 Hotel d'Ivory, 1899. Operated as a boarding house for male employees of Comstock, Cheney & Company. [SI Neg. 89 15086]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/71 Hotel d'Ivory, 1910. [SI Neg. 89 15636]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/72 Winthrop Institute for Young Ladies, Essex, Conn., 1860. In 1910 the building on the right was moved to Ivoryton and added to the Hotel d'Ivory. [SI Neg. 89 15632]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/73 "Our Boarding House," anonymous poem, n.d. A satirical ode to the management of the Hotel d'Ivory. [SI Neg. 89 15623]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/74 Ivoryton Inn, December 1988. Formerly the Hotel d'Ivory. [SI Neg. 89 4166 20]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/75 Comstock Cheney Hall, Ivoryton, Conn., ca. 1908. Built in 1908 by Comstock, Cheney & Company for the use of their employees. [SI Neg. 89 14132]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/76 Poster advertising a "Grand Old Fashioned Ball" given by the Ivoryton Wheel Club at the Comstock Cheney Hall on Friday, March 3, 1916. [SI Neg. 89 16371 14]
- Box 11, Folder 9 320/2/77, 320/2/78, and 320/2/79, Details of poster. [SI Negs. 89 16371 16, 89 16371 19, and 89 16371 18]

- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/80 Ivoryton Wheel Club, Ivoryton, Conn., 1899. Built by Comstock, Cheney & Company for the use of their employees around 1893. [SI Neg. 89 15082]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/81 Ivoryton Wheel Club, post 1900. [SI Neg. 89 14133]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/82 Rose Brothers' Store, Ivoryton, Conn., pre 1889. Store was built sometime prior to the Roses' acquisition of the business in 1878. [SI Neg. 89 15083]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/83 Main Street, Ivoryton, showing Rose Brothers' Store on left, library at center left, and school on right, post 1900. [SI Neg. 89 14130]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/84 Ivoryton Store, formerly Rose Brothers' Store, December 1988. [SI Neg. 89 4166 21]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/85 Ivoryton Library, 1889. (Postcard)
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/86 Ivoryton Library, ca. 1889 1900. [SI Neg. 89 15085]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/87 R. H. Comstock Drum Corps building, 1910. It was located on Falls River Drive in Ivoryton. [SI Neg. 89 15638]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/88 R. H. Comstock Drum Corps, late 1800s. Named for Robert H. Comstock, president of Comstock, Cheney & Company, its sponsor, the group participated in many celebrations and parades. [SI Neg. 89 15629]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/89 Comstock, Cheney & Company semi pro Baseball Team, state champions, 1917. [SI Neg. 89 15628]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/90 Blake Street, Ivoryton, Conn., December 1988. View of housing built by Comstock, Cheney & Company for their employees. [SI Neg. 89 4166 17]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/91 Company built housing on Blake Street, Ivoryton, Conn., December 1988. [SI Neg. 89 4166 15]
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/92 Electric railway car at keyboard factory, n.d.
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/93 Electric railway car in front of keyboard factory, [SI Neg. 89 15635], undated
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/94 Electric railway car service to keyboard factory. Passengers boarding car of the Shore Line Electric Railway Company. , undated
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/95 Rail service to keyboard factory, n.d. Boxcar of New York Central Lines.
- Box 11, Folder 10 320/2/96 Rail service to keyboard factory , undated

Subseries 2.12: Photonegatives

Box 11, Folder 11

Negatives for Photographs 320/2/57 through 320/2/61; Unloading of Ivory,
1924

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Series 3: Pratt, Read and Company, Pratt, Read and Company, Inc., and Pratt-Read Corporation, 1863 - 1988

The records in this series three document the company from 1863-1990, during which time it was known as Pratt, Read & Company (from 1863-1936), Pratt, Read & Company, Inc. (from 1936 1970), and then as Pratt Read Corporation (from 1970 to the present day). These records, which form the bulk of the collection, are arranged into fifteen series: Executive Records, Stock Records, Financial Records, Publicity and Advertising Scrapbooks, Advertising Records, Sales Records, Personnel Records, Real Estate Records, Machinery Records, Manufacturing and Design Records, Engineering Department Records, Photoprints, Photonegatives, Historical and Background Information, and Publications.

The EXECUTIVE RECORDS, 1863 1988, include the corporate minute books for the period 1863-1980. Unfortunately, the minute book for the period from November 1863 to August 1902 is missing from the collection. Other records include copies of the company's bylaws and articles of association, board papers from 1936 1985, annual and quarterly reports from 1936-1985, and several miscellaneous items. The STOCK RECORDS include three stock certificates; a stock transfer book, 1938-1956; a stock analysis done by Salomon Brothers in 1986; and notices to stockholders, 1956-1986.

FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1864 1985, include annual financial statements from 1864-1923 and 1971-1985; two journals, 1933-1942; and general ledgers, 1926-1964. The audit report of accounts, 1913-1941, provides financial data for both Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney. A two year financial planning program for the company covers the period 1978-1980. Also of interest is a May 1982 report on the possible acquisition of Sohmer & Company; Pratt Read acquired the Long Island based piano manufacturer later that year.

The collection contains many ADVERTISING RECORDS. These materials document the company's efforts to keep its name and products prominently before its customers in the piano industry. The majority of these advertisements appeared in trade journals such as the Music Trade Review, Music Trades, the Piano Technician's Journal, and the Piano Trade Magazine. In addition to clipped out copies of Pratt, Read's advertisements, the PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING SCRAPBOOKS, 1902-1988, contain news clippings about competing firms, developments in piano technology, articles about prominent individuals in the trade, and the activities of various organizations and associations, such as the Piano Tuners' Guild. Other clippings provide details on Pratt, Read's latest technological innovations and the company's efforts to promote the use of pianos in school music programs. The majority of these scrapbooks date from 1934-1935 and 1953-1988; they are arranged chronologically from the back of the book forward. Another scrapbook, dating from 1902-1985, contains miscellaneous news clippings and advertisements. Also included in this subseries are two publicity scrapbooks, 1952-1974, which contain news releases put out by Pratt, Read.

ADVERTISING RECORDS, 1958-1977, consist of the actual materials which were created during the development of the company's advertisements. Again, these advertisements were developed primarily for piano trade magazines. These records include artwork, mechanicals, proofsheets, photoprints, photonegatives, transparencies, and preliminary sketches. They represent about 95 percent of Pratt, Read's advertising campaigns between 1958 and 1977 and include advertisements that were never used. Pratt, Read contracted with a number of different advertising agencies during this period, including C. A. Smith & Co. (Westport, Conn.), Shailer/Davidoff, Inc. (Fairfield, Conn.), Dexter Associates (Madison, Conn.), and McNamara Associates, Inc. (Detroit, Mich.). However, the bulk of the records in this subseries was generated by the firm of Marc Dorian, Inc. (Mamaroneck, N.Y.), between 1970 and 1977. Cleverly utilizing animated piano keys, hammers, and other piano action elements, Marc Dorian created several series of advertisements. While most emphasized Pratt, Read's long history and tradition of quality, others adopted a slightly risqué theme or were built around quotations from Shakespeare. Some of these advertisements were translated and used in German piano trade journals. The materials in this subseries have been arranged by advertisement, in chronological order by date of their first recorded use.

Information concerning the sale and marketing of Pratt, Read's piano keyboards and actions can be found in the SALES RECORDS, 1860 1979. These include an 1860 agreement with the firm of Julius Pratt & Company for the joint sale of ivory combs; price lists for ivory combs, 1864-1865 and 1920; labels for boxes of ivory combs; and blank sales receipts from the company's London office, undated. The monthly sales figures, 1914 1931, show total sales income by month and by year, while the monthly sales statistics, 1917-1936, detail sales according to type and value of goods sold (e.g., sharps, ivory, hammers, etc.). The record of sharp sales is a day by day accounting which lists customer name and type of sharps ordered. The scrap orders journal is a daily record of orders for small ivory items, such as collar buttons, billiard cue tips, and beads, as well as scrap ivory. Information on sales for the period 1952-1969 can be found in two charts, one showing the total number of complete keyboards shipped and the other showing average key and action prices.

PERSONNEL RECORDS, 1890 1983, primarily date from the mid 1940s to the late 1970s. Notable exceptions, however, include a photocopy of the West Factory time book from 1890 1900, a company payroll from February 1894, and three piece rate books from the period 1926-1939. The piece rate books, arranged by factory department, show employee name and amount earned per piece completed. Many of the records in this subseries set forth personnel practices and policy, through instructions, memoranda, and employee handbooks. Details of Pratt, Read's organization and structure can be found in various organization manuals, charts, and evaluation program records. The company's dealings with the local chapter of the United Furniture Workers of America union are represented by correspondence, 1945-1946; agreements, 1947-1982; a union publicity scrapbook, 1948 1952; and three scrapbooks of news clippings about strikes in 1947 and 1974. This subseries also includes a complete run of Harmony Magazine, the employee newsmagazine, from 1953-1981.

The REAL ESTATE RECORDS, 1867-1978, consist of maps, plans, architects' drawings, and specifications detailing the various buildings at Pratt, Read's two factory sites. The Deep River site is depicted on two maps taken from the 1867 edition of the Beers & Company Atlas of New York and Vicinity. Site specific insurance maps provide detailed information about factory layout, building construction, and manufacturing processes for the period pre 1880 and 1915-1937. Most of the plans for the Deep River site date from the period after the great fire of 1881. They include the main keyboard factory, the player action factory, bleach houses, an ivory storage vault, various storehouses, and other utilitarian buildings. The Ivoryton site is represented by plans for the expansion of the keyboard factory in the post World War II period. Also of interest are plans and architects' drawings for apartment buildings and houses for company employees, a housing plat of Deep River, and a real estate record book that shows receipts from tenants in company owned housing for the period 1932-1945.

While some of the MACHINERY RECORDS, 1903-1954, relate to the engines and boilers used to keep the factory running, most deal with the machines used to turn out finished ivory keys, piano keyboards, and piano actions. These take the form of a series of oversize blueprint drawings on each machine. The drawings are arranged according to their original order of placement in several different folios of drawings. Thus, drawings for the same machine are sometimes found in different folders within this subseries usually indicating later modifications to the machine. These drawings were selected by a historian knowledgeable about machinery and manufacturing processes during the initial visit to the Pratt, Read site. They were chosen for their emphasis on the specialized processes involved in working with ivory and the production of pianos. Drawings for more general purpose machines were not selected for this collection. The drawings of specialized machines, dating from 1903 1934, are located in ten oversized folders in two map case drawers.

MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN RECORDS, 1892-1968, document the raw materials used in the manufacturing process, the output of goods produced, and the design and specification of keyboards and action components. The oldest item in this subseries is a private inventory book written by George L. Cheney shortly after he became president of the firm in 1892. It records on hand stocks of ivory, combs, piano keys, ebony and other woods, and real estate property. The register of lumber received, 1936-1947

a continuation of the record begun by Comstock, Cheney & Company in 1926 is an accounting of the various types of wood ordered for use in this industry.

Ivory usage is documented in a number of records. Two ivory purchase journals, 1936-1955, record the weight and prices of ivory tusks purchased, by lot number. The tusk ivory receiving reports, 1946-1955 (also arranged by lot number) record the number assigned to each tusk, its quality grade, characteristics, and any defects. The tusk ivory inventory record book, 1950-1953, provides the invoice number and weight of each lot of tusks. Handwritten notes of ivory work done by Grace Schmelke describe one employee's daily piece rate work in the years 1955-1958. The ivory bleaching record is a spiral bound notebook which records the movement of individual tusks into and out of the bleach houses. Other records show the percent of wastage per lot of ivory and the number of keys produced. The file titled "Production Procedures for Ivory and Lumber" contains a number of descriptive narratives concerning the qualities of ivory and wood used in pianos, the procedures involved in bleaching ivory and in processing ivory keyboards, and a step by step description of the ivory shop routine. Also of interest are copies of the formulas used in dyeing piano sharps.

Piano production and design records include correspondence and news clippings from 1942-1946 that provide information on the curtailment of piano production during World War II by both Pratt, Read and the piano industry in general. Under regulations imposed by the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration, raw materials essential to the war effort were not available for piano production and piano prices escalated to levels that discouraged sales. Despite these restrictions, Pratt, Read attempted to maintain a research and development program, examining the possibilities of producing other parts of the piano, such as backs, boards, ribs, and cases. This effort is documented in the correspondence files of Peter Comstock, 1943-1945, which also contain information about the whole piano industry's attempts to cope with wartime restrictions. Peter Calamari's files document a postwar cooperative effort with the Aeolian American Piano Company to produce a player piano. They include correspondence, drawings, specifications, and photoprints.

Action specification books were kept by type of piano regular, upright, and grand. The books, dating from 1927-1968, are arranged alphabetically by customer name. Information is provided on the style, size, specifications, and price of keys, sharps, actions, and other components sold to each company. Oversize blueprint drawings of piano actions dating from 1924 to 1957 are also found in this subseries. Other drawings include artists' views for several pianos designed by Benjamin J. Beck, 1944; designs for a folding keyboard, 1946; and designs for the K 4 piano assembly, 1947.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT RECORDS, 1964, consist of customer files, interoffice correspondence, vendor files, and miscellaneous files. They are a complete one year sample, chosen at random, of the Engineering Department records from a period of Pratt, Read's high postwar productivity. The customer files are arranged alphabetically by name of company or individual to whom Pratt, Read supplied actions, keyboards, or components. Several major piano and organ companies are included, such as Aeolian American, Janssen, Kimball, Lowrey, and Sohmer & Company. The files consist of specifications, drawings, memos, and schedules for production. The interoffice correspondence is that sent or received by A. W. Nordquist, Chief of the Manufacturing Engineering Section. This correspondence deals with personnel questions, changes in specifications, customers' orders, and other routine matters. The vendor files are correspondence, catalogues, price quotations, and other information sent to A. W. Nordquist from various supply houses. Nordquist's miscellaneous files cover a variety of topics, including inventories of shipments made to the company's Central, S. C., plant; plans for plastic spray on key coverings; personnel notices; the safety program; plastic key production schedules; and other engineering issues. Also of interest is a file of drawings supplied to British Piano Actions, Ltd.

The PHOTOPRINTS, ca. 1880-1989, document Pratt, Read's factory sites, its connection with the African ivory trade, its employees, and its manufacturing procedures. While the majority of these photoprints are the originals assembled for Pratt, Read's Ivory Museum, several are reproductions made from original photographs and negatives made available to the Archives Center by citizens of Ivoryton. A few of the photoprints were taken in 1988-1989, during the acquisition of the collection.

The photoprints are arranged by topic into fifteen groups: the Deep River factory site; the Ivoryton factory site; factory tours; bleach houses; Africa/ivory; ivory working; keyboard and action production; New Key Cap Program; piano actions; employee housing; company activities and events; employees; Charles Frederick Stein (technical consultant); exhibits; and miscellaneous. They are arranged chronologically within each group. Each photoprint has been assigned an individual number based upon the collection number, the series, and the order of the photoprint within that series (i.e., 320/3/1, etc.). A complete caption for most of the photoprints is provided in this finding aid. If a negative for a photoprint is on file with the Smithsonian's Office of Printing and Photographic Services, that negative number is provided along with the caption.

Photoprints of both the Deep River and Ivoryton factory sites show external and aerial views of the various factory buildings between 1881 and 1989. They document the changing size and shape of the Ivoryton factory especially well, as old buildings were torn down and new ones took their place. Photoprints of factory tours and "Open Houses" provide interior views of the factory buildings and show workers explaining various stages of the manufacturing process. Bleach house photoprints show the extent and number of bleach houses used by the company and show how the ivory was arranged for bleaching in the sun. Pratt, Read's connection with the African ivory trade is shown in several photoprints from 1904 1911 of and by Ernst D. Moore, an ivory buyer for Arnold, Cheney & Company, which supplied Pratt, Read with most of its ivory.

Manufacturing processes are shown in several groups of photoprints. Ivory activities include people posing with tusks, wagons, and trucks full of tusks; the ivory vault in the Ivoryton factory; the cutting and "junking" of tusks; the bleaching and matching of key "heads" and "tails"; and the laying of keys on piano keyboards. Similiar photoprints of keyboard and action production show workers in all stages of production, from cutting wood to polishing the finished product. Although six of these photoprints date from 1896, most date from 1947-1955. A series of photoprints shows the plastic keys introduced in the New Key Cap Program of 1965, while several photo albums document the company's innovative piano action designs.

Two of the many houses the company built for its employees in Deep River are shown in several photoprints taken during the archivist's 1989 site visit. Company activities and events include annual banquets and Christmas parties for workers' children, picnics, and award ceremonies for longtime employees. A large number of photoprints show employees, most of whom are unidentified. There are also photoprints of Charles Frederick Stein, Pratt, Read's noted technical consultant. The group of exhibits photoprints includes a copy of the company's sign from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, and views of exhibits at various post World War II functions in Connecticut. Finally, the miscellaneous group includes copies of two cartoons by Clarence D. Batchelor that satirize changes in American society, using a piano metaphor. The PHOTONEGATIVES are of piano action models constructed for patent purposes, 1944-1945.

HISTORICAL & BACKGROUND MATERIAL, 1881-1989, consists primarily of news clippings and miscellaneous information about the history of Pratt, Read, the African ivory trade, the piano trade, Pratt Read's involvement in music education, and the Ivoryton area. Especially interesting are an unpublished "History of the Pratt Read Corporation" written by Curtiss S. Johnson, A History of Pratt, Read & Company of Deep River published by the Deep River Historical Society, and news clippings about the company from 1881-1882 and 1935-1986. The ivory trade is documented in news clippings from 1921-1989 and in two personal accounts of life in Zanzibar, one by Harriet Cheney Downing from 1942 and the other by Carlotta Welles from 1980. News clippings about the piano trade, the adoption of plastic for keys, and other developments are also found in this subseries. A reprinted 1899 Souvenir of Essex, Connecticut contains valuable information about the factory buildings, stores, the employees' bicycle club, and the company's central role in the community. Other news clippings cover the Ivoryton Inn, the Ivoryton Theatre, and the Ivory Museum established by the company in 1977.

PUBLICATIONS, 1930-1981, primarily comprise company catalogues dealing with plastics, felt making, organ supplies, and a publicity booklet from Ichabod T. Williams & Sons, importers of foreign and domestic

woods. Also included are pamphlets about Pratt, Read's facilities and its relationship to the Vocaline Company of America.

Subseries 3.1: Executive Records, 1863 - 1988

Box 12, Folder 1	Articles of Association, 1863, and related photocopies
Box 12, Folder 1	Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation, 1959
Box 12, Folder 1	Bylaws, October 6, 1863 (photocopy)
Box 12, Folder 1	Bylaws, with Amendments, 1870-1961
Box 12, Folder 2	Minute Books, 1863-1881
Box 12, Folder 3-4	Minute Books, 1902-1938
Box 13, Folder 1-3	Minute Books, 1938-1955
Box 14, Folder 1	Minute Books, 1955-1959
Box 15, Folder 1-2	Minute Books, 1959-1968
Box 15, Folder 3	Minute Books, (Vocaline Corp.), 1968
Box 16, Folder 1	Minute Books, (Vocaline Corp.), 1968-1970
Box 16, Folder 2	Minute Books, 1970-1973
Box 17, Folder 1-2	Minute Books, 1973-1980
Box 18, Folder 1	Board of Directors' Papers, September 1941- August 1945
Box 18, Folder 2	Papers re 1936 Merger with Comstock, Cheney & Company
Box 18, Folder 3	Memorandum re: Proposed Merger with Vocaline Corporation, Feb. 1968
Box 18, Folder 4	Report on Potential Acquisition of Sohmer & Company, 1982
Box 18, Folder 4	Correspondence re Acquisition of Sohmer & Company, 1982 (2 items)
Box 18, Folder 5	Proposal for Joint Venture between Pratt Read and Baldwin Piano & Organ Company, ca. 1985
Box 18, Folder 6	Notices of Annual Meetings, 1982-1985
Box 18, Folder 7	Annual Reports, 1936, 1938, 1942-1944
Box 18, Folder 8	Annual Reports, 1976-1985
Box 18, Folder 9	Quarterly Reports, 1972-1984

Box 18, Folder 10 Annual Report to Securities and Exchange Commission, 1977

Box 18, Folder 11 Letterhead Stationery and Envelopes, 1936-1988

Box 18, Folder 11 Company Christmas Card, ca. 1967

Subseries 3.2: Stock Records, 1938 - 1986

Box 19, Folder 1 Stock Certificates, undated (3 items)

Box 19, Folder 2 Stock Transfer Book, 1938 1956

Box 19, Folder 3 Stock Dividends Paid, 1941

Box 19, Folder 4 Notices to Stockholders, 1956 1986

Box 19, Folder 5 Study of the Purchase of Pratt Read Common Stock as Treasury Stock, 1980

Box 19, Folder 6 Stock Analysis done by Salomon Brothers, 1986

Subseries 3.3: Financial Records, 1864 - 1985

Box 20, Folder 1 Annual and Semi Annual Financial Statements, 1864-1923

Box 20, Folder 2-16 Annual Financial Statements, 1971-1985

Oversize 24 Audit Report of Accounts for both Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney, for
1913-1941

Oversize 5 Journal No. 21, 1933-1939

Oversize 6 Journal No. 22, 1939-1942

Oversize 7 General Accounts Ledger, 1926-1932

Box 21, Folder 1 Ledgers, 1937 -1939

Box 22, Folder 1 Ledger, Piano Division, 1940-1942

Box 23, Folder 1 Ledger Piano Division, 1943-1944

Box 24, Folder 1 Ledger, Piano and Gould Aeronautical Divisions, 1945

Box 25, Folder 1 Ledger, Piano and Gould Aeronautical Divisions, 1946

Box 26, Folder 1-2 Ledger, Piano and Gould Aeronautical Divisions, 1947 -1948

Box 27, Folder 1-2 Ledgers , 1949 - 1950

Box 28, Folder 1-2 Ledgers , 1951 - 1952

Box 29, Folder 1-2	Ledgers , 1953 - 1954
Box 30, Folder 1-2	Ledgers , 1955 - 1956
Box 31, Folder 1-2	Ledgers , 1957 - 1958
Box 32, Folder 1-2	Ledgers , 1959 - 1960
Box 33, Folder 1-2	Ledgers , 1961 - 1962
Box 34, Folder 1-2	Ledgers , 1963 - 1964
Box 20, Folder 17	Two Year Financial Program, July 1978 -June 1980
Box 20, Folder 18	Meeting Agenda, March 8, 1967
Box 20, Folder 18	Chart of Accounts, March 16, 1979
Box 20, Folder 18	Blank Checks, undated

Subseries 3.4: Publicity and Advertising Scrapbooks, 1902 - 1988

Oversize 1, Folder 3	Scrapbook, June 1934-October 1935
Box 35, Folder 1-6	Scrapbook, 1943 September-1953 August
Box 36, Folder 1-5	Scrapbook, 1953 September-1959 August
Box 37, Folder 1-5	Scrapbook, 1959 September-1964
Box 40, Folder 1-3	Scrapbook, 1977 - 1988
Box 40, Folder 4	Misc. Advertising and Publicity Scrapbook, 1902 -1985
Box 40, Folder 5	Publicity (News Releases) Scrapbook, 1952-1959
Box 40, Folder 6	Publicity (News Releases) Scrapbook, 1959 1974
Box 40, Folder 7	Miscellaneous News Clippings , undated

Subseries 3.5: Advertising Records, 1958 - 1977

Box 40, Folder 8	Marc Dorian Advertising Campaign: Background, 1960-1977
Oversize 8, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1958 October-1965 October
Oversize 9, Folder 1-4	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1966 February-1968 November

Oversize 10, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1969 January-1971 January
Oversize 11, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1971 February-1972 September
Oversize 12, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1972 October-1973 July
Oversize 13, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1973 August-1974 December
Oversize 14, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1975 January-1975 December
Oversize 15, Folder 1-3	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1976 January-1977 February
Oversize 16, Folder 1	Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, 1977 March-1977 October
Box 16, Folder 2	Proofs for Ads in German Music Trade Magazines, 1975 1976
Box 16, Folder 3	Mechanicals for 8 "Round Motif" Ads by Marc Dorian, Inc., mid 1970s (never used)
Box 16, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Mechanicals (mainly logos) by Marc Dorian, Inc., mid 1970s
Oversize 17, Folder 1	Miscellaneous, unidentified Artwork and Mechanicals, undated

Subseries 3.6: Sales Records, 1860 - 1979

Box 41, Folder 1	Blank Sales Receipts, London Office, undated (2 items)
Box 41, Folder 2	Monthly Sales Figures, 1914-1931
Box 41, Folder 2	Monthly Sales Statistics, 1917-1936
Box 41, Folder 3	Record of Sharp Sales, 1924-1926
Map-folder 6	Chart of Average Key and Action Prices, 1954- 1969
Map-folder 6	Chart of Total Number of Piano Keyboards Shipped, 1952-1969
Box 41, Folder 4	Scrap Orders Journal, 1915-1922
Box 41, Folder 5	Price Lists Ivory Combs, ca. 1864 1865 and 1920
Box 41, Folder 5	Price Lists, Repair Work and Keys and Actions, 1927-1979 Image(s)
Oversize 1, Folder 1	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Goods, undated

Box 41, Folder 5 Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, undated (3 photoprints) [SI Negs. 89 14192,
89 14195, and 89 14196]

Box 41, Folder 6 Decals for Boxes of Piano Action Components, undated (3 items)

Subseries 3.7: Personnel Records, 1890 - 1983

Box 41, Folder 6 Payroll, February 1894

Box 42, Folder 1 West Factory Time Book, 1890-1900 [photocopy]

Box 42, Folder 2 Piece Rate Book, 1935-1944

Box 42, Folder 3 Piece Rate Books, ca. 1937-1939

Box 42, Folder 4 Piece Rates, Misc., 1926 and 1939

Box 42, Folder 5 Employee Salary Figures, 1941

Oversize 1, Folder 1 Manufacturers Employers Liability Insurance Policy, October 26, 1905

Box 42, Folder 6-7 Instructions and Memoranda re Personnel Practices, 1942-1954

Box 42, Folder 8 Anthrax Investigation at Plant, 1947- 1949

Box 42, Folder 9 Disciplinary Procedure Policy, ca. 1983

Box 42, Folder 10 Employee Handbooks, 1947 ca. 1965

Box 42, Folder 11 Employee Benefits Handbooks, 1954 -1978

Box 42, Folder 12 Correspondence with Union, 1945 -1946

Box 43, Folder 1 Agreements with Union, 1947-1982

Box 43, Folder 2 Strike Publicity, June 1947- August 1947 (no. 1)

Box 43, Folder 3 Strike Publicity, June 1947-August 1947 (no. 2)

Box 43, Folder 4 Union Publicity, 1948-1952

Box 43, Folder 5 Strike Publicity, 1974

Box 44, Folder 1 Organization Survey, March 1946

Box 44, Folder 1 Organization Manual, May 1946

Box 44, Folder 2 Organization Notes, 1947

Box 44, Folder 3 Organization Notes, 1949

Box 44, Folder 4	Organization Manual Review, November 1951 and Notes, 1951
Box 44, Folder 5	Organization Manual, February 1952 and Notes, 1952
Box 44, Folder 6	Proposal for the Reorganization of the Engineering Division, May 1953 and Notes, 1953
Box 44, Folder 7	Staff Evaluation Program, November 1953
Box 44, Folder 8	Staff Description Manual, September 1961
Map-folder 6	Organization Chart, August 19, 1963
Box 45, Folder 1	Staff Evaluation Manual, July 1973
Box 45, Folder 2	Job Evaluation Manual, 1970s
Box 45, Folder 3	Staff Job Description and Evaluation Manual, 1979
Box 45, Folder 4	Pension Plan Program, 1981
Box 45, Folder 5	Personnel File of Louie E. Pratt, 1954-1973
Box 45, Folder 6	Correspondence with L. D. Webber, May 1890
Box 45, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Personnel Records (9 items)
Box 46	Harmony Magazine, 1953- 1960 (Employee Newsmagazine)
Box 47	Harmony Magazine, 1961-1974 (Employee Newsmagazine)
Box 48	Harmony Magazine, 1975-1981 (Employee Newsmagazine)

Subseries 3.8: Real Estate Records, 1867 - 1978

Box 49, Folder 1	Specifications for North Tower Addition to Deep River Factory, ca. 1882
Box 49, Folder 1	Specifications for Warehouse Building, Deep River, with cover letter, August 1888
Box 49, Folder 1	Sketch Plans for Apartment House [?], undated
Box 49, Folder 2	Real Estate Record Book, 1932-1945
Box 49, Folder 2	Zoning Issues, 1960 and 1978
Map-folder 7	Map of Essex, and a part of Deep River, 1867 (From Beers & Co. Atlas of New York and Vicinity)
Map-folder 7	Map of Deep River, 1867 (From Beers & Co. Atlas of New York and Vicinity)

Map-folder 7	Barlow's Insurance Map of Keyboard Factory, pre 1880
Map-folder 7	Maps of Factory Water, Sprinkler, and Sewage Systems, 1912-1931 [Provide overall layout of factory complex.]
Map-folder 7	Factory Insurance Association Map of Keyboard Factory, 1915
Map-folder 7	Factory Insurance Association Aerial View of Factory Complex, 1922 (2 copies)
Map-folder 7	Plat Map of House Numbering Lay Out in Deep River, 1926
Map-folder 7	Factory Insurance Association Map of Factory, 1937
Map-folder 8	Plans of Keyboard Factory, 1892-1904
Map-folder 8	Plans of North Tower Addition to Keyboard Factory, 1882
Map-folder 9	Plans of Player Action Factory, ca. 1914
Map-folder 9	Plans of Bleach Houses, undated
Map-folder 9	Plan of Bleach House Structural Details, 1905
Map-folder 10	Plans of Employee Houses, 1914, 1923, and undated
Map-folder 10	Plans and Architect's Drawings of Employee Apartmen House, ca. 1915-1924
Map-folder 11	Plans of Fireproof Pattern Building, undated
Map-folder 11	Plans of Office, undated
Map-folder 11	Plans of Barn, undated
Map-folder 11	Plans of Boiler Room, 1885
Map-folder 11	Plans of Store House, 1888
Map-folder 11	Plans of Storehouse, undated; Assorting House, 1905; and New Matching and Storehouse, 1912
Map-folder 11	Plans for Ivory Vault, 1908
Map-folder 11	Plans and Structural Steel List for Machine Shop Addition, 1909
Map-folder 11	Plan of Power House, 1923
Map-folder 11	Plans of Oil Storage Building, 1924
Map-folder 11	Plans for Auto Truck Scale, undated
Map-folder 11	Miscellaneous Plans and Drawings, 1905-1924

- Map-folder 12 Floor Plans Main Building, Building E, and Building F, ca. 1948
- Map-folder 13 Maps, Floor Plans, Aerial Views, and Production Flow Charts for Proposed Factory Layout, 1949-1952
- Map-folder 13 Factory Insurance Association Maps of Factory, 1953
- Map-folder 13 Plat Maps of Proposed Factory Layout, 1954

Subseries 3.9: Machinery Records, 1903 - 1954

- Box 49, Folder 4 Information on Engines and Boilers, 1928-1953
- Box 49, Folder 5 Deep River Power Plant "B," 1927-1953
- Box 49, Folder 6 Boilers and Stokers, 1923-1952
- Box 49, Folder 7 Boilers and Accessories, 1925-1953
- Box 49, Folder 8 Oil and Electric Data, 1924-1950
- Box 50, Folder 1 Parts Received for Machinery, 1925-1954
- Box 50, Folder 2 Ames Corliss Engine Turbines, 1923-1952
- Box 50, Folder 3 Record of Machine Shop Labor on Engines and Machinery, 1923-1930 (2 vols.)
- Map-folder 14 Ivory Laying Steam Press, 1912-1913
- Map-folder 14 Patent Celluloid Sharp Hot and Cold Press, 1919 and 1920
- Map-folder 14 Ivory Key Rounder, 1905-1913
- Map-folder 15 Board Bushing Machine, 1903-1925
- Map-folder 15 Button Bushing Machine, 1914-1926
- Map-folder 15 Piano Board Mortiser, 1910-1921
- Map-folder 15 Sand Whirl, 1909-1912
- Map-folder 16 Grand Board Stamp, 1917-1925
- Map-folder 16 Small Tools and Machine Parts, 1909-1921
- Map-folder 16 Celluloid Front Press, 1904-1927
- Map-folder 16 Ivory Planer, 1910 1916

Map-folder 16	Miscellaneous 1909-1927
Map-folder 17	Board Painting Machine, 1911-1917
Map-folder 17	Ivory Layer, 1906-1921
Map-folder 17	Glueing Device; Tenoning Machine; Frame Planer; etc., 1905-1915
Map-folder 17	Grand Board Stamp, 1906-1925
Map-folder 17	Button Strip Planer and Saw; Cooper Hewitt Lamp; etc., 1906-1913
Map-folder 18	Automatic Ivory Parting Saw, 1912-1915
Map-folder 18	Ivory Planer Attachment; Ivory Grinder; Ivory Block Marker, 1912-1914
Map-folder 18	Automatic Saw Filing Machine, 1910
Map-folder 19	Ivory Sawing Attachments, 1908 1922
Map-folder 19	Ivory Marking Gauges and Vises, 1905 1915
Map-folder 19	Ivory Junking Saw, 1905 1912
Map-folder 19	Rail Mortiser, 1915-1920
Map-folder 20	Sharp Planers, 1914-1917
Map-folder 20	Automatic Sharp Snubbing Saw, 1922
Map-folder 20	Ivory Tothing Machine, 1915
Map-folder 20	Misc. Grinding and Saw Attachments, 1915-1919
Map-folder 21	Sharp Corner Rounder, 1923 1924
Map-folder 21	Grand Hammer Shank Knuckle Fixtures, undated
Map-folder 21	Sand Crack Miller, 1916
Map-folder 21	Grand Repetition Hook Screw Driver, 1928
Map-folder 21	Pneumatic Champhering and Drilling Machine, 1919 -1920
Map-folder 22	Ivory Block Squareing Machine, 1917-1918
Map-folder 22	Ivory Stacker for Matching Room, 1916
Map-folder 22	Steam Button Busher, 1923
Map-folder 22	Button Mortiser, 1920-1926

Map-folder 22	Button Strip Groover; etc., 1917-1921
Map-folder 23	Flange Felt Trimmer, 1920
Map-folder 23	Celluloid Sharp Molds; Celluloid Sharp Press, 1905-1912
Map-folder 23	Miscellaneous Machinery, 1921-1927
Map-folder 23	Miscellaneous Machinery, 1908-1934
Map-folder 23	Miscellaneous Machinery, 1909-1921

Subseries 3.10: Manufacturing and Design Records, 1892 - 1968

Box 50, Folder 4	Private Inventory Book of George L. Cheney, 1892
Box 10, Folder 7	Register of Lumber Received, 1936-1947
Box 50, Folder 5	Lumber Inventory Notes, 1935-1945
Box 50, Folder 6	Ivory Purchase Journal, 1936-1949
Box 50, Folder 7	Ivory Purchase Journal, 1949-1955
Box 51, Folder 1	Tusk Ivory Receiving Reports, 1946 1955
Box 51, Folder 2	Tusk Ivory Inventory Record, 1950 1953
Box 51, Folder 3	Record of Work Done on Ivory by Grace Schmelke, 1955 1958
Box 51, Folder 4	Ivory Bleaching Record, 1953 1956
Box 51, Folder 5	Misc. Notes on Ivory Work, 1932 1935
Box 51, Folder 6	Monthly Key and Action Production Statistics, 1938-1942
Oversize 18, Folder 1	Table of Ivory Shipped to Key Factory and Sold to Customers, 1932-1933
Box 51, Folder 7	Letter with Information on Comb Production, pre 1936
Box 51, Folder 7	Production Procedures for Ivory and Ebony, undated
Box 51, Folder 8	Formulas, undated
Box 55, Folder 3	Wartime Production of Pianos: Correspondence with Office of Price Administration, 1944 -1946
Box 55, Folder 4	Wartime Production of Pianos: Correspondence with War Production Board, 1942 1945
Box 55, Folder 5	Wartime Production of Pianos: News Clippings, 1944 1945

Box 51, Folder 9	Piano Production and Design: Correspondence Files of Vice President Peter Comstock, November 1943 -August 1944
Box 51, Folder 10	Piano Production and Design: Correspondence Files of Vice President Peter Comstock, June- October 1945
Box 52, Folder 1	Piano Production and Design: Aeolian Player Piano Action Project Files of Peter Calamari, 1948 1949
Oversize 23, Folder 1	Aeolian Player Piano Action Project Drawings from Peter Calamari's Files, 1948 -1949
Box 52, Folder 2-4	Action Specification Books: Regular Pianos, 1927-1934 (3 vols.)
Box 53, Folder 1	Regular Pianos, 1936-1946 (2 vols.)
Box 53, Folder 2-4	Inactive Action Specification Book: Regular and Upright Pianos, 1935-1968
Oversize 18	Action Specification Books: Upright and Grand Pianos, 1934-1937
Box 54, Folder 1	Upright and Grand Pianos, 1935-1947
Box 53, Folder 4	Upright and Grand Pianos, 1941-1944
Box 55, Folder 1	Upright and Grand Pianos, 1945
Box 55, Folder 2	Special Action Specification Book, 1937 -1938
Oversize 18, Folder 1	Action Assembly Drawings, undated
Map-folder 12	K 4 Piano Assembly, 1947
Oversize 23, Folder 2	Action Brackets, 1924-1947
Oversize 23, Folder 3	Pianos Designed by Benjamin J. Beck, 1944
Oversize 23, Folder 4	Plans for Folding Keyboard, 1946
Map-folder 24	Plans for Folding Keyboard, 1946
Oversize 23	Inactive and Obsolete "Z" Drawings, 1955-1957 (Actions)
Oversize 23	Miscellaneous Action Drawings, undated and 1945 1947
Oversize 23	Miscellaneous Action Drawings, 1949
Map-folder 24	Miscellaneous Action Drawings, 1925-1954 (Oversize)
Map-folder 29	Miscellaneous Action Drawings, 1945 and 1949 (Oversize)

Subseries 3.11: Engineering Department Records, 1964 - 1964

Box 56	Customer Files, 1964: A- F
Box 57	Customer Files, 1964: G -K
Box 58	Customer Files, 1964: L-Sta
Box 59	Customer Files, 1964: Ste -W
Box 59	Interoffice Correspondence, 1964
Box 59	Vendor Files, 1964
Box 60	Miscellaneous Files, 1964

Subseries 3.12: Photoprints, circa 1880-1989

Deep River, Conn., Factory Site

Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/1 Pratt, Read & Company factory in Deep River, ca. 1882. Rebuilt after 1881 fire. Note bleach house in distance. [SI Neg. 90 3704]
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/1A Deep River factory, ca. 1890s. [SI Neg. 89 1453]
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/2 Steam engine in Deep River factory, ca. 1890
Oversize 1, Folder 2	320/3/3 Dry Kiln for wood at keyboard factory, undated [SI Neg. 89 1428]
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/4 Deep River factory, 1944. Office on right end.
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/5 The Piano Works Condominiums, formerly the Pratt, Read keyboard factory, August 1989. Converted to condominiums in March 1985. [SI Neg. 89 16370 7]

Ivoryton, Ct., Factory Site

Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/6 Ivoryton keyboard factory, late 1930s 1940s. [SI Neg. 89 14131]
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/7 Aerial view of keyboard factory, ca. 1949. [SI Neg. 89 15637]
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/8 Keyboard factory, ca. 1949 1950. [SI Neg. 89 15634]
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/9 Factory expansion: Building "P," south section, 1951.
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/10 Factory expansion: Building "P," north side, 1951.
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/11 Factory expansion: Dry Kilns, May 1953.
Box 61, Folder 1	320/3/12 Factory expansion: Building "P," office and rest rooms, 1954.

- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/13 320/3/16 Factory expansion: Building "H," 1955.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/17 Factory expansion: Aerial view of factory, 1956.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/18 320/3/19 Factory expansion: Building "R," 1956.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/20 Incinerator (\$1,969) in Boiler Room, July 1960.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/21 Sawdust control board (\$11,194) in Boiler Room, 1964.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/22 Old Bigelow boiler.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/23 New Riley coal fired boiler.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/24 Interior view of expanded keyboard factory in Ivoryton, late 1950s.
- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/3/25 Aerial view of expanded Ivoryton factory, ca. 1950-1952. [SI Neg. 89 14302]
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/26 Demolition of wood bending building on grounds of Ivoryton factory, late 1950s. [SI Neg. 15620]
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/27-320/3/27C Bicycle shed on grounds of Ivoryton factory, destroyed in storm, January 1959. [3 views; SI Neg. 89 15626 shows all three]
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/28-320/3/30 Demolition of office building and wooden factory buildings of keyboard factory, 1959. [SI Negs. 89 15622, 89 15633, and 89 15627]
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/31-320/3/33 Kupfermuhle VUIN machine (\$30,879), October 5, 1970.
- Box 61, Folder 1 320/3/34-320/3/36 Installation to top of Building "I" (\$18,666), January 1970.

Factory Tours

- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/37 Factory tour by Schoolchildren, June 1958.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/38 Factory tour by Boston Division, American Society of Piano Technicians, October 6, 1950.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/39 Factory tour by Essex Brownie Troop, March 1952.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/40 Factory tour by Essex Cub Scouts Troop, February 1953.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/41 320/3/45 Factory Open House, May 1953.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/46 Factory Open House, May 1958.

- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/47-320/3/48 Factory tour for Hartford Industrial Management Club, June 4, 1962.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/49-320/3/57 Factory tour for Morgan School Economics Class, Spring 1964.
- Box 61, Folder 2 320/3/58-320/3/62 Factory tour for New England Dry Kiln Association, April 1964.

Bleach Houses

- Box 61, Folder 3 320/3/63 Bleach houses, undated [SI Neg. 89 1435]
- Box 61, Folder 3 320/3/64 Bleach house, undated Rack for piano "heads" and "tails." [SI Neg. 89 1440]
- Box 61, Folder 3 320/3/65, 320/3/65A Movement of bleach houses to make room for expansion of Ivoryton factory, ca. 1950, before and after. [SI Neg. 89 15625 shows both photos]
- Box 61, Folder 3 320/3/66 Last bleach house on grounds of the Ivoryton factory, ca. 1956. [SI Neg. 89 15621]
- Box 61, Folder 3 320/3/67 Ivory bleaching house, 1974. Drawing made from existing bleach house in rear of lumberyard in Ivoryton. [SI Neg. 89 1427]
- Box 61, Folder 3 320/3/68 Last surviving bleach house, near Deep River, December 1988. [SI Neg. 89 4166 33]

Africa/Ivory

- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/69 W. B. Arnold and E. D. Vialle, ivory buyers for Arnold, Cheney & Company in Mombasa, British East Africa, April 25, 1904. [SI Neg. 89 4242]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/70 W. B. Arnold and E. D. Vialle, ivory buyers for Arnold, Cheney & Company, in Mombasa, British East Africa, April 29, 1904. [SI Neg. 89 4245]
- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/71 Ivory tusks piled up in Mombasa, British East Africa, ca. 1907 1911. [SI Neg. 89 4249]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/72 One of the two largest tusks ever recorded the so called Kilimanjaro tusks, ca. December 1908. The pair was purchased at Zanzibar for Arnold, Cheney & Company. [SI Neg. 89 4246]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/73, 320/3/74 The great "Kilimanjaro" tusks, one of the largest pairs ever recorded. Photographed outside Arnold, Cheney & Company's Ivory

- House in Zanzibar by Ernst D. Moore, December 22, 1908. [SI Negs. 89 4247 and 89 4248]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/75, 320/3/76 Ernst D. Moore, ivory buyer for Arnold, Cheney & Co. Shown here atop a pile of tusks and surrounded by godown [warehouse] workers in Zanzibar, ca. 1910 1911. [SI Negs. 89 4243 and 89 4244]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 4 320/3/77 Ernst D. Moore photographed in front of the Arnold, Cheney & Company compound in Aden, ca. 1907 1910. [SI Neg. 89 12358]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Ivory Working**
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/78 Ivory sawing machine, formerly used by George, Read & Company. Reproduced from an old tintype. [SI Neg. 89 1768]
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/79-320/3/80A Mr. Harris, Superintendent of the Ivory Department at the Deep River West factory, posing with tusks, undated
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/81 Tusks in ivory vault at Deep River factory, ca. 1890. [SI Neg. 89 1452]
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/82 Ivory laying, Deep River factory, 1896.
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/83 Thirty two ivory tusks, worth \$9,000, loaded on a Pratt, Read & Company wagon, 1908. (Postcard)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/84 Steve Beal, Pratt, Read & Company's driver, standing between two tusks valued at \$1,500, ca. 1908. (Postcard)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 61, Folder 5 320/3/85 Truckload of tusks, valued at \$15,750, passing by the Pratt, Read & Company office adjacent to the Deep River factory, ca. 1913 1914. (Postcard)
- Box 61, Folder 6 320/3/86 Photo showing the transition from horse drawn wagon, driven by Steve Beal, to truck, for ivory transportation, ca. 1913 1914.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Oversize 61, Folder 6 320/3/87 Cross section of piece of ivory ready for "parting." The rough markings designate the piano key coverings that will later be sent out from the factory. Note that each block faces the center. Photocopied from the Hartford Daily Courant, July 13, 1930. [SI Neg. 89 1775]
- Oversize 61, Folder 6 320/3/88 Tusks in the ivory vault at Ivoryton, April 1950.

[Image\(s\)](#)

Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/89 Tusks in the ivory vault at Ivoryton, April 1950. Imported from Portuguese East Africa. [SI Neg. 89 1436]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/90 Tusks in the ivory vault at Ivoryton, April 1950.
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/91 Bleaching of ivory keys, ca. 1952. Oscar Lynne placing key filled racks in bleach house. [SI Neg. 89 1459]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/92 Helmer Johnson at work in the laying room, March 28, 1953. [SI Neg. 89 1442]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/93 Ivory Matching Department, ca. November 1954. Foreman George Drennan, with Eunice Sizer and Ida Samuelson, showing sorting and matching of heads and tails for keyboards. [SI Neg. 89 1767]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/94 Weighing tusks, ca. 1955. Louie E. Pratt (right) and Oscar Lynne. [SI Neg. 89 1771]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/95 Ivory Laying Department, ca. 1955. After ivory is matched into sets, it goes to the Laying Department. There it is laid on keyboards, as done here by Otto Hoffman. [SI Neg. 89 1433]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/96 Louie E. Pratt with eight tusks in ivory dry boxes, April 1, 1955. [SI Neg. 89 1773]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/97 Anthony M. Steib grailing (planing) ivory heads, ca. 1955. The heads are set upright in a press and a saw is run across the top to ensure evenness. [SI Neg. 89 1774]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/98 Ivory Cutting Department. Louie E. Pratt slitting heads and tails for keys, undated [SI Neg. 89 1765]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/99 Ivory Matching Department, ca. 1955. Foreman George Drennan matching ivory for heads and tails on the keyboard. [SI Neg. 89 1766]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/100 Ivory Cutting Department, ca. 1955. Theodore Brainard at work, cutting ivory. [SI Neg. 89 1769]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/101 Ivory Cutting Department, ca. 1955. Louie E. Pratt at work, marking a 4" junked piece of ivory for cutting. [SI Neg. 89 1770]
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/102 Group of retired ivory workers posing with tusks, 1952. Front: Henry Grieder and Frank Schwarz. Back: Frank Wooster, Eric Carlberg, James A. Gould, Burdette Parmelee, and Fred Comstock.
Enlarge 61, Folder 6	320/3/103 Posed photo of (L R) F. Kelso Davis, Stan Renehan, and Peter Comstock, unloading tusks from back of truck, 1954.

Keyboard and Action Production

- Box 61, Folder 7 320/3/104 Sawing lumber, mill room, Deep River factory, 1896. Left to right: Jimmie Slyne, Frank Hurd, Tony Monti and George Dickinson
- Box 61, Folder 7 320/3/105 Band sawing of keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896.
- Box 61, Folder 7 320/3/106 Scraping and polishing of keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896. [SI Neg. 93 12593]
- Box 61, Folder 7 320/3/107 Framing Department of Deep River factory, showing keys, frames, and boards, 1896.
- Box 61, Folder 7 320/3/108 Regulating of keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896. [SI Neg. 91 3730]
- Box 61, Folder 7 320/3/109 Marking scale on keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896.
- Box 61, Folder 8 320/3/110-320/3/152 Photos of employees engaged in various stages of keyboard and action production, ca. 1947 1955.
- Box 61, Folder 9 320/3/153-320/3/177 Photos of employees engaged in various stages of keyboard and action production, ca. 1947 1955.

New Key Cap Program, 1965

- Box 61, Folder 10 320/3/178-320/3/198 Photos of production machinery and finished plastic key caps, 1965.

Piano Actions

- Box 62, Folder 1 320/3/199-320/3/201 Photos (and letter) of new piano action designed by Charles F. Stein, 1959.
- Box 62, Folder 2-3 Photo albums of regular piano actions, 1928-1954. Includes information on designer and patent number. (2 albums)
- Box 62, Folder 4 Photo album of drop model piano actions, 1939-1951. Includes information on designer and patent number.

Employee Housing

- Box 63, Folder 1 320/3/202-320/3/204 Views of two houses built by Pratt, Read for their employees according to 1914 building plans. Bridge Street, Deep River, Conn., August 1989.

Company Activities and Events

- Box 63, Folder 2 320/3/205-320/3/291 Photos of annual company banquets, annual Christmas parties for employees' children, picnics, and award ceremonies for longtime employees, 1950 1971.

Employees

- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/3/292 Group of Player Action Department employees in front of Deep River factory, 1923.
- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/3/293 320/3/294 Peter H. Comstock, undated
- Box 63, Folder 3 320/3/295-320/3/334 Miscellaneous photographs of employees in the workplace and portrait photos of managers, 1950s 1960s.
- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/3/335 Plaque showing names of Pratt, Read employees with 25 years' service, 1970.

Charles Frederick Stein, Technical Consultant

- Box 63, Folder 4 320/3/336 320/3/344 Photos of Stein teaching various classes about piano construction and design, 1950s.
- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/3/345 Charles Frederick Stein at work, 1952.

Exhibits

- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/346 Sign from Pratt, Read & Company's exhibit at Centennial Exposition, 1876. Now on display at Deep River Historical Society. [SI Neg. 89 4166 30]
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/347-320/3/350 Valley Industrial Exhibit, 1952.
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/351-320/3/352 Exhibit, undated
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/353 Exhibit in Deep River Town Hall, 1953.
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/354 First exhibit in Frankfort, West Germany, 1978.

Miscellaneous

- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/355 320/3/356C Ivory combs, undated
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/357-320/3/358 Cartoons by Clarence D. Batchelor, September 25, 1930, satirizing changes in society, using a piano metaphor. [SI Negs. 89 4240 and 89 4241]
- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/2/359 Piano Tuners Association of Illinois, 6th Annual Banquet, Chicago, June 28, 1939. Group portrait, showing Peter H. Comstock.
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/360 The "K" practice piano manufactured by Pratt, Read, ca. 1947.
- Box 63, Folder 5 320/3/361 Small piano, undated
- Oversize 1, Folder 2 320/3/362 Piano, undated

Oversize 63, Folder 5 320/3/363 Prefabricated modular home built by Pratt, Read [?] 1964. ,
1964

Subseries 3.13: Photonegatives, 1944 - 1945

Box 71, Folder 1 Piano Actions Models for Patents, circa 1944-1945

Subseries 3.14: Historical Background Information, 1881 - 1989

Box 63, Folder 6 Unpublished "History of the Pratt Read Corporation," by Curtiss S. Johnson,
undated

Box 63, Folder 7 A History of Pratt Read & Company of Deep River, Conn. (Deep River
Historical Society, 1973)

Box 63, Folder 7 Histories of Pratt, Read & Company

Box 63, Folder 8 News Clippings, 1881-1882, 1935-1986

Oversize 1, Folder 4 News Clippings, 1893-1986

Box 63, Folder 9 Ivory Industry in Essex, Conn., Area

Box 63, Folder 10 Ivory Industry

Box 63, Folder 11 Ivory Trade, 1921-1989

Oversize 1, Folder 5 Ivory Trade, 1930-1988

Oversize 1, Folder 5 Photographs of Ivory Cutting in Ivory Factory in Canton, China, 1983 (6 items)

Box 63, Folder 12 News Clipping re: Comstock Family's Return from Africa, 1911

Box 63, Folder 12 "Tales of Zanzibar," Written Recollections of Harriet Cheney Downing, 1942

Box 63, Folder 12 "Recollections of Life in Zanzibar," Written and Recorded Recollections of
Carlotta Welles, 1980

Box 64, Folder 1 Recorded Interviews with A. Guadenzi and R. K. Comstock, Retired
Employees, 1990 (2 cassette tapes)

Box 64, Folder 2 Piano Trade and Music Education, Miscellaneous, 1937-1977

Oversize 1, Folder 6 Piano Trade and Music Education, News Clippings, 1935-1977

Oversize 64, Folder 3 Piano Trade and Music Education, Adoption of Plastics for Keys, 1946-1989

Oversize 64, Folder 4 Piano Trade and Music Education, Keyboards and Action Components

Oversize 64, Folder 5 Piano Trade and Music Education, Service Manual for Aeolian Pianola (key
board player)

- Oversize 64, Folder 6 Piano Trade and Music Education, Music Education, 1936-1979
- Oversize 64, Folder 7 Piano Trade and Music Education, Deep River Festival of Music, 1935:
Performance by Miss Lotta Van Buren Correspondence
- Oversize 64, Folder 8 Piano Trade and Music Education, Performance by Miss Lotta Van Buren,
News Clippings, Programs, Photoprints
- Oversize 1, Folder 6 Piano Trade and Music Education, Home Keyboard Practice Kit Developed by
the National Piano Manufacturers Association, 1958
- Oversize 1, Folder 7 Piano Trade and Music Education, Supplement to The Music Trade Review,
January 7, 1893
- Oversize 1, Folder 7 Piano Trade and Music Education, 1899 Souvenir of Essex, Connecticut, rpt.
for the 90th Anniversary of the Ivoryton Public Library, 1979
- Oversize 1, Folder 7 Piano Trade and Music Education, Supplement to the Deep River New Era,
August 25, 1899
- Box 64, Folder 9 Piano Trade and Music Education, News Clippings, ca. 1977-1988
- Oversize 1, Folder 8 Piano Trade and Music Education, News Clippings, 1978-1987
- Box 64, Folder 10 Piano Trade and Music Education, Ivoryton Inn: ca. 1954-1990
- Box 64, Folder 11 Piano Trade and Music Education, Ivoryton Theatre: ca. 1946-1990

Subseries 3.15: Publications, 1930 - 1981

- Box 64, Folder 12 Facilities of Pratt, Read & Company, 1950
- Box 64, Folder 12 Pratt, Read A Division of Vocaline Company of America, ca. 1968 1970
- Box 64, Folder 12 Pratt, Read Products: Facilities, Specifications and Quotation Forms, ca. 1981
- Box 64, Folder 12 Brochure, ca. 1982
- Oversize 1, Folder 9 "Tin Pan Alley Begins Here Pratt, Read & Co., Inc., Ivoryton, Conn.," rpt. from
Industrial Woodworking, June 1960

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Series 4: Gould Aeronautical Division, 1941 - 1977

The records in this series relate to the Gould Aeronautical Division, set up by Pratt, Read in 1942 to manufacture gliders for the U.S. armed forces during World War II. Pratt, Read's long experience with woodworking made this a logical course of action, since the gliders at the time were constructed primarily of wood. Pratt, Read produced three types of gliders during the war. These were the CG 4A "WACO" troop transport glider, the LNE 1 (or PRG 1) training glider, and an experimental bomb carrying plane, the GLOMB. Both of the latter were made for the U.S. Navy, while the CG 4A was made for the U.S. Army Air Forces.

This series is composed of eleven subseries. FINANCIAL RECORDS include ledgers for the glider manufacturing operations. PERSONNEL RECORDS, 1941-1945, include a listing of employees and their nationalities drawn up in December 1941, notices regarding work rules and practices, position descriptions for salaried employees, and copies of the employee newsmagazine, *The Leading Edge*. Especially interesting are a number of motivational posters done by Pratt, Read employees during the war, which were hung throughout the factory facilities. These posters stress quality workmanship, productivity, safety, and the contributions of the workers to the war effort. Negatives of these posters, and others, are included among the Photonegatives.

MANUFACTURING RECORDS, 1944-1945, consist primarily of various aircraft specifications published by the Army during the war. The REAL ESTATE RECORDS, 1942-1944, consist of photographs showing the construction of a plant for CG 4A glider assembly and floorplans of the main factory in Deep River, which show how the plant was arranged for glider production.

The PHOTOPRINTS, 1942-1945, are arranged according to type of glider. They document, in detail, all stages of production, assembly, flight testing, and shipment of the gliders, especially the CG 4As. Some of the photographs were taken at one of the other factories that produced CG 4A gliders, while others, supplied by the Army, show CG 4As, CG 3As, and CG 13s in service. Several photographs of paintings done by a local artist show the Pratt, Read factory and the CG 4A assembly line in action; the originals of these paintings remain in the possession of the Pratt Read Corporation. Of additional interest are several photographs relating to the first transatlantic glider crossing, which took place in July 1943.

The PHOTONEGATIVES, 1942-1945, show many of the same subjects as the photoprints. However, since most of them were created in the course of photo assignments for *The Leading Edge*, they focus more on the employees and typical factory scenes. The negatives showing the various departments, for example, usually consist of group photos of the workers in that department, rather than scenes showing them at work. Factory scenes include the assembly line, change of shifts, a bond rally, visits of servicemen and women, the 1943 Christmas celebration, and production award ceremonies. Many of the photoprints and photonegatives show the factory grounds covered with CG 4A gliders in various stages of assembly. Others document the packaging and shipping of the finished gliders, and the accidents that took place in transit. The archivist has grouped several sets of related negatives together by topic, since they lacked an overall original arrangement.

Six 16mm training FILMS (produced for the U.S. Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency in 1944) document the various assembly procedures involved in the construction of a CG 4A glider. All six reels are in the training film series *Aircraft Work: Wood Fabrication*, which was produced by the Bray Studios (copyright 1944) for the U.S. Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency. Running about 20 minutes each, they depict in detail the construction of a glider wing from wood.

A diagram and narration at the beginning of each film explains the overall organization of the glider wing and how each part fits into the whole. The wing is divided into panels: inboard and outboard. The inboard panel is divided into sections: trailing, nose, and center. The sections are built separately and assembled in a special jig.

A number of different, apparently experienced woodworkers both men and women are used throughout the series. There is no information regarding their employers, the filming location, or any connection to Pratt, Read. There are no personal production credits on the films, other than the names of the federal agency's administrators.

The NEWS CLIPPINGS, from 1943-1944, mainly concern the use of gliders in the war, including their service in Normandy, the Netherlands, and Burma. They also include information on the production and flight testing of gliders in the United States.

The PUBLICATIONS, 1942-1944, include manuals for constructing and flying the LNE 1 Glider; a government publication titled Wood Aircraft Inspection and Fabrication; two wartime employee newsmagazines from the Waco Aircraft Company and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company; and a publication highlighting Connecticut's role in the war effort. MISCELLANEOUS records, 1942-1979, include a history of Pratt, Read's wartime activities written in 1945, a 1944 annual report for the Gould Aeronautical Division, and some correspondence. Of special interest in this subseries are materials relating to the first transatlantic glider flight of 1943; these include recollections of one of the crew members (taped in 1977), two pieces of the original tow rope used in that flight, and a certificate signed by all the airmen who participated. RELATED MATERIAL, 1944-1983, gathered mainly by Peter Comstock in the postwar years, includes information about two veteran's organizations the National World War II Glider Pilots Association and the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, A.A.F. along with news clippings about former glider personnel and published information about gliders in World War II.

Subseries 4.1: Financial Records, 1942 - 1946

Box 64	Ledger, 1942
Box 65	Ledger, 1943-1944
Box 24-25	Ledgers, 1945-1946 [since these 2 volumes cover both the Piano Division and the Gould Aeronautical Division, they are shelved with the main run of company ledgers]

Subseries 4.2: Personnel Records, 1941 - 1945

Box 67, Folder 1	Salary and Nationality List, December 1941
Box 67, Folder 2	Personnel Notices, 1944-1945
Box 67, Folder 3	History and Description of Salary Positions, 1942-1945
Box 67, Folder 4	Agreement with Union, 1944
Box 67, Folder 5	Factory Inspection Personnel
Box 67, Folder 6	War Ration Books, etc.
Box 67, Folder 7-9	The Leading Edge, 1942-1944 (Employee Newsletter)
Oversize 19, Folder 1	Design for Masthead of The Leading Edge, 1942
Oversize 19, Folder 1	Posters, 1942-1944

Box 67, Folder 10 Information about Posters; Misc. Small Posters

Map-folder 25 Safety Series

Map-folder 26 Misc. Safety; Production; Special Notices; Leading Edge

Map-folder 27 Patriotic Appeals; Car Sharing; War Bonds

Subseries 4.3: Manufacturing Records, 1944 - 1945

Box 68, Folder 1-2 Aircraft Specifications, 1944-1945

Box 68, Folder 3 Disposition of CG 4A Material, 1944

Box 68, Folder 4 Packing Slip for CG 4A Nose Section, 1944

Subseries 4.4: Real Estate Records, 1942 - 1944

Box 68, Folder 5 Photo Scrapbook of Construction of Deep River Plant D, 1942

Map-folder 28 Floor Plans of Deep River Plant A, 1944

Subseries 4.5: Photoprints

Box 68, Folder 6 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/1-320/4/28 Assembly.

Box 68, Folder 7 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/29-320/4/34 Paintings of Assembly Line.

Box 68, Folder 8 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/35-320/4/43 Shipping.

Box 68, Folder 9 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/44-320/4/59 Non Pratt, Read Glider Plants.

Box 68, Folder 10 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/60-320/4/65 CG 4A Gliders.

Oversize 12 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/66-320/4/67

Box 68, Folder 10 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/68-320/4/74, CG 4A Gliders.

Box 69, Folder 1 CG 4A Gliders: 320/4/75-320/4/76 First Transatlantic Glider Flight, July 1943.

Box 69, Folder 2 CG 4A Gliders: Miscellaneous, 320/4/77-320/4/86

Box 69, Folder 3 LNE 1 [PR G1] Training Gliders: 320/4/87- 320/4/107 Assembly.

Box 69, Folder 4 LNE 1 [PR G1] Training Gliders: 320/4/108- 320/4/109 Paintings of LNE 1.

Box 69, Folder 5 LNE 1 [PR G1] Training Gliders: 320/4/110- 320/4/134, Official Shipping and Assembly Instructions.

Box 69, Folder 6 LNE 1 [PR G1] Training Gliders: Duplicate copies of 320/4/110-320/4/134.

Box 69, Folder 7 LNE 1 [PR G1] Training Gliders: 320/4/135- 320/4/145, In Flight, etc.

Box 69, Folder 8 LNE 1 [PR G1] Training Gliders: 320/4/146 - 320/4/148, miscellaneous

Box 69, Folder 9-12 LGLOMB [Navy] Experimental Planes: 320/4/149- 320/4/219, Assembly Line, Department X 20, May 1944 February 1945.

Box 70, Folder 1 LGLOMB [Navy] Experimental Planes: 320/4/220- 320/4/260, Assembly Details. [nos. 320/4/261 through 320/4/323 not used.]

Box 70, Folder 2-5 LGLOMB [Navy] Experimental Planes: 320/4/324- 320/4/418, Assembly Details.

Box 70, Folder 6 LGLOMB [Navy] Experimental Planes: 320/4/419- 320/4/431, Finished GLOMBs.
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 70, Folder 7 LGLOMB [Navy] Experimental Planes: 320/4/432- 320/4/439, Wooden Model of GLOMB.

Box 70, Folder 8 LGLOMB [Navy] Experimental Planes: 320/4/440- 320/4/443, miscellaneous

Box 70, Folder 9 Other Gliders: 320/4/444, CG 3A Glider.

Box 70, Folder 9 Other Gliders: 320/4/445-320/4/44, CG 13 Super Glider.

Subseries 4.6: Photonegatives

Box 71, Folder 2 Plant Layout

Box 71, Folder 3 Deep River Factory Site

Box 71, Folder 4 Ivoryton Factory Site

Box 71, Folder 5 Factory Scenes and Activities

Box 71, Folder 6 Purchasing Department

Box 71, Folder 7 Engineering Department

Box 71, Folder 8 Materials Testing

Box 71, Folder 9 Tool Design Department

Box 71, Folder 10 Machine Shops

Box 71, Folder 11 Mill Room

Box 71, Folder 12 Inspection Department

Box 71, Folder 13 Rib Department

Box 71, Folder 14	Wing Department, Ivoryton
Box 71, Folder 15	Wing Covering Department
Box 72, Folder 1	Department 13
Box 72, Folder 2	Assembly Department
Box 72, Folder 3	CG 4A Assembly Plant D, Deep River
Box 72, Folder 4	CG 4A Assembly
Box 72, Folder 5	CG 4A Gliders in Yard
Box 72, Folder 6	Machinery
Box 72, Folder 7	Storage
Box 72, Folder 8	Crating and Shipping Facilities at City Lumber Co.
Box 72, Folder 9	Crating and Shipping
Box 73, Folder 1	Shipping Facilities at Dauntless Shipyard
Box 73, Folder 2	Accidents
Box 73, Folder 3	Inspection Failures
Box 73, Folder 4	CG 4A Test Flights
Box 73, Folder 5	CG 4A Gliders Photos Supplied by Army Air Force
Box 73, Folder 6	Transatlantic Glider Flight
Box 73, Folder 7	LNE 1 Glider
Box 73, Folder 8	Experimental Plane
Box 73, Folder 9	Posters
Box 73, Folder 10	Paintings
Box 74, Folder 1	ID Badge Photos
Box 74, Folder 2	Photos of Individuals
Box 74, Folder 3	Award Ceremonies
Box 74, Folder 4	Christmas 1943
Box 74, Folder 5	Bond Rally, January 1944

Box 74, Folder 6	Labor Day Celebration, September 1943
Box 74, Folder 7	Labor Management Mural
Box 74, Folder 8	The Leading Edge Office
Box 74, Folder 9	Old Time Photos for The Leading Edge
Box 74, Folder 10	Photos for Specific Issues of The Leading Edge
Box 74, Folder 11	Photos for The Leading Edge Miscellaneous
Box 74, Folder 12	Miscellaneous

Subseries 4.7: Moving Image, 1944 - 1944

Item RF 320.1	No. 1, Building a wooden rib. (683') Summary: A woman and a man assemble wooden ribs to form the nose section of a glider wing.
Item RF 320.2	No. 2, Building a box beam spar. (734') Summary: Opens with scenes of a glider landing, with the narration, "Some gliders are capable of carrying a load greater than their own weight. Nearly all this load is supported by the wings." Two men build a spar (inboard section), piece by piece, in jigs.
Item RF 320.3	No. 3, Laying out and forming plywood. (731') Summary: A man and woman lay out, cut, form, and finish the rectangular plywood skins for the inboard section of a glider wing.
Item RF 320.4	No. 4, Wing assembly the nose section. (710') Summary: Four men and a woman use a jig to assemble and finish spars, install electrical wiring, and attach plywood skin to the nose section of a glider wing.
Item RF 320.5	No. 5, Wing assembly the inboard panel. (653') Summary: Five men assemble the nose section, trailing section, and ribs; apply plywood skins and reinforcements; and do the final sanding and varnishing. A supervisor inspects and approves this glider wing (serial number 855AL; part number 28066 on tag). The inboard panel is now ready for fabric covering.
Item RF 320.6	No. 6, Wing assembly the bow tip. (819') Summary: There are special problems in building the curved end of the wing, requiring advanced woodworking skills. A man and a woman add bow end to already assembled inboard panel, install ribs, mortise in the edge (with hand saw), and do final finishing. The glider wing is now completely assembled and ready for fabric covering.

Subseries 4.8: Publications, 1942 - 1944

- Map-folder 75, Folder 1 Aeronautical Board. ANC Bulletin: Wood Aircraft Inspection and Fabrication. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1944.
- Oversize 20, Folder 1 Manufacturers' Association of Connecticut. Industry's Story Rolls Off the Press. Hartford, 1944.
- Box 75, Folder 2 Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. Pittsburgh People, June 1944.
- Box 75, Folder 2 Soaring, March April 1942.
- Box 75, Folder 2 U.S. Navy. Erection and Maintenance Instructions for Model LNE 1 Glider. Deep River, Conn.: Pratt Read & Company, 1943.
- Box 75, Folder 2 U.S. Navy. Pilot's Handbook, Glider Model LNE 1. Deep River, Conn.: Pratt Read & Company, 1943.
- Box 75, Folder 2 Waco Aircraft Company. The Waco Word, September 1944.

Subseries 4.9: News Clippings, 1943 - 1944

- Oversize 19, Folder 2 News Clippings, March 1943-January 1944
- Oversize 19, Folder 3 News Clippings, December 1943-March 1944
- Oversize 19, Folder 4 News Clippings, February-March 1944

Subseries 4.10: Miscellaneous, 1943 - 1979

- Box 75, Folder 3 Plant History, 1945
- Box 75, Folder 3 Metal Serial Number Plate from a CG 4A Glider
- Box 75, Folder 3 Fabric Salvaged from a CG 4A in March 1979 [2 items]
- Box 75, Folder 4 Copper Printing Plates for CG 4A Glider Photos [2 items]
- Box 75, Folder 5 First Trans Atlantic Glider Flight, July 1943: "By Glider to Blighty," Taped Recollections of Wing Commander F. M. Gobeil, October 1977
- Oversize 21, Folder 1 Pieces of Tow Rope Used [boxed set]
- Map-folder 28 Certificate of Authenticity for Tow Rope Pieces, Signed by all Crew Members, July 1943

Subseries 4.11: Related Materials, 1944 - 1983

- Box 75, Folder 6 Specifications for LNE 1 Glider: Photocopy from Unknown Book on "The United States Glider Programme" in World War II; "Silent Squadrons: The Airborne Soldier and the Glider, "; American History Illustrated, June 1983; and News clippings, 1976-1982

- Box 75, Folder 7 National World War II Glider Pilots Association: Misc. Correspondence, 1978; Silent Wings, September 1978; March, June, and September 1979; and miscellaneous news clippings
- Box 75, Folder 8 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, A.A.F., Veterans' Organization: Unit History, June 1944 and Newsletter, 1973-1983

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Series 5: Subsidiary and Related Companies, 1859 - 1980

The records in Series 5 relate to subsidiary companies owned or operated by Pratt, Read; the divisions of Pratt, Read that were operated independently; companies with which Pratt, Read did business; and the Vocaline Company of America and its subsidiaries. The series consists primarily of advertising records: artwork, mechanicals, proof sheets, photonegatives, and contact sheets. Most of the photoprints in this series probably resulted from photographers' visits to the various factory sites to take pictures for use in advertisements. The bulk of the records in this series date from 1955-1980. The series is arranged alphabetically by company name.

The photoprints for the ALLEN ROGERS CORPORATION, ca. 1972-1980, contain contact sheets showing interior scenes of their factory. The photoprints for ALTRON, INC., ca. 1979, show factory scenes and displays of their products arranged for use in advertisements. All of the photoprints for the BRISTOL MOTORS CO./BRISTOL SAYBROOK CO., ca. 1979, show interior scenes of factory production, while the minute book provides information on the company's operations in 1947-1949. The records of BRITISH PIANO ACTIONS, LTD., 1955-1956, contain correspondence from Pratt, Read president James A. Gould regarding acquisition of the company and its reorganization. The photoprints thoroughly document the layout and operations of the company's factory.

The records on Pratt, Read's CENTRAL, SOUTH CAROLINA, PLANT, 1958 1979, consist of news clippings, employee handbooks, and notes about the union's attempt to organize the plant. The records for the CORNWALL & PATTERSON CO. include minute books, 1957-1973; an interesting report on the company's screwdriver business, 1976; and an expansion proposal from 1978 1979. In addition, photoprints, undated, show both interior and exterior views of their factory and the range of their products. The records of the IVORYTON REALTY COMPANY consist primarily of correspondence regarding the company's stock, dividends, and valuation of its property, as well as a 1946 audit report. The records regarding the KAMAN HELICOPTER CORPORATION, 1953 1965, for which Pratt, Read produced helicopter blades, consist of a 1954 purchase order and a few photoprints showing blade production. The PRATT READ PLAYER ACTION COMPANY records consist of a single 1915 news clipping and an undated catalogue, while those of PRATT, READ, WEBB & COMPANY comprise an 1879 payroll list and an entry from a New York City directory for 1859-1860.

Two of the company's later attempts at diversification are represented by the records of its PRECISION PRODUCTS DIVISION, ca. 1966-1968, and those of its SOUNDER SPORTS DIVISION. The latter include board correspondence regarding the venture and a three year plan for its development. Earlier diversification is shown by nineteenth century engraved views of the factories of STRAUCH BROTHERS COMPANY in New York and SYLVESTER TOWERS COMPANY in Cambridge, Mass. TECH ART PLASTICS COMPANY records, ca. 1962-1969, include advertising artwork, photoprints, mechanicals, and agreements with the union. The records of VAST, INC., ca. 1972-1973, include a copy of the employee newsletter for October 1973, brochures on some of the systems they produced, and photoprints showing the company's research vessels and airplanes and research operations. There is an interesting publicity brochure in the records of the VOCALINE COMPANY OF AMERICA, ca. 1967-1970, which, along with the company's minute books, provides documentation of the company's relationship with Pratt, Read.

Subseries 5.1: Allen Rogers Corporation, 1966 - 1980

Oversize 1, Folder 10	News Clippings, 1972-1980
Oversize 17, Folder 2-3	Advertising Records, Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals
Box 76, Folder 1	Advertising Records, Photoprints
Box 76, Folder 2	Advertising Records, Photonegatives

Box 76, Folder 3 Advertising Records, Employee Benefits Handbook, 1966
Box 76, Folder 3 Advertising Records, Employees' Handbook, 1973
Box 76, Folder 3 Advertising Records, Flyer, undated

Altron, Inc. , 1964 - 1979

Box 76, Folder 4 News Clipping, 1979
Box 76, Folder 4 Photoprints, undated
Box 76, Folder 5 Financial Statements, 1964-1969
Oversize 20, Folder 2 Oversize Photoprints, undated (2 items)

Bristol Motors Company/Bristol Saybrook Company, 1947 - 1979

Box 77, Folder 1 Minute Book, 1947-1949
Oversize 1, Folder 10 News Clippings, 1979
Oversize 20, Folder 1-2 Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, undated
Map-folder P-4 Misc. Oversize Artwork and Mechanicals, undated
Box 77, Folder 2 Photoprints, undated
Oversize 20, Folder 3 Oversize Photoprints, undated (4 items)

British Piano Actions, Ltd., 1955 - 1959

Box 77, Folder 5 Photoprints of Factory, 1955
Box 77, Folder 5 Newsclipping, 1959
Box 77, Folder 3-4 Correspondence of James Gould, June 1955- February 1956

Central, South Carolina Plant, 1958 - 1979

Oversize 1, Folder 10 News Clippings, 1958-1979
Box 78, Folder 1 Organization Manual, September 1959
Box 78, Folder 2 Employee Handbook, ca. 1958
Box 78, Folder 2 Employee Benefits Handbooks, 1958 and 1972

Box 78, Folder 3 Union Attempts to Organize Plant, 1961

Cornwall and Patterson Company , 1957 - 1979

Box 78, Folder 4-5 Minute Books, 1957 -1973 (2 vols.)

Box 78, Folder 6 Report on the Cornwall & Patterson Screwdriver Business, 1976

Box 78, Folder 6 Expansion Proposal, 1978-1979

Oversize 22, Folder 3 Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, undated

Box 78, Folder 7 Photoprints, undated

Oversize 20, Folder 4 Oversize Photoprints, undated

Ivoryton Realty Company, 1936 - 1948

Box 79, Folder 1 Transfer Deed, Dec. 26, 1936

Box 79, Folder 2 Correspondence of George P. Bonnell & Company, Tax Consultants,
1936-1937

Box 79, Folder 3 Stock and Land Appraisal, 1944-1946

Box 79, Folder 4 Stock Papers, 1944-1946

Box 79, Folder 5 Correspondence re: Value of Stock at Time of Death of Stockholder,
1944-1948

Box 79, Folder 6 Audit Report, June 1946

Kaman Helicopter Corporation, 1953 - 1965

Box 79, Folder 7 Photoprints, 1953-1965

Box 79, Folder 7 Purchase Order, 1954

Piano and Organ Supply Company , 1906 - 1929

Box 79, Folder 8 Correspondence re: H. C. Bay Company, 1927- 1928

Box 79, Folder 8 Financial Statements, 1928

Box 79, Folder 8 Photoprint, 1906

Box 79, Folder 8 Engraved View of Factory, ca. 1929

Pratt Read Player Action Company, 1915 - 1915

Box 79, Folder 9 News Clipping, 1915

Box 79, Folder 9 Catalog, undated

Pratt, Read, and Webb Company, 1879 - 1879, 1859 - 1860

Box 79, Folder 10 Payroll, April 29, 1879

Box 79, Folder 10 Page from Wilson's Business Directory of New York City, 1859-1860 , 1859 - 1860

Precision Products Division, 1966 - 1968

Oversize 22, Folder 4 Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, undated

Box 79, Folder 11 Photoprint, ca. 1966-1968

Souder Sports, 1951 - 1976

Box 79, Folder 12 Correspondence re: Golf Club Line, 1975-1976

Box 79, Folder 12 Souder Sports Three Year Plan, 1978

Box 79, Folder 12 Photoprints, 1951 (2 items)

Strauch Brothers, 1891 - 1891, 1927 - 1927

Box 79, Folder 13 Stock Certificates, ca. 1927

Box 79, Folder 13 Catalogue, undated

Box 79, Folder 13 Catalogue, 1891

Box 79, Folder 13 Photocopy of Engraved View of Factory, undated

Sylvester Tower

Box 79, Folder 14 Photocopy of Engraved View of Factory, 19th cent.

Tech Arts Plastic Company , 1962 - 1969

Oversize 22, Folder 5 Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, undated

Box 79, Folder 15 Agreements with Union, 1962, 1966-1969

Box 79, Folder 15 Photoprints, 1965 (2 items)

Vast, Inc., 1972 - 1974

Box 79, Folder 16	Study of Stock Conversion, 1974
Box 79, Folder 16	Quarterly Report, October 1972
Box 79, Folder 16	Brochure, Air and Maritime Services Division, undated
Box 79, Folder 16	Flyer, Deep Ocean Acoustic Measurement System, undated
Box 79, Folder 16	Quarterly Review [Employee Newsletter], October 1973
Box 79, Folder 16	News Clipping, 1973
Box 79, Folder 16	Photoprints, undated

Vocaline Company of America, 1952 - 1970

Box 80, Folder 1-2	Minute Books, 1952-1960 (2 vols.)
Box 81, Folder 1-2	Minute Books, 1961-1968 (2 vols.)
Box 81, Folder 3	Annual Report, June 1970
Box 81, Folder 3	Publicity Brochure, ca. 1970
Box 81, Folder 3	Photoprint, undated
Oversize 22, Folder 6	Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, undated
Oversize 1, Folder 10	News Clippings, 1967

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Series 6: Information on Related Collections, 1977 - 1992

Series 6 contains information on collections related to the Pratt Read Corporation Records. Some of this information was included in the collection when it was acquired by the Archives Center and some was assembled by the archivist while processing the collection. These collections are located in the Archives Center, in other branches of the Smithsonian Institution, and in other repositories. Arranged by repository, each folder typically contains finding aids for the appropriate collection, brochures or newsletters describing the repository, and correspondence with the repository.

A diagram and narration at the beginning of each film explains the overall organization of the glider wing and how each part fits into the whole. The wing is divided into panels: inboard and outboard. The inboard panel is divided into sections: trailing, nose, and center. The sections are built separately and assembled in a special jig.

A number of different, apparently experienced woodworkers both men and women are used throughout the series. There is no information regarding their employers, the filming location, or any connection to Pratt, Read. There are no personal production credits on the films, other than the names of the federal agency's administrators.

Aircraft work: Wood fabrication./A Bray Studios Production. Produced by the Division of Visual Aids, U.S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency (c) 1944. 6 reels (4330'): sd.; b&w ; 16mm positive. Copyright notice on films: Bray Studios; 1944.

All data given are taken from the films; no additional research has been attempted. All are in generally good condition, showing remarkably little wear for their age. Most are slightly warped at their ends.

Box 82, Folder 1	Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
Box 82, Folder 2	Connecticut River Museum, Essex, Conn.
Box 82, Folder 3	Deep River Historical Society, Deep River, Conn.
Box 82, Folder 4	Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.
Box 82, Folder 5	Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Witteman Collection
Box 82, Folder 6	Museum of the American Piano, New York City
Box 82, Folder 7	National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution
Box 82, Folder 8	National Museum of African Art, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, Smithsonian Institution
Box 82, Folder 9	National Soaring Museum, Elmira, N.Y.
Box 82, Folder 10	J. Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.
Box 82, Folder 11	Wethersfield Historical Society, Wethersfield, Conn.

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