



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Wood and Brooks Company Records

NMAH.AC.0457

Alison Oswald

2021

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Wood and Brooks Company Records
Date:	1889-1959
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0457
Creator:	Wood & Brooks Company (Creator)
Extent:	3 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents the activities of Wood & Brooks, a manufacturer of piano keys and actions.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Lawrence G. Brady, 1994.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

- Pratt, Read and Corporation Records (NMAH.AC.0320)
- Warsaw Collection of Business American, Series: Ivory (NMAH.AC.0060)
- Warsaw Collection of Business American, Series: Pianos (NMAH.AC.0060)
- Ernest D. Moore Papers (NMAH.AC.0321)
- Otto Gerdau Collection (NMAH.AC.0363)
- Sohmer & Co. Records (NMAH.AC.0349)
- Steinway & Sons Records and Family Papers (NMAH.AC.0178)
- Chickering & Sons Piano Company Collection (NMAH.AC.0264)

Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Wood and Brooks Company Records, 1925-1966, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

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Accruals

Additional materials documenting Wood and Brooks Company was donated by Courtney Brooks on December 4, 2017.

Biographical / Historical

Charles Raymond Wood founded Wood and Brooks Company in 1901, in North Tonawanda, New York with financial help from Connecticut entrepreneur, M.S. Brooks. The company manufactured piano keys and piano actions. In 1905, Wood and Brooks acquired Seavern Piano Action Company of Cambridge, Massachusetts and in 1910 purchased Kurtz Action Company of Rockford, Illinois.

Source

Dolge, Alfred. *Pianos and Their Makers. Development of the piano, Volume II*, 1913.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of correspondence Charles R. Wood, M.S. Brooks and Hilton C. Brooks, financial and sales records, and some photographs documenting the company's work as manufacturer's of ivory piano keys and piano actions.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series.

Series 1: Executive Records, 1889-1949 Series 2: Correspondence, 1890-1932 Series 3: Financial Records, 1891-1932

Series 4: Photographs, 1902-1959 Series 5: Piano Action and Specification Materials, 1927-1959

Series 6: Miscellaneous, 1958

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Collective labor agreements
- Factories
- Factory workers
- Ivory
- Ivory industry
- Keyboard instruments
- Photographs
- Piano

pianos
stock certificates

Types of Materials:

Business records
Correspondence -- 19th-20th century
Specifications
Specifications

Names:

International Association of Machinists
Pratt, Read and Company
United Furniture Workers of America

Container Listing

Series 1: Executive Records, 1889-1949

Box 1, Folder 1	Certificate of Incorporation, 1901, 1950, 1959
Box 1, Folder 2	By-Laws, 1941, 1947
Box 1, Folder 3	Notice of meeting, 1901
Box 1, Folder 4	Minutes of Organization Meeting, 1901
Box 1, Folder 5	Minutes of Stockholder Meetings, 1909, 1917, 1941
Box 1, Folder 6	Certificate of Merger, 1951, 1969, 1974
Box 1, Folder 7	Certificate of Change in Number of Directors, 1941
Box 1, Folder 8	Certificate of Reduction of Capital Stock, 1949
Box 1, Folder 9	Certificate of Increase in Capital Stock, 1909, 1917
Box 1, Folder 10	Certificate of Payment of Capital Stock , 1902
Box 1, Folder 11	Luther E. Wood agreements, 1942
Box 1, Folder 12	Pratt, Read & Company, 1889-1890

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Correspondence, 1890-1932

Scope and Contents: Topics include costs, plant operations, dividend payments, purchase of ivory, and work at the factory. The majority of the correspondence is between H.C. Brooks and Charles H. Wood as well as other piano action companies.

Box 1, Folder 13	Hilton C. Brooks, 1901, 1904
Box 1, Folder 14	Hilton C. Brooks, 1902
Box 1, Folder 15	Hilton C. Brooks, 1903
Box 1, Folder 16	Hilton C. Brooks, 1909
Box 8, Folder 4	M.S. Brooks, 1900-1915
Box 8, Folder 5	M.S. Brooks, 1916
Box 8, Folder 6	M.S. Brooks, 1917
Box 8, Folder 7	M.S. Brooks, 1918
Box 4, Folder 2	M.S. Brooks & Sons, letterhead, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Sterling Blower Company , 1912-1914
Box 2, Folder 1	Sterling Blower Company , 1914-1916
Box 2, Folder 2	Sterling Blower Company , 1916-1918
Box 2, Folder 3	Sterling Blower Company , 1919-1921
Box 2, Folder 4	Sterling Blower & pipe Manufacturing Company, 1910
Box 8, Folder 8	Charles H. Wood , 1890
Box 8, Folder 9	Charles H. Wood , 1894
Box 2, Folder 5	Charles H. Wood, 1902
Box 2, Folder 6	Charles H. Wood, 1903
Box 2, Folder 7	Charles H. Wood, 1904
Box 2, Folder 8	Charles H. Wood, 1905
Box 2, Folder 9	Charles H. Wood, 1906

Box 3, Folder 1	Charles H. Wood, 1907
Box 3, Folder 2	Charles H. Wood, 1908
Box 3, Folder 3	Charles H. Wood, 1909
Box 3, Folder 4	Charles H. Wood, 1910
Box 3, Folder 5	Charles H. Wood, 1911
Box 3, Folder 6	Charles H. Wood, 1913-1921
Box 3, Folder 7	Charles H. Wood, 1922-1926
Box 3, Folder 8	Charles H. Wood, 1927-1928
Box 3, Folder 9	Charles H. Wood, 1929-1931
Box 4, Folder 1	Charles H. Wood, 1932
Box 8, Folder 2	Charles H. Wood, re: Drummond Island file #2808, 1916-1917
Box 8, Folder 3	Charles H. Wood, re: Drummond Island file #2808, 1918
Box 8, Folder 10	Charles H. Wood , undated
Box 8, Folder 11	Charles H. Wood pension claim materials, 1897
Box 4, Folder 3	General, 1896, 1939
Box 4, Folder 4	General, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Drummond Island Trading Corporation, letterhead, undated
Box 10, Folder 7	N.R. Luther correspondence (3 loose pages), undated

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Financial Records, 1891-1932

Box 4, Folder 5	Pratt, Read & Company, customer orders, 1891-1896
Box 4, Folder 6	Pratt, Read & Company, manufacturing and sales information , 1893-1897
Box 4, Folder 7	Canceled stock certificates (1-199) , 1901-1909
Box 4, Folder 8	Canceled stock certificates (200-350) , 1909-1917
Box 5, Folder 1	Wood & Brooks, valuation , 1917-1926
Box 5, Folder 2	Dividend payments, 1917-1931
Box 5, Folder 3	Inventory, 1903-1908
Box 5, Folder 4	Financial notebook, 1895-1900
Box 5, Folder 5	Financial notebook, 1901
Box 5, Folder 6	Sales data, 1902-1907
Box 9, Folder 1-5	Financial Ledger, 1907-1919 Notes: Includes sales data for Kurtz Action Company, inventories and accounts received.
Box 10, Folder 1	Bills receivable, 1902-1908
Box 10, Folder 2	Sales data, 1922, 1924-1928
Box 10, Folder 3	Sales data, 1929-1932
Box 10, Folder 7	Pratt & Read Company, financial data , 1901-1904

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Series 2: Photographs, 1902-1959

Box 5, Folder 7	Bleach House, undated
Box 5, Folder 8	Factory floor, interior view, undated
Box 5, Folder 9	Ivory samples, undated
Box 5, Folder 10	Kreetan Company (exterior lumberyard views, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Landing craft vehicles, 1940s
Box 5, Folder 12	Machinery, unidentified , undated
Box 5, Folder 13	Machine to cut ivory, undated
Box 5, Folder 14	Matching Department , undated
Box 5, Folder 15	Mills, undated
Box 6, Folder 1	Piano keys, undated
Box 6, Folder 2	PLaning ivory, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Sawing Department, undated
Box 6, Folder 4	Wood & brooks truck, undated
Box 6, Folder 5	Polishing ivory, undated
Box 6, Folder 5	Wood & Brooks factory, exterior views, 1902, undated
Box 6, Folder 6	Wood & Brooks factory, exterior and aerial views, undated
Box 6, Folder 7	Plan of Wood & Brooks factory, undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Unidentified men, portraits, undated
Box 6, Folder 9	Employee list of deaths, undated
Box 6, Folder 10	Annual outing programs, 1909-1911, 1916
Box 6, Folder 10	Picnic pins, 1909
Box 6, Folder 11	Specifications for labor at Wood & Brooks buildings, 1911, 1914
Box 6, Folder 12	Agreements with United Furniture Workers of America, 1957-1959

Box 6, Folder 12	Agreements with Unity Lodge 1553, International Association of Machinists, undated
Box 6, Folder 13	Bribing an alderman in connection with installtion of sewer at factory , 1902-05-27
Box 10, Folder 4	Ivory tusks selected for Steinway & Son , undated
Box 10, Folder 4	Ivory tusk held by employee, undated
Box 10, Folder 5	Thayer piano action, undated
Box 10, Folder 6	Wood & brooks Factory (aerial views) , undated
Box 10, Folder 7	Ivory price charts for 1870 to 1910, undated
Box 10, Folder 7	House of Seaverns, employee profiles, 1907
Box 10, Folder 7	[Unidentified piano action?], undated

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Piano Action and Specification Materials, 1925-1959

Subseries 5.1: General , 1959

Box 7, Folder 1	Pressed Felt Specification report, 1959
Box 7, Folder 2	Actions, customer list, undated
Box 7, Folder 3	Actions, general information , undated

Subseries 5.2: Grand Action Patterns, 1925-1963

Box 7, Folder 4	Everett Piano Company , 1930-1949
Box 7, Folder 5	Jesse French and Sons, 1927-1938
Box 7, Folder 6	Grinnell Brothers, 1937-1941
Box 7, Folder 7	Gulbransen Company, 1932-1957
Box 7, Folder 8	Haddorff Piano Company, 1927-1939
Box 7, Folder 9	Hardman & Peck, 1939
Box 7, Folder 10	Heintzman, 1955
Box 7, Folder 11	Ivers & Pond, 1942
Box 7, Folder 12	W.W. Kimball, 1954-1963
Box 7, Folder 13	Kohler & Campbell, 1949
Box 7, Folder 14	Lester Piano Company, 1933-1939
Box 7, Folder 15	Mathusek Piano Manufacturing Company, 1938-1940
Box 7, Folder 16	Carl Sauter, 1955
Box 7, Folder 17	Sohmer & Company, 1946-1962
Box 7, Folder 18	P.A. Starck Piano Company , 1925-1932
Box 7, Folder 19	Story & Clark Piano company , 1935-1936
Box 7, Folder 20	Weser Brothers, 1936

Box 7, Folder 21 Rudolph Wurlitzer , 1937-1940

Subseries 5.3: Upright Action Patterns, 1931-1966

Box 7, Folder 22 Aeolian American , 1944-1965

Box 7, Folder 23 Astin-Wright Piano Company, 1961

Box 7, Folder 24 Baldwin Piano Company, 1959-1965

Box 7, Folder 25 Bremen Piano Company , 1931-1955

Box 7, Folder 26 Emerson Piano Company , 1955

Box 7, Folder 27 Estey Piano Company, 1953-1963

Box 7, Folder 28 Everett Piano Company, 1949-1966

Box 7, Folder 29 Gordon Laughead Company , 1954

Box 7, Folder 30 Grand Piano Company , 1966

Box 7, Folder 31 Grinnell Brothers , 1938-1964

Box 7, Folder 32 Gulbranse Piano Company , 1949-1966

Box 7, Folder 33 Jansen Piano Company , 1949-1964

Box 7, Folder 34 W.W. Kimball, 1955-1962

Box 7, Folder 35 Kohler & Campbell, 1956-1965

Box 7, Folder 36 Lowrey Piano Company, 1965

Box 7, Folder 37 Sohmer & Company , 1959

Box 7, Folder 38 P.A. Starck Piano Company , 1937-1963

Box 7, Folder 39 Steinway & Sons, 1938-1960

Box 7, Folder 40 Story & Clark , 1941-1965

Box 7, Folder 41 Rudolph Wurlitzer , 1949-1963

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Miscellaneous, 1958

Box 6, Folder 14	Circular about piano key discoloration, undated
Box 6, Folder 16	Wood & Brooks, label, undated
Box 6, Folder 15	Piano action proposal, 1958

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