



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Pelton Water Wheel Collection

NMAH.AC.1093

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2010

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Pelton Water Wheel Collection
Date:	1880-1975
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1093
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering (Collector) National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology (Collector) National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry (Collector)
Creator:	Pelton Water Wheel Company (Creator) Brayton, A.P.
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (5 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection's specific provenance is unknown, but it may have been donated to the Museum's Division of Work and Industry (formerly the Division of Engineering and Industry) by a successor firm of Pelton. The Division transferred the collection to the Archives Center in 2007.

Provenance

Transferred from the Division of Engineering and Industry (now Division of Work and Industry) to the Archives Center in 2007.

Other Finding Aids

Inventory available; contact the Archives Center for more information.

Processing Information

Processed by Kendra Ciccone (intern) April, 2010; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist; revised by Alexandra Henry, intern, 2017.

Preferred Citation

Pelton Water Wheel Collection, 1891-1987, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Lester A. Pelton invented a new type of water wheel, which he patented in 1880. A.P. Brayton bought his business, but the name Pelton became a generic term for this type of wheel. The successor firm was Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton.

Scope and Contents

Papers relating to the Pelton Water Wheel Company of San Francisco, California. Materials include correspondence; business records; photographs, including cyanotypes; negatives, images of turbines; advertisements; journals; blueprints; articles; and trade literature, including catalogs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series.

Series 1: Background Materials, undated

Series 2: Glass Negatives, 1906-1908

Series 3: Correspondence, 1880-1975

Series 4: Trade Literature, 1956

Series 5: Photographs, 1880-1939

Series 6: Miscellaneous, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Hydraulic engineering
- Pumps
- Turbines
- Water-wheels

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Blueprints
- Business records
- Catalogs
- Correspondence
- Cyanotypes
- Glass negatives

Photographs -- 20th century
Reports

Names:

Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton Corporation
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Container Listing

Series 1: Background Information, undated

Box 4, Folder 2

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Series 2: Glass Negatives, 1906 - 1908

Box 1, Item 1	Pelton Turbine unit-cover on, 1907 February 16 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 11	Pelton turbine, front new unit with covers on, 1906 September 26 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 13	Pelton Turbine, undated 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 14	Pelton turbine, Henry Disc bucket, 1906 December 5 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 16	Pelton turbine, needle detecting nozzle, 1906 December 5 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 18	Pelton turbine, Henry disc bucket, 1906 December 5 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 19	Pelton turbine assembly unit, 1906 December 6 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 20	Pelton turbine, needle detecting nozzle and hydraulic gate, 1907 January 15 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 22	Pelton turbine, radial disc integral bucket wheel, 1907 February 8 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 26	Pelton turbine unit cover off, 1907 February 16 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 27	Pelton turbine, nozzle end view of unit, 1907 February 18 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 28	Pelton turbine side view of nozzle, 1907 February 18 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 29	Pelton turbine pipes broken for test, 1907 March 29 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 31	Pelton wheel and triplex pump, 1907 September 13 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 35	Pelton wheel and triplex pump, 1907 September 13 1 Glass negative
Box 1, Item 36	Pelton turbine, model of British Columbia installation, 1907 September 13

1 Glass negative

Box 1, Item 37	Model of telluride installation, 1907 September 15 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 39	Exiter unit, 1907 September 17 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 456	Front view of two units with wheel T, 1907 September 24 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 50	Three wheel double nozzle unit, 1907 November 12 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 72	Proposed method of controlling water flow in deflecting nozzles under high pressure, undated 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 74	Cut off on 12" deflecting nozzle P, undated 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 92	Pelton turbine P, undated 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 93	Pelton turbine, undated 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 135	Double sketch, #6, 1908 May 27 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 154	Pelton Turbine, M.I. Governor, 1908 July 8 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 158	Pelton turbine, type C 6"motor with No. 3 blower, 1908 July 17 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 1881	Pelton turbine, undated 1 Glass negative
Box 2, Item 1882	Pelton turbine, undated 1 Glass negative

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Series 3: Correspondence, 1880 - 1975

Box 4, Folder 1

Correspondence, 1880 - 1975

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Series 4: Trade Literature and Business Records, 1956 - 1956, undated

Box 5, Folder 1-5; Trade literature

Box 3, Item 1-3

Box 4, Item 1 Company report and proposal, 1956

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Series 4: Photographs, 1880 - 1930

Box 4, Folder 4-7

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Series 5: Miscellaneous, undated

Box 4, Folder 3

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