



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
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1093
Date:	1880-1975
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (5 boxes)
Source:	Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of [former name], NMAH, SI. Pelton Water Wheel Company History of Technology, Division of, NMAH, SI Brayton, A.P. Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI
Language:	English Collection is in 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 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.

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 Co.
- History of Technology, Division of, NMAH, SI
- Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of [former name], NMAH, SI.
- Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

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 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 11	Pelton turbine, front new unit with covers on , 1906 September 26 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 13	Pelton Turbine , undated <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 14	Pelton turbine, Henry Disc bucket , 1906 December 5 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 16	Pelton turbine, needle detecting nozzle , 1906 December 5 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 18	Pelton turbine, Henry disc bucket , 1906 December 5 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 19	Pelton turbine assembly unit , 1906 December 6 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 20	Pelton turbine, needle detecting nozzle and hydraulic gate , 1907 January 15 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 22	Pelton turbine, radial disc integral bucket wheel , 1907 February 8 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 26	Pelton turbine unit cover off , 1907 February 16 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 27	Pelton turbine, nozzle end view of unit , 1907 February 18 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 28	Pelton turbine side view of nozzle , 1907 February 18 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 29	Pelton turbine pipes broken for test , 1907 March 29 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 31	Pelton wheel and triplex pump , 1907 September 13 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 35	Pelton wheel and triplex pump , 1907 September 13 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 36	Pelton turbine, model of British Columbia installation , 1907 September 13 <i>1 glass negative</i>
Box 1, Item 37	Model of telluride installation , 1907 September 15

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

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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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