



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Solomon Adler Papers

NMAH.AC.1157

Alison Oswald.

2011

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Solomon Adler Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1157
Date:	1916-1980 (bulk 1950-1966)
Extent:	4.5 Cubic feet (5 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Creator:	Adler, Solomon, 1901-1989
Language:	English Collection text is in English. Some materials in German, French, Japanese and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers document independent inventor Solomon Adler's work with sewing machine technology through correspondence, photographs, notes, drawings, sketches, patents, litigation records, and printed materials. The collection provides insight into both an independent inventor's process of invention and Japanese work culture during the post-World War II period.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by R. Michael Adler and Diane Zoe Adler, September, 2009. Additional materials were donated by R. Michael Adler in 2012.

Separated Materials

The Division of Home and Community Life holds artifacts related to this collection, including several sewing machine prototypes, the Siphon-It and the combination ashtray, lighter and cigarette holder. See Accession numbers: 2009.0118 and 2009.0114.

Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, March 2011.

Preferred Citation

Solomon Adler Papers, dates, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

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.

Accruals

Three cubic feet of material was added in 2012.

Biographical / Historical

Solomon "Sol" Adler is probably best known for his sewing machine inventions, but his portfolio of work also includes ideas and patents for a fountain pen, a window treatment, a receptacle tap, a telescoping umbrella, an ashtray, a retractable table, and jewelry designs. Adler wrote fiction as well (mostly short stories) that reflected his experiences during the early 1900s in New York City. He filled pages with themes on social protest, radicalism, mobs, unions, poverty, and sweatshop operators. In 1958 Adler wrote about theories of nuclear physics, noting, "Indeed a very bold attempt and definitely a long way from sewing machines." Adler's flow of ideas was constant, and he sought to express them constantly.

Sol Adler was born on July 8, 1901, [Russian?] on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, one of Isaac and Mindel Adler's five children. Isaac was a tailor, so sewing machines were part of Sol's life from the beginning. As a young man, Adler apprenticed in machine shops, honing his skills until he became an expert machinist and toolmaker; these skills eventually allowed him to build the machines he visualized. Adler's design drawings show his precision as a draftsman and engineer (he attended the City College of New York) and provide good insight into the drawing abilities that he later used in preparing patent drawings. Adler also enjoyed metalworking. His home workshop boasted a geared lathe, tilling head machine, drill press, bench grinder, and an assorted hand tools.

Adler's work on sewing machines began in the late 1930s with tinkering with his sister-in-law Bess's treadle-operated Singer machine. Bess wanted a lightweight, motorized sewing machine that had enough space between the frame and the needle for large projects such as quilts. Using his own basement machine shop, Adler began building simple frameworks for sewing machines to understand better the relationships between the parts and their functions. Adler's first sewing machine (which he dubbed the "parent machine") earned U.S. Patent 2,561,643, issued in 1951. The machine was a full-size home machine, with a concealed motor and power cord that could also expand into a commercial-size machine. Six subsequent patents for subassemblies were derived from the "parent machine" over the next several years.

During the Second World War, Adler worked for Manufacturing Methods Technology (MM&T) as a development engineer and experimental machine shop supervisor.

Analyzing the evolving U.S. domestic sewing machine market gave Adler ideas for further inventions, refining the machines and adding new features. Unfortunately, success was elusive; his machine with zigzag and straight-stitch capability was rejected by several U.S. and European sewing machine manufacturers. But in 1954, Adler met Max Hugel, president of the Asiatic Commerce Corporation of New York, later known as Brother International Corporation (BIC), a subsidiary of the Nippon Company. Nippon wanted to solve certain design and operational problems it was having in developing a zigzag sewing machine for sale in the United States. Adler joined BIC, moved to Japan, and succeeded in helping correct the design issues. Adler named the machine the "Select-O-Matic" because by turning a few knobs, an operator could select one of the six patterns that the machine produced.

Adler stayed with BIC until 1959, and worked on a variety of sewing machines, including an automatic zigzag machine and the versatile "Pacesetter," which was unveiled in the United States to great acclaim at the Sewing Machine Show in New York City on July 18, 1955 (a version of the Pacesetter is still sold by Brother). Additionally, he worked on a line of industrial and domestic sewing machines, home washing machines, home knitting machines, and other small appliances. Adler earned several Japanese patents for his work.

Among Adler's writings is a pronouncement of his passion for invention: "When an idea is conceived by an inventor, it never leaves him in peace, it possesses him day and night until it is expressed, after which he enjoys a sense of relief and accomplishment."

Adler married Fay (née Kagan) in 1928. They had two children, Ralph Michael Adler and Diane Zoe Adler. Adler died on May 31, 1989 at the age of 88.

Issued United States Patents:

Receptacle tap (2,184,263)

Correlating device (2,284,843)

Sewing machine (2,561,643)

Sewing machine feed (2,473,934)

Bobbin winder for sewing machine (2,455,638)

Extension leaf for sewing machines (2,464,838)

Sewing machine feed (2,473,934)

Threading device (2,516,171)

Sewing machine pressure bar (2,554,970)

Sewing machine needle bar operating mechanism (2,554,971)

Sewing machine (2,561,643)

Sewing machine (2,709,978)

Attachment for zigzag sewing machines (3,016,030)

Sewing machine (3,053,207) assigned to Nippon Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company

Sewing machine (3,055,325) assigned to Nippon Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company

Method and apparatus for making non-woven fabric (3,236,711) assigned to Adler Process Corporation

Method for producing non-woven fabric (3,250,655)

Method and apparatus for producing pile fabric (3,309,252) assigned to Adler Process Corporation

Method and apparatus for production of pile fabric and the like (3,424,632) assigned to Adler Process Corporation

Combined ashtray, cigarette holder and lighter (Des. 163,984)

Scope and Contents

The papers include correspondence, photographs, notes, drawings, sketches, patents, litigation records, and printed materials, primarily documenting Adler's work with sewing machine technology. The papers provide insight into an independent inventor's process of invention and Japanese work culture during the post-World War II period.

Series 1, Personal Materials, 1920s-1950s and undated consists primarily of high school chemistry and biology notes, business cards, photographs, speeches, and writings of Sol Adler. The photographs contain one black-and-white portrait of Adler, November 1958, and two negatives of him from the nineteen teens; and one scanned copy of a photograph, circa the 1920s of Sol Adler with his children, R. Michael and Diane Zoe Adler. There is a small booklet, *Agreement between Manufacturers Machine and Tool Co., Inc., and Amalgamated Machine and Instrument Local No. 475* from 1941. Adler worked for Manufacturers Machine and Tool Co., Inc.

Series 2, Inventions, is divided into two subseries: Subseries 1, Other, 1919-1980 and undated, and Subseries 2, Sewing Machines, 1938-1962 and undated. Arranged chronologically, both subseries highlight Adler's inventive work. While the primary focus of Adler's invention work was on sewing machines, his interests were broad.

Subseries 2.1, Other Inventions, 1919-1980 and undated, contains documentation in the form of drawings and sketches, photographs, correspondence, and patents. Overall, the documentation is uneven. The inventions include a dividing head (a specialized tool that allows a workpiece to be easily and precisely rotated to preset angles or circular divisions); decorative window treatment; telescoping umbrella; can opener; question/answer machine; correlating device; radio station recording device; receptacle tap; fountain pen; television projection device; combined ash tray and cigarette holder; automatic machine gun; juice blender; thermonuclear idea; apparatus for producing pile fabric; an extensible, retractable and concealable table; and textile machinery.

Only some of Adler's inventions were patented. However, many of his ideas were well documented through drawings or descriptive text. In some instances prototypes were built.

The **question and answer machine**, 1939, was approximately three feet by four feet and was powered by a battery, the device was intended for educational use by children and adults. It used interchangeable answer cards on a broad range of subjects and informed the user of a correct and wrong answer by lights and a buzzer.

The **correlating device**, 1942, was designed for automobile use, and it combined driving directions and maps on a roll of paper data mounted on the dashboard. Although patented (US Patent 2,282,843), the device was never manufactured.

The **radio station recording device**, 1939, was a device to maintain a record of radio stations tuned on a radio receiver during a twenty-four hour period using recording disks.

The **receptacle tap (Siphon-It)**, 1939, was patented (US Patent 2,184,263). The Siphon-It was designed to fit any size bottle, can, or the like containing fluids without removing the bottle cap. The "tap" punctured the bottle cap and was then turned like a screw several times. It allowed the contents under pressure to not lose carbonation and be poured easily.

The **combined ash tray and cigarette holder and lighter**, 1951, was Adler's only design patent (US Patent Des. 163,984). Purely ornamental, the tray would light and hold a cigarette.

The **automatic machine gun**, 1952, was conceived of by Adler and his son R. Michael Adler. The drawings and accompanying narrative text detail a method for cooling the gun through the use of an

automatically operated gas turbine centrifugal air compressor and a gun of simple design with few parts and capable of an extremely high rate of fire. Adler submitted his drawings and text to the United States Army Ordnance Department at the Pentagon, but it was not manufactured.

Adler's **thermonuclear fusion proposal**, a technical paper written in 1960, was never realized. The paper, titled "Attempt to Utilize the Concentrated Magnetic Field Around a Pinched Plasma Column as the Focal Point for Particle Acceleration," details through text and schematics Adler's ideas about a thermonuclear reactor. Additionally, there is correspondence, journal articles, newspaper articles, and a notebook with notes from other publications and some loose drawings related to thermonuclear issues.

An **apparatus for producing pile fabric** (US Patent 3,309,252), was patented in 1967. The intention of the apparatus was to create a method for producing carpets and rugs in a fast, practical, and inexpensive way.

Adler's work with **non-woven textiles and fabrics** (see US Patent 3,250,655) is well documented through correspondence, drawings, notes, fabric samples, and photographs. Adler founded the Adler Process Corporation in the 1960s as a research and development organization specializing in the development of products for domestic and industrial uses. The corporation also built machinery for the commercial production of the products which included pile fabric (such as carpeting), non-woven fabrics, and leather-like material. A prospectus details the "Adler Process."

Method and apparatus for production of pile carpeting and the like (US Patent 3,424,632, 3,592,374, and 3,655,490)

Subseries 2.2, Sewing machines, 1938-1962 and undated, consists primarily of documentation about the development of the Pacesetter sewing machine and its predecessors through correspondence, drawings and sketches, photographs, guide manuals, and promotional materials. Adler constructed skeletal aluminum models to better understand the functions and internal mechanisms of sewing machines. Between 1940 and 1948, he designed and constructed a sewing machine prototype, which he called his "Parent Machine." The Parent Machine would become known as the Pacesetter. Seven patents were awarded for the novel mechanisms contained within this prototype (US Patent 2,561,643), the most notable being for a compact sewing machine that could expand to a full-sized machine. Additional sewing machine inventions include the needleless sewing machine; a zig-zag sewing machine, and an attachment for a zig-zag sewing machine (US Patent 3,016,030).

While working as an engineer for the Brother International Corporation in Japan in the early 1950s, Adler developed the Pacesetter sewing machine. This portable machine was designed to meet the rapidly growing popularity of multiple decorative and embroidery patterns. A selector dial, which Adler called the "Wishing Dial," controlled sixteen internal cams, multiple cam selectors and followers to automatically sew thirty different basic decorative stitch patterns. Since the Pacesetter could sew both zigzag and straight stitches, varying the width and length of the basic patterns made it possible to create thousands of decorative variations. Adler introduced the Pacesetter sewing machine at the Independent Sewing Machine Dealers Show in New York, July 18, 1955.

Series 3: Brother International Corporation, 1954-1959 and undated

Started in 1908 by Kanekichi Yasui, the Yasui Sewing Machine Company manufactured and repaired sewing machines. The company was later renamed Yasui Brother Sewing Machine Company by Masayoshi Yasui, the eldest of Kanekichi's ten children, who inherited the company. The new name reflected the involvement and spirit of cooperation of other "brothers" in the Yasui family.

In 1934, the Yasui brothers liquidated the Yasui Brother Sewing Machine Company and created the Nippon Sewing Machine Company in Nagoya, Japan. Nippon emerged in response to a Japanese sewing machine market dominated by imported products, and it began mass producing industrial sewing machines. In 1941, Brother Sales, Ltd. was established as a sales outlet for the Japanese market,

and in 1954 Brother International Corporation (BIC) was created as an exporting company with offices established in New York City. The company actively promoted exporting in advance of other Japanese companies.

Adler joined BIC in 1954 as a consultant for their product design and development work. This work was previously done in-house by design and engineering staff, so Adler, an American, was charting new territory. The materials in this series consist of corporate histories, and annual report, correspondence, product literature, conference materials, and notebooks maintained by Adler. The latter constitutes the bulk of the material along with the correspondence.

The "conference" materials document a meeting Adler attended, presumably in Japan in 1957. The file contains detailed notes about product marketing and production factors. A flow chart for "product coordinating factors" outlines the motivations, idea sources, management control, and execution of an idea generally.

The correspondence, 1954-1958, consists of letters and inter-company communications (memorandum), patents and drawings between Sol Adler, Max Hugel and the legal firm of, Kane, Dalsmier and Kane of New York. The correspondence relates almost exclusively to patenting matters, especially by Adler and legal matters involving Singer Sewing Manufacturing Company alleging that Brother International infringed on certain Singer-owned patents.

The notebooks of Solomon Adler, approximately 1951-1958, consists primarily of materials documenting Adler's work in Japan on sewing machines. The materials were assembled by Adler and titled "notebook." Some of the materials are three hole punched (indicating they may have been in a three-ring notebook) and are both handwritten and typescript. Also included are chronologies of his work; translations of Japanese words into English; drawings in pencil on tracing paper; sketches in pencil on scrap paper and letterhead; detailed notes about mechanisms and methods of sewing machine operation; business cards; comparative data for sewing machines; and correspondence.

Of note is the "digest" or chronology of events from 1958 to 1959 maintained by Adler to detail the alleged patent infringement of BIC on Singer Sewing machine patents. The digest also notes the value, author of a document, to whom it was sent, date, and a brief description. Adler created a ranking system for his digest, assigning different values, very important, urgent, important, and general. He also compiled a chart of competitor sewing machines by brand name. Many of the Japanese documents--patents and drawings--bear Adler's "chop" or rubber stamp with Japanese characters for his surname.

The Litigation Materials, 1952-1961 and undated, consists of documents (numbered exhibits) assembled by Adler for use in litigation against Brother International Corporation (BIC). The exhibits were used as documentary evidence in court, and the materials are primarily typescript notes and correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, technical drawings by Adler, patents, photographs and some product literature detailing aspects of the BIC sewing machines.

In 1958, Singer Sewing Machine Company filed a lawsuit against Nippon Sewing Machine Company for patent infringement by BIC's Pacesetter and Select-O-Matic sewing machines. Adler, on behalf of Nippon, conducted extensive patent research into the allegations, working with BIC attorneys in New York as well as creating new sewing machine designs to overcome Singer's claims. In 1959, Singer filed another lawsuit alleging that Nippon was violating United States customs laws by shipping automatic zigzag sewing machines to the United States, which were alleged to infringe on Singer patents. Correspondence related to this patent infringement can be found in Series 3: Brother International Corporation.

Adler returned to the United States in April of 1959 as the representative for Nippon and the Japanese sewing machine industry to help prepare the case and act as a consultant. BIC and Singer representatives appeared before the United States Tariff Commission (USTC). Adler officially testified on behalf of BIC, explaining the three angle cam structure difference between the Singer #401 sewing machine and imported Japanese sewing machines. Adler's testimony was successful, and with patent problems

resolved, Adler resigned from BIC in July of 1959 and commenced a long negotiation with the company for financial compensation for his invention work.

Series 5, Publications, 1953-1967, consists of select issues of the *New Japan Sewing Machine News*, which followed developments in the Japanese sewing machine industry and other publications featuring articles and brief pieces about sewing machines in general.

References

(<http://welcome.brother.com/hk-en/about-us/history.html> last accessed on March 24, 2011)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

Series 1: Personal Materials, 1920-1950s and undated

Series 2: Inventions, 1938-1980

Subseries 1: Other, 1938-1980

Subseries 2: Sewing, 1938-1962 and undated

Series 3: Brother International Corporation, 1952-1961

Series 4: Publications, 1953-1967

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Inventors
- Sewing machines

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Drawings -- 20th century
- Legal records
- Notes
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Printed material
- Sketches

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal Materials, [1916?]-1950s

- Box 1, Folder 1 High school chemistry notes , [1916?]
- Box 1, Folder 2 High school chemistry notes , [1916?]
- Box 1, Folder 3 High school biology notes , [1916?]
- Box 1, Folder 4 Business card, circa 1950s
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1 Sol Adler, Technical Advisor [business card], [ca. 1950-1960]
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 2-1/4" x 3-1/2".)
[Image\(s\): Sol Adler, Technical Advisor \[business card. ca. 1950-1960\].](#)
[Image\(s\): Sol Adler, Technical Advisor \[business card. ca. 1950-1960\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
In Japanese on one side, English on the other.
"Nippon Sewing Machine Mfg. Co. Ltd....Nagoya, Japan".

A blue ink mark, not part of the printing, is also on this card.

Bent, stained, Japanese side marked with ink.

Local Numbers
 AC1157-0000005.tif (AC Scan No.: Japanese side)

 AC1157-0000007.tif (AC Scan No.: English side)

 Names: Nippon Sewing Machine Mfg. Co. Ltd.
 Topic: Sewing machines
 Genre/ Business cards
 Form:
- Box 1, Folder 5 Address book with loose notes, 1974 - 1985
- Box 1, Folder 6 Photographs, 1958, 1920s
[Image\(s\)](#)

Solomon Adler, November 1958. [black-and-white photoprint]
1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; approx. 5" x 4".)
[Image\(s\): Solomon Adler, November 1958. \[black-and-white photoprint\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
Image is out of focus.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000004.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990

Genre/ Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Black-and-white photoprints

Form: -- Silver gelatin

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 6A | Agreement between Manufacturers Machine and Tool Co., Inc., and Amalgamated Machine and Instrument Local No. 475, 1941 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Speeches, 1955, 1955, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Writings, "Just a Poor Boy's Will", undated |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Writings, "Zimbalist", undated |

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Series 2: Inventions, 1938-1980

Subseries 2.1: Other Inventions, 1919-1980

- Box 5, Folder 1 Dividing head, 1919 June 14
- Box 5, Folder 2 Decorative window structure, 1935 February 11
- Box 5, Folder 3 Telescoping umbrella, 1938 April 7
- Box 1, Folder 10 Thumb screw nut, 1937 - 1938
- Box 1, Folder 11 Can opener, 1938 September 5
- Box 1, Folder 12 Question/Answer machine, 1939
- Box 5, Folder 4 Correlating Device, 1939 March
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5 "Correlating Device," [color drawing], March 20, 1939
1 Item (Pencil and ink on paper.; 11-1/2" x 14-1/4".)
[Image\(s\): "Correlating Device," March 20, 1939 \[color drawing\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Artist
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
In pencil and color.
- Local Numbers
AC1157-0000011.tif (AC Scan No.)
- Genre/ Drawings -- 1930-1940
Form:
- Box 5, Folder 5 Radio station recording device, 1939 September 9
- Box 1, Folder 13 Receptacle tap (Siphon-It), 1939 December 19
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1 Patent number 2,184,263, Dec. 19, 1939. "S. Adler, Receptacle Tap, Filed March 4, 1938." [black and white]
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 11-1/4" x 7-3/4".)
[Image\(s\): Patent number 2,184,263, Dec. 19, 1939. "S. Adler, Receptacle Tap, Filed March 4, 1938." \[black and white\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
A drawing of a Solomon Adler invention.
- Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000009.tif (AC Scan No.)

Box 1, Folder 8 (or
possibly 7)SIPHON-IT [color brochure], 1939
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 6-3/8" x 10-1/8".)[Image\(s\): SIPHON-IT \[color brochure \], 1939.](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Brochure for a dispenser of carbonated beverages. Brochure is silver, green and white. Note: two copies in collection.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000022.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Beverages -- 20th century
SiphonsGenre/ Brochures
Form:

Box 1, Folder 14

Fountain pen (with bladder), 1940 April 12

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1

Fountain pen with bladder [black-and-white drawing], 1940
1 Item (Pencil on paper.; 8-3/4" x 5-3/4".)[Image\(s\): Fountain pen with bladder \[black-and-white drawing\], 1940.](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Artist

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Signed "S Adler / 4/12/40".

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000021.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Fountain pens
InventionsGenre/ Drawings -- 1900-1950
Form:

Box 1, Folder 15

Television projection device, 1940 March 4

Box 5, Folder 6

Combined ash tray, cigarette holder and lighter, 1951 July 24

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 5

[Ash tray with cigarettes, cigarette holder, cigarette lighter, and hand :
black-and-white photoprint.], 1951

1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; 8" x 10".)

Image(s): [Ash tray with cigarettes, cigarette holder, cigarette lighter, and hand : black-and-white photoprint,], 1951.

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Lowy Adv. Agency (New York, N.Y.)

Black-and-white photograph, apparently retouched. "Lowy Adv. Agency, 41, Park Row, New York" on verso.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000010.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Cigarettes -- 1950-2000
Smoking -- 1940-1990

Genre/ Form: Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Black-and-white
photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Box 4, Folder 1	Automatic machine gun, 1952 July 8
Box 4, Folder 2	Juice blender (painting), 1955
Box 1, Folder 16	Combination vertical canister type vacuum cleaner, [1957?]
Box 1, Folder 17	Combined vacuum and floor polisher, 1957
Box 1, Folder 18-19	Thermonuclear fusion (correspondence), 1957 - 1969
Box 1, Folder 19	Thermonuclear fusion (notebook with loose notes and drawings), circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 19A	Thermonuclear fusion (paper, Attempt to utilize the concentrated magnetic field around a pinched plasma column as the focal point for particle acceleration), 1960, 1958 August 6
Box 1, Folder 19B	Thermonuclear fusion (publications), 1957 - 1958, 1942
Box 1, Folder 19C	Thermonuclear fusion (publications), 1958, 1956, 1951 <i>Atmos for Peace Digest</i> , 1958 <i>Reviews of Modern Physics</i> , 1956 July <i>General Electric Review</i> , 1958 September <i>Mechanical Engineers Handbook</i> (notes), 1951
Box 1, Folder 20	Carpet machine (general information), 1955 - 1974

Box 1, Folder 21	Carpet machine (photographs), circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 22	Carpet machine (notes), circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 23	Fabric testing, 1962
Box 1, Folder 24	Apparatus for producing pile fabric (US Patent 3,424,632), 1972, 1966
Box 1, Folder 25	Producing pile fabric, 1966 - 1968
Box 1, Folder 26-28	Adler process pile carpet system, 1966 - 1970
Box 1, Folder 29	Pile carpeting, 1973
Box 1, Folder 30	Extensible, retractable, concealable table, 1980
Box 1, Folder 31	Washer/dryer, undated
Box 1, Folder 32	Miscellaneous sketches, 1949, undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Textile machinery (carpet sample), undated
Map-folder 1	Carpet machine, non-woven textiles (US Patent 3,250,655) (6 sheets), 1965 - 1966

Subseries 2.2: Sewing Machine Inventions, 1938-1962

Box 2, Folder 1	Patents, 1948 - 1959
Box 1, Folder 1A	Sewing machine (#4, the expansion machine), 1955
Box 2, Folder 1B	Sewing machine (#5, free arm), [1954-1962?]

[Image\(s\)](#)

Part of a Japanese patent spec., July 26, 1957. [color]
1 Item (10-1/4" x 7-1/2").

[Image\(s\): Part of a Japanese patent spec., July 26, 1957. \[color\].](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
Japanese Patent No. 223520.

Box No.1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000012.tif (AC Scan No.)

[Sewing machine in a case : black-and-white drawing], undated
1 Item (11-1/2" x 8-3/8").

[Image\(s\): \[Sewing machine in a case : black-and-white drawing, undated\].](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Artist

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Most text in Japanese.

Near bottom right is a red stamp; the top portion says "Sol / Adler", and the bottom portion is in Japanese.

Box No.1, Folder 16.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Pencil on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000020.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Sewing machines

Genre/ Drawings -- 20th century

Form:

Box 2, Folder 2	Knitting machine (Wonderknit), 1955
Box 2, Folder 3	Sewing machine (lateral feed), 1957 - 1958
Box 2, Folder 3A	Sewing machine having a displaceable feed dog , 1957 - 1959
Box 2, Folder 4	Needleless sewing machine, 1958
Box 2, Folder 5	Zigzag sewing machine, 1954 and 1958
Box 2, Folder 6	Attachment for zigzag sewing machine, 1961 - 1962
Box 2, Folder 6A	Japanese patent applications for sewing machines and other inventions , 1956
Box 2, Folder 6B	Japanese patent applications for the Pacesetter , 1958
Box 2, Folder 7	Pacesetter (correspondence), 1955 - 1956

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Woman with Brother sewing machine] [black-and-white photoprint,], 1950
1 Item (10" x 8").

[Image\(s\): \[Woman with Brother sewing machine\] \[black-and-white photoprint,\] 1950.](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Smiling Japanese woman wearing a kimono.

Box No.1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000018.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Brother Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
(Nagoya, Japan)

Topic: Kimonos
Sewing machines

Genre/ Form: Photographs -- 20th century -- Black-and-white
photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Culture: Japanese

Box 2, Folder 7A

Pacesetter (photographs), circa 1950s

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Woman using the Brother Pacesetter sewing machine : black-and-white photoprint], [ca. 1950s]
1 Item (8" x 10").

[Image\(s\): \[Woman using the Brother Pacesetter sewing machine : black-and-white photoprint, ca. 1950s\].](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Caucasian woman.

Box No.1.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000017.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Brother Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
(Nagoya, Japan)

Topic: Sewing machines
Genre/ Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Black-and-white
Form: photoprints -- Silver gelatin

- Box 1, Folder 8 Pacesetter (early unit being assembled), undated
- Box 2, Folder 9 Pacesetter (wood model), undated
- Box 2, Folder 10 Pacesetter photographs (flatbed), undated
- Box 2, Folder 11 Pacesetter (H1 model without dial), undated
- Box 2, Folder 12 *Pacesetter Guide*, 1956
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 1 Pacesetter [sewing machine user's guide] [pamphlet], 1956
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 8-1/2" x 5-1/2".)
[Image\(s\): Pacesetter \[sewing machine user's guide\] \[pamphlet\], 1956.](#)
Brother Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Nagoya, Japan),
Publisher
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
Instruction manual, 32 pp. + cover. Cover has line illustration of woman holding sewing machine on cover.
- Local Numbers
AC1157-0000016.tif (AC Scan No.: cover)
- Topic: Pacesetter (brand name)
Sewing machines
- Genre/ Instructional materials
Form: Manuals -- 1950-1970
Pamphlets -- 1950-2000
- Box 2, Folder 13 *Pacesetter Service Manual for model FZ2* (copy in Japanese), 1956
- Box 5, Folder 7 Needleless Sewing machine (drawings only), 1958
- Box 5, Folder 8 Pacesetter materials--miscellaneous, 1955
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5 Fabric with stitching examples, 1955. [color]
1 Item (8-3/4" x 8-1/2".)
[Image\(s\): Fabric with stitching examples, 1955. \[color\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
Fabric contains various sewing machine stitches in various colors.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000008.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Sewing machines

- Box 5, Folder 9 Pacesetter--engineering drawings [partial index?], circa 1954
- Box 5, Folder 10 Pacesetter--engineering drawings ("F" Drawings), 1954 August
- Box 5, Folder 11 Pacesetter--engineering drawings ("H" Drawings), 1954 August
- Box 5, Folder 12 Pacesetter--engineering drawings ("Z" drawings), August 1954
- Box 5, Folder 13 Pacesetter--engineering drawings ("C" drawings), 1954 August
- Map-folder 1 Pacesetter--mechanical elements of sewing machine by Fritz Gegauf (US patent 2,832,302)
24 Drawings
- Box 4, Folder 4 Number 1, child-size sewing machine drawings with horizontal motor in base, 1938 July 1
- Box 4, Folder 5 Number 3, parent design drawings (Pacesetter), 1945
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 4 Patent drawing of No. 3 sewing machine, undated. [black and white]
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 15" x 10".)
[Image\(s\): Patent drawing of No. 3 sewing machine, undated. \[black and white\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.
- Local Numbers
AC1157-0000013.tif (AC Scan No.)
Topic: Sewing machines
- Box 4, Folder 6 Number 5, free arm expansible flat bed sewing machine drawings, [1954-1962?]
- Box 4, Folder 7 Pacesetter materials (schematics and drawings with paint), 1956

Box 4, Folder 15 Photographs (unidentified), undated

Map-case 3, Drawer 25, Drawings for unidentified Japanese sewing machine, (43 sheets), undated
Folder 1

Subseries 2.3: Non-Woven Textiles, 1950 - 1980

The Adler Process, developed by the Adler Process Corporation, is a method of orienting yarns in a transverse relationship so as to produce fabrics from a large variety of yarns with physical properties. Materials consist of reports, notes,

Box 1, Folder 25A The Adler Process (prospectus), undated

Box 3, Folder 42 Apparatus for production of non-woven materials , 1969 - 1972

Box 3, Folder 43 Patent, method for producing non-woven fabric (US patent 3,250,655), 1966
May 10

Box 3, Folder 44 Comparative manufacturing costs, 1963

Box 3, Folder 45-46 Fabric test samples, [circa 1960s?]

Box 3, Folder 47 Thermal and radiation protection fabrics, 1962

Box 3, Folder 48 Bonding agents used in non-woven fabrics, 1962 - 1972

Box 3, Folder 49 Project history and cost, 1962

Box 3, Folder 50 Leather-like material, 1950

Box 3, Folder 51 M.J. Fassler and Company, inc., 1968 - 1969

Box 3, Folder 52 Comparison chart, shuttleless loom, weave-ex machine production, manpower efficiency, circa 1960s

Box 3, Folder 53 Project synopsis (typescript report), undated

Box 3, Folder 54 Samples, undated

Box 3, Folder 55 Castro Convertibles, 1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Brother International Corporation (BIC), 1952 - 1961

- Box 2, Folder 14 History, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 3 BROTHER / GENERAL / CATALOGUE fold-out leaflet, [ca. 1950s.]
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 9-3/4" x .20-1/4")
[Image\(s\): BROTHER / GENERAL / CATALOGUE fold-out leaflet, ca. 1950s.\]](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector
Elegant woman shown on the cover, products shown inside, including sewing machines, washing machine, electric fan, knitter, blender, and steam iron.
- Local Numbers
AC1157-0000015.tif (AC Scan No.: cover)
- Names: Brother Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Nagoya, Japan)
- Topic: Blenders
Fans (Machinery)
Household appliances
Irons (Pressing)
Sewing machines
Washing machines
- Genre/
Form: Catalogues
Catalogues
Leaflets
- Box 2, Folder 15 Annual report, 1957
- Box 2, Folder 15A Pacesetter fashion Show (press materials), 1955
- Correspondence, 1954 - 1959
- Box 2, Folder 16 Correspondence, 1954
- Box 2, Folder 17 Correspondence, 1955
- Box 2, Folder 17A Correspondence, 1958 March-1958 April
- Box 2, Folder 17B Correspondence, 1958 May-1958 August
- Box 2, Folder 17C Correspondence, 1958 September-December 1958
- Box 2, Folder 18 Correspondence, 1958 March
- Box 2, Folder 19 Correspondence, 1958 April

Box 2, Folder 20 Correspondence, 1958 May

Box 2, Folder 21 Correspondence, 1958 June

Box 2, Folder 22 Correspondence, 1958 July

Box 3, Folder 1 Correspondence, 1958 August

Box 3, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1958 September

Box 3, Folder 3 Correspondence, 1958 October

Box 3, Folder 4 Correspondence, 1958 November

Box 3, Folder 5 Correspondence, 1958 December

Box 3, Folder 6 Correspondence, 1959 January

Box 3, Folder 7 Product literature, circa 1950s

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Product literature sheet for the Brother Pacesetter Model 200 sewing machine], [ca. 1950s.]

1 Item (Ink on paper.; 11" x 8-1/2".)

[Image\(s\): \[Product literature sheet for the Brother Pacesetter Model 200 sewing machine, ca. 1950s.\]](#)

Brother Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Nagoya, Japan), Publisher
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Pacesetter sewing machine. Black-and-white sheet with reproduction of photograph. From publicity packet in a green folder labeled "Brother."

Box No.2, folder 4.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000014.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Pacesetter
 Sewing machines

Genre/ Advertisements
Form: Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Reproductions

Map-folder 1 *Merchandising News*, 1955 July

Box 3, Folder 8 Brother World Famous Products, circa 1957

- Box 3, Folder 9 Conference materials (current trends), 1957
- Notebooks, 1951 - 1958
- Box 3, Folder 12 Notebook, 1956 - 1957
- Box 3, Folder 13 Notebook (loose items), 1955 - 1957
[Image\(s\)](#)
- [Sketch of Solomon Adler's workspace (from his notebook), 1955-1957, black-and-white drawing]
1 Item (Pencil on paper.; approx. 8-1/2" x 11".)
[Image\(s\): \[Sketch of Solomon Adler's workspace \(from his notebook\), 1955-1957, black-and-white drawing\].](#)
Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Artist
Pencil sketch on cream-colored paper.
Creased from folding.
- Local Numbers
 AC1157-0000003.tif (AC Scan No.)
- Topic: Work environment
 Genre/ Drawings -- 1950-1960
 Form:
- Box 5, Folder 14 Notebook (loose materials) , [1951-1958?]
- Box 3, Folder 10 *Brother Select-O-Matic Guide*, circa 1950s
- Box 3, Folder 11 Ambassador Douglas MacArthur's visit to the Nippon Sewing Machine Mfg. Company, 1957 August
- Litigation Materials, 1952-1961
- Box 3, Folder 14 Adler outline of his association with Brother, [1961?]
- Box 3, Folder 15 Exhibit list (index to items), undated
- Box 3, Folder 16 Exhibit #2 (letter of March 15, 1955 from Max Hugel to Sol Adler and *The Sewing Machine News*, 1955
- Box 3, Folder 17 Exhibits #3-#4 (*Behind the Scenes*, advertisements, notes, patent application materials), 1953 - 1960

[Image\(s\)](#)

Article from Behind the Scenes about Sol Adler and the Pacesetter, September, 1955. [black and white]

1 Item (SIZE.)

[Image\(s\): Article from Behind the Scenes about Sol Adler and the Pacesetter, September, 1955. \[black and white\].](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Sol Adler standing next to a Pacesetter sewing machine by Brother.

Box No.2.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000006.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990
Brother Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
(Nagoya, Japan)

Topic: Sewing machines

Genre/ Magazines (periodicals) -- 1950-1980

Form:

Box 3, Folder 18	Exhibit #5 (Pacesetter features), undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Exhibits #7-#8 (DNZ, German sewing machine news), 1957 January
Box 3, Folder 20	Exhibit #9 (letter from Sumitomo Shoji Kaisha, Ltd.), 1958
Box 3, Folder 21	Exhibits #10, #10A, #10B (<i>Operation Success, 21 Patterns of Success from the Lives of American Business Leaders</i>), 1957
Box 3, Folder 22	Exhibit #11 (itinerary for Douglass MacArthur visit to Nippon Sewing Machine Company), , 1957 August
Box 3, Folder 23	Exhibits #12-#16, (correspondence with Brother International, Max Hugel, Sol Adler, attorneys Kane, Dalsimer and Kane), 1957 - 1958
Box 3, Folder 24	Exhibit #17, (correspondence with brother INternational and Sol Adler), 1958
Box 3, Folder 25	Exhibit 18, (Turissa-Fabria advertisement), 1957
Box 3, Folder 26	Exhibit #19 (<i>New Japan Sewing Machine News</i>), , 1960

- Box 3, Folder 27 Exhibit #20-#21 (*New Japan Sewing Machine News*), , 1957 December
- Box 3, Folder 28 Exhibit #22, (newspaper clippings), 1959 May 14
- Box 3, Folder 29 Exhibit #23, (letter from Japanese Trade Center), 1959 June
- Box 3, Folder 30 Exhibit #24 (United States Trade Commission transcript of infringement management hearing), , undated
- Box 3, Folder 31 Exhibit #25 (Adler's letter of resignation), , 1959 July 6
- Box 3, Folder 32 Exhibit #26, (newspaper clippings), 1957 July
- Box 3, Folder 33 Exhibit #27, (letter from Sol Adler to Masayoshi Yasui of Nippon Sewing Machine), 1959 August
- Box 3, Folder 34 Exhibit #28, (letter to Sol Adler from Martin Y. Hirabayashi, American Embassy, Tokyo), 1957 May
- Box 3, Folder 35 Exhibit #29, (newspaper clippings), 1960 May
- Box 3, Folder 36 Exhibit #30 (typescript of the limitation characteristics of the conventional rotary high speed sewing machine), , undated
- Box 3, Folder 37 Exhibit #31 (correspondence--Solomon Adler to Max Hugel), , 1957 March
- Box 2, Folder 38 Exhibit #32 (*Deutsche Nahmaschinen-Zeitung*), , 1957 January
- Box 2, Folder 39 Exhibit #32 (*Singer vs. Brother*), 1952 - 1959

[Image\(s\)](#)

Multi Follower Machine Feed Control Mechanism [black-and-white mechanical drawing for sewing machine], [undated.]

1 Item (8-1/4" x 11-3/4".)

[Image\(s\): Multi Follower Machine Feed Control Mechanism \[black-and-white mechanical drawing for sewing machine, undated.\]](#)

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Stamp in red ink near right bottom; the top part says "Sol / Adler", and the bottom is in Japanese.

Box No.3, Folder 10.

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Gloves required with unprotected photographs.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000019.tif (AC Scan No.)

Topic: Machinery
Sewing machines

Genre/
Form: Drawings -- 20th century

Map-case 3, Drawer 25,
Folder 1

Chart, Cam Selecting means of patents cited or referred to by the examiner or Singer and compared with Selectomatic 100 and Pacesetter 200, 1958
March 24

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Series 4: Publications, 1953-1967

Subseries 4.1: *New Japan Sewing Machine News*, 1958 - 1967

Box 3, Folder 40

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 3, Folder 40 *New Japan Sewing Machine News*, May 1958
- Box 3, Folder 40 *New Japan Sewing Machine News* , 1959 September
- Box 3, Folder 40 *New Japan Sewing Machine News*, 1962 May
- Box 3, Folder 40 *New Japan Sewing Machine News*, 1965 July
- Box 3, Folder 40 *New Japan Sewing Machine News*, [1967?]

New Japan Sewing Machine News / X'mas [sic] / Special Issue / 1959
[magazine]

1 Item (Ink on paper.; approx. 11" x 8".)

[Image\(s\): *New Japan Sewing Machine News* / X'mas \[sic\] / Special Issue / 1959 \[magazine\].](#)

[Image\(s\): *New Japan Sewing Machine News* / X'mas \[sic\] / Special Issue / 1959 \[magazine\].](#)

New Japan Sewing Machine News, Publisher

Adler, Solomon, 1901-1990, Collector

Magazine features Brother sewing machines on front cover. Back cover features Toyota knitting machine and zigzag machine.

Local Numbers

AC1157-0000001.tif (AC Scan No., front cover)

AC1157-0000002.tif (AC Scan No., back cover)

Names: Toyota, Aichi Kogyo, Co., Ltd.

Topic: Christmas
 Knitting
 Sewing
 Sewing machines

Genre/Form: Magazines (periodicals) -- 1950-1980

Subseries 4.2: General Publications, 1938-1960

- Box 3, Folder 41 *Behind the Scenes*, 1960 May-June
- Box 3, Folder 41 *Consumer Bulletin*, 1958 July

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 41 | <i>Newsweek</i> , 1957 April |
| Box 3, Folder 41 | New Home Sewing Machine Company (pamphlet), circa 1950s |
| Box 3, Folder 41 | Singer Sewing Machine Company (pamphlet) , 1938-1939 |

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