



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

John R. Anderson Piano Trade
Literature and Ephemera Collection

NMAH.AC.1257

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	John R. Anderson Piano Trade Literature and Ephemera Collection
Date:	circa 1700-2011, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1257
Creator:	Anderson, John R. (Donor)
Extent:	6 Cubic feet (14 boxes, 1 map folder)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by John R. Anderson in 2011.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

Pratt, Read Corporation Records (NMAH.AC.0320)

Sohmer and Company Records (NMAH.AC.0349)

Steinway & Sons Records and Family Papers (NMAH.AC.0178)

Wurlitzler Company Records (NMAH.AC.0469)

South Carolina Historical Society

Siegling Music House Records, 1820-1972

Processing Information

Collection processed by Sarah Gediman, intern; Julia Gibson, intern; Savannah Hildre, intern; Lauren Janik, intern; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

John R. Anderson Piano Trade Literature and Ephemera Collection, 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

A retired government employee, Anderson is a piano enthusiast and collector. He conducted extensive research on early piano makers.

Content Description

The addendum consists of trade literature and ephemera on the subject of pianos.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Piano Trade Literature and Ephemera, 1850-1990, undated

Series 2: Photographs, undated

Series 3: Research Notes, 1700-2011, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Harpichord
- Harpichord makers
- Musical instruments
- Organ (Musical instrument)
- Piano -- History
- Piano makers
- Postcards
- Research

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Advertising cards
- Brochures
- Ephemera
- Ledgers (account books)
- Manuals
- Notes
- Pamphlets
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Price lists
- Trade cards
- Trade catalogs

Names:

John Broadwood and Sons Limited
Mason & Hamlin
Sohmer & Company
Steinway & Sons
Weber Piano Company
Wm. Knabe & Co.

Occupations:

Musical instrument makers

Container Listing

Series 1: Piano Trade Literature and Ephemera, 1850-1990, undated

Scope and Contents: Consists of printed advertisements, catalogs, trade literature, advertising cards, postcards, guides, price lists, sales brochures, manuals, and blueprints primarily from manufacturers and distributors of pianos. There is some material from manufacturers and distributors of organs and harpsichords. Most of the companies are from the United States, however, there is a small amount of material from European and Asian businesses. The materials were maintained in the subjects that were created by Anderson and then arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1	Piano advertisements, 1850-1880
Box 1, Folder 2	Piano advertisements, 1850-1880
Box 1, Folder 3	Turner's Guide, 1852
Box 1, Folder 4	Mason and Hamlin Piano Company, trade literature, 1854
Box 1, Folder 5	Piano advertisements, 1854-1897
Box 1, Folder 6	Sohmer & Company, trade literature, 1872
Box 12, Folder 1	Trade literature, 1872-1895
Box 1, Folder 7	Fletcher and Newman Ltd., piano parts catalog, 1876
Box 7, Folder 20	Piano advertising cards and postcards, 1876-1991
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Piano sales brochures and catalogs, 1880-1925
Box 2, Folder 1-4	Piano sales brochures and catalogs, 1880-1925
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Piano sales brochures and catalogs, 1880-1925
Box 3, Folder 3	Piano advertisements, 1900
Box 12, Folder 2	Printed material, 1901-1923
Box 8, Folder 1	Piano advertising cards and postcards from unbound album, 1905-1970
Box 12, Folder 3	Trade literature, 1907-1936
Box 3, Folder 4	Printed materials, 1912-1969

Box 3, Folder 5	Piano sales brochures created by American, French, and German manufacturers, 1912-1926
Box 3, Folder 6	Piano and organ manufacturers supply catalogs, 1914
Box 3, Folder 7	The Turner's Magazine, 1914-1915
Box 4, Folder 1	Piano sales brochures created by American, French, and German manufacturers, 1916-1920
Box 4, Folder 2	Piano advertisements purchased by Anderson, 1925
Box 4, Folder 3	Weber Piano Company, trade literature, 1927
Box 4, Folder 4	Steinway & Sons, price lists, 1932-1950
Box 4, Folder 5	Purchaser's Guide to the Music Industry, 1934-1940
Box 4, Folder 6	W.W. Kimball and Company, trade literature, 1937
Box 4, Folder 7	Philadelphia Orchestra, program, 1937
Map-folder 1	Trade literature and blueprints, 1940-1955, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Piano sales brochures from Asian and American piano manufacturers, 1962-1964
Box 5, Folder 1	Schaff Piano Supply Company, piano and organ supply catalog, 1963
Box 5, Folder 2	Piano sales brochures created by Asian and American piano manufacturers, 1967
Box 5, Folder 3	Piano sales brochures created by European manufacturers, 1970-1976
Box 5, Folder 4	Piano sales brochures created by European manufacturers, 1970-1976
Box 5, Folder 5	Harpichord printed advertisements, 1970-1979
Box 5, Folder 6	Yamaha Corporation, trade literature, 1974
Box 5, Folder 7	An Owner's Manual: Pianos in Practice, 1978
Box 6, Folder 1	Piano sales brochures, 1980-1990
Box 6, Folder 2	Piano sales brochures, 1980-1990
Box 6, Folder 3	Piano Primer, undated
Box 6, Folder 4	John M. Smyth Company, piano and organ catalog, Chicago, Illinois, undated

Box 6, Folder 5 Piano advertising cards, undated

Box 12, Folder 4 Trade literature, undated

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Series 2: Photographs, 1887-2005, undated

Scope and Contents: Includes an unbound scrapbook of photographs of primarily pianos and also printed advertisements from manufacturers and distributors of these instruments. There are also photographs of the descendants of William Knabe who managed the William Knabe & Company located in Baltimore, Maryland.

Box 6, Folder 6	Scrapbook of photographs and clippings, 1887-2005, undated
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Box 6, Folder 7	Ernest Knabe, William Knabe II, and William Knabe III, William Knabe & Company, Baltimore, Maryland, undated
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Series 3: Research Notes, 1700-2011, undated

Scope and Contents: Consists primarily of notes and some correspondence relating to Anderson's research on the history of piano manufacturing in New York City from 1775-1900. Other materials include copies of the Purchaser's Guide to the Music Industries dating from the 1950s; maps of New York City; a copy of the Blue Book of American Musical Instruments: Presto Buyer's Guide to Pianos, Player-Pianos and Reproducing Pianos; articles, an account and daybook for a music store located in Buffalo, New York, dating from 1876-1880, and newsletters. While Anderson seems to be mostly interested in manufacturers and distributors there are some files on piano associations and organizations, teachers, and performers. In addition, the card index to Anderson's research can also be found among these materials. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 6, Folder 9	Copies of piano advertisements, 1700-1800
Box 6, Folder 11	Maps of New York City, 1729-1965
Box 6, Folder 12	Correspondence and notes relating to New York City newspapers and journals with piano manufacturers' advertisements, 1770-1989
Box 7, Folder 1	James Rivington, music dealer, 1773-1789
Box 7, Folder 2	Correspondence and notes relating to New York City newspapers and journals with piano manufacturers' advertisements, 1775-1799
Box 6, Folder 8	List of New York City newspapers and journals with articles relating to piano manufacturers, 1785-1900
Box 7, Folder 3	Joseph Adam Fleming, piano manufacturer, 1785-1792
Box 7, Folder 4	Article on Young Chang who evolved from a modest piano distributor to a worldwide manufacturer, 1785-1799, undated
Box 7, Folder 5	John Jacob Astor, piano dealer, 1787-1799
Box 7, Folder 6	George Gilfert, piano dealer, 1788-1799
Box 7, Folder 7	Charles Watts, piano manufacturer, 1789-1797
Box 7, Folder 8	Van Hagen, teacher and performer, 1790-1793
Box 7, Folder 9	Archibald Whites and George Charters, piano manufacturers, 1792-1888
Box 7, Folder 10	James Hewitt, music teacher, 1793-1800
Box 7, Folder 11	Thomas Western, piano manufacturer, 1793-1998
Box 7, Folder 12	James Harrison, piano dealer, 1794-1795

Box 7, Folder 13	Benjamin Carr, piano dealer, 1795-1796
Box 7, Folder 14	Geib and Company, 1798-1968
Box 7, Folder 15	New York City piano manufacturers, 1786-1903
Box 7, Folder 16	Piano printed advertisements, New York City, 1849-1900
Box 7, Folder 17	Piano bills of sale, 1851-1900
Box 12, Folder 5	Printed material from Scientific American Magazine, 1860-1900
Box 7, Folder 18	Piano ephemera, 1863-1921
Box 7, Folder 19	Account and daybook for music store located in Buffalo, New York, 1876-1880
Box 7, Folder 21	Pamphlets, 1877-1892
Box 7, Folder 22	Piano tuning manual, 1881-1943, undated
Box 7, Folder 23	Steinway & Sons, factory papers, 1883
Box 14, Folder 1	Sohmer & Company, research notes, 1890-2006
Box 11, Folder 1	Book of Complete Information about Pianos, 1903
Box 11, Folder 2	Book of Complete Information about Pianos, 1911
Box 8, Folder 2	William Knabe & Company, 1923
Box 8, Folder 3	Portraits of musical celebrities, 1926
Box 8, Folder 4	The Blue Book of American Musical Instruments: Presto Buyer's Guide to Pianos, Player-Pianos and Reproducing Pianos, 1926
Box 8, Folder 5	Piano scale making, 1927-1986
Box 8, Folder 6	Research and printed materials on organs, 1935-1978
Box 8, Folder 7	Research and printed materials on organs, 1935-1978
Box 8, Folder 8	The Purchaser's Guide to the Music Industries, 1950
Box 8, Folder 9	The Purchaser's Guide to the Music Industries, 1951
Box 9, Folder 1	The Purchaser's Guide to the Music Industries, 1952

Box 9, Folder 2	Research and printed materials on organs, 1952-1962
Box 9, Folder 3	Steinway & Sons, research, 1964-1965, undated
Box 13	Card index to research, 1964-1981, undated
Box 9, Folder 4	Steinway & Sons, Aeolian, 1968-1971, undated
Box 9, Folder 5	Steinway & Sons, research literature, 1970-1990
Box 9, Folder 6	John Broadwood & Sons Piano Company, 1972
Box 9, Folder 7	Pratt, Read and Company, press, 1972-1980
Box 9, Folder 8	Associations and Organizations, 1973-1979
Box 10, Folder 1	Piano history, 1974
Box 10, Folder 2	Siegling Music House, Charleston, South Carolina, 1976
Box 10, Folder 3	Alfred Dolge, notes, 1976-1983
Box 10, Folder 4	Pianos and other instruments, 1979
Box 6, Folder 10	New York Historical Society and General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, 1980, undated
Box 10, Folder 5	American Liszt Society, newsletters, 1984-1993
Box 10, Folder 6	Pratt, Read and Company, 1994-2011
Box 12, Folder 6	Printed material, undated

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