



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Hugo Worch Piano Photos

NMAH.AC.1452

NMAH Staff

2018

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Hugo Worch Piano Photos
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1452
Creator:	Worch, Hugo, 1855-
Extent:	40 Cubic feet (82 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life), 2017.

Processing Information

Collection is partially processed.

Preferred Citation

Hugo Worch Piano Photos, 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

Hugo Worch was born in Potsdam, Germany, November 15, 1855 and died in Washington, DC, November 14, 1938). Worch was an American collector of and dealer in keyboard instruments. His father, Christian, had a music business in Trenton, New Jersey, from c1858 to 1861, and in Washington from 1863 to 1868 and again in 1883; Worch and his brother Emil took this over in 1883, and after Emil's death his widow and Hugo continued the business as Hugo Worch & Co. from 1884 until 1895. After 1895 the firm of Hugo Worch sold instruments (including pianos sold under the Worch name but manufactured elsewhere), sheet music,

and, as tastes changed, phonographs, recordings, and radios. The firm went out of business in 1960 on the retirement of Hans Hugo Worch, who had bought it from his brother Carl and sister Paulina in 1954.

In the 1880s Worch began collecting keyboard instruments that showed the development of the American piano industry from the 1790s to 1850. Later he added to his collection examples of clavichords, harpsichords, and pianos by such European makers as Shudi, Ruckers, Stein, and Broadwood. From 1921 to 1938 he held the title of honorary custodian of musical instruments at the Smithsonian Institution. Absorbed with the history of the piano, he acquired a collection of nearly 200 instruments and over 2000 photographs showing details of keyboard construction. From 1914 his collection of keyboard instruments formed the nucleus of the keyboard collections at the Smithsonian. His library of over 3000 books relating to keyboard construction and 500 bound volumes of American sheet music was dispersed after World War II.

Source

Worch, Hugo. Oxford Music Online, Grove Music Online. <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/grovemusic/view/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.001.0001/omo-9781561592630-e-1002219658> (accessed October 18, 2018)

Content Description

The collection includes photographs of pianos and other keyboard instruments.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Keyboard instruments
- pianos

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographs

Box 1	0001-0021
Box 2	0022-0041
Box 3	0042-0061
Box 4	0062-0082
Box 5	0083-0108
Box 6	0109-0135
Box 7	0136-0160
Box 8	0161-0185
Box 9	0186-0208
Box 10	0209-0233
Box 11	0234-0255
Box 12	0256-0277
Box 13	0278-0298
Box 14	0299-0322
Box 15	0323-0344
Box 16	0345-0368
Box 17	0369-0395
Box 18	0396-0418
Box 19	0419-0442
Box 20	0443-0463
Box 21	0464-0484

Box 22	0485-0505
Box 23	0506-0526
Box 24	0527-0547
Box 25	0548-0562
Box 26	0563-0579
Box 27	0580-0595
Box 28	0596-0612
Box 29	0613-0631
Box 30	0632-0650
Box 31	0651-0680
Box 32	0681-0710
Box 33	0711-0740
Box 34	0741-0770
Box 35	0771-0800
Box 36	0801-0825
Box 37	0826-0850
Box 38	0851-0873
Box 39	0874-0897
Box 40	0898-0918
Box 41	0919-0940
Box 42	0941-0960
Box 43	0961-0994
Box 44	0995-1019
Box 45	1020-1048

Box 46	1049-1077
Box 47	1078-1097
Box 48	1098-1121
Box 49	1122-1148
Box 50	1149-1172
Box 51	1173-1200
Box 52	1201-1226
Box 53	1227-1249
Box 54	1250-1276
Box 55	1277-1300
Box 56	1301-1330
Box 57	1331-1353
Box 58	1354-1376
Box 59	1377-1400
Box 60	1401-1430
Box 61	1431-1455
Box 62	1456-1485
Box 63	1486-1520
Box 64	1521-1565
Box 65	1566-1605
Box 66	1606-1648
Box 67	1649-1695
Box 68	1696-1745
Box 69	1746-1790

Box 70	1791-1835
Box 71	1836-1880
Box 72	1881-1925
Box 73	1926-1980
Box 74	1981-2025
Box 75	2026-2070
Box 76	2071-2115

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Series 2: Correspondence

Box 71

Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1914
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1915
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1916
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1917
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1918-1919
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1920
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1921
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1922
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1923
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1924
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1926-1927
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1928
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1929-1931
Box 77	Correspondence (Smithsonian) 1936-1937
Box 77	Correspondence (with descendants) 1967-1977
Box 77	Correspondence (with outside collectors & Museums) 1909-1931

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Box 77	Brochures
Box 77	Business memorabilia and Ads, 1817-1922
Box 77	"Musical Journal" 1897
Box 77	Atwater Kent Radio Ads
Box 77	Universal Dictionary of Arts & Sciences articles on Philadelphia & Pennsylvania 1810

Box 77	Article in Antiques Journal, 1953
Box 77	Etude article, 1937
Box 77	Newspaper clippings
Box 77	Worch family city directory
Box 77	Worch library books
Box 77	Who's Who article 1921-1922
Box 77	Grove's dictionary of music article 1973
Box 77	Photo of Hugo Worch
Box 77	Photo of Hugo Worch with Giraffe piano
Box 77	Photo of Worch shop 1884
Box 77	Photo of Worch shop 1902
Box 78	Worch's notebooks on piano manufacturers -- Baltimore
Box 78	Worch's notebooks on piano manufacturers -- New York
Box 78	Worch's notebooks on piano manufacturers -- Washington / New York : A - D
Box 79	Manuscript of publication; notes; notebook re: manufacturers [accordion file]
Box 79	Catalog of the Worch Collection of pianos
Box 79	Notes on the Worch Collection of pianos
Box 79	Pianos -- musical instruments as indications of refinement and culture
Box 79	Catalog of the Hugo Worch Collection illustrating the history of the piano
Box 79	The Hugo Worch Collection illustrating the history of the piano -- notes
Box 79	the Hugo Worch Collection illustrating the history of the piano -- grouped by provenance
Box 79	About the collection and collector
Box 79	Listing of keyboards -- 3rd corridor
Box 79	Listing of keyboard collection

Box 80	Index card file: Advertisements (music & instruments)
Box 80	Index card file: Clavichords
Box 80	Index card file: Clavichords (no name)
Box 80	Index card file: Exhibitions
Box 80	Index card file: Harpsichords (no name)
Box 80	Index card file: Harpsichords
Box 81	Index card file: Illustrations in Art
Box 81	Index card file: Instruments manufacturing techniques
Box 81	Index card file: Miscellaneous Instruments
Box 81	Index card file: Odds and Ends
Box 81	Index card file: Organs
Box 81	Index card file: Organs (no name)
Box 81	Index card file: Pianos
Box 81	Index card file: Pianos (no name)
Box 81	Index card file: Scenes of US Cities
Box 81	Index card file: Sheet Music Title Pages
Box 81	Index card file: Worchiana
Box 82	Computer printout of photos catalog
Box 82	3 binders of catalog entries
Box 82	Folder of yellow notes re: photos
Box 82	Empty folders
Box 82	Old exhibit signs
Box 82	"The Hugo Worch collection illustrating the history of the piano"