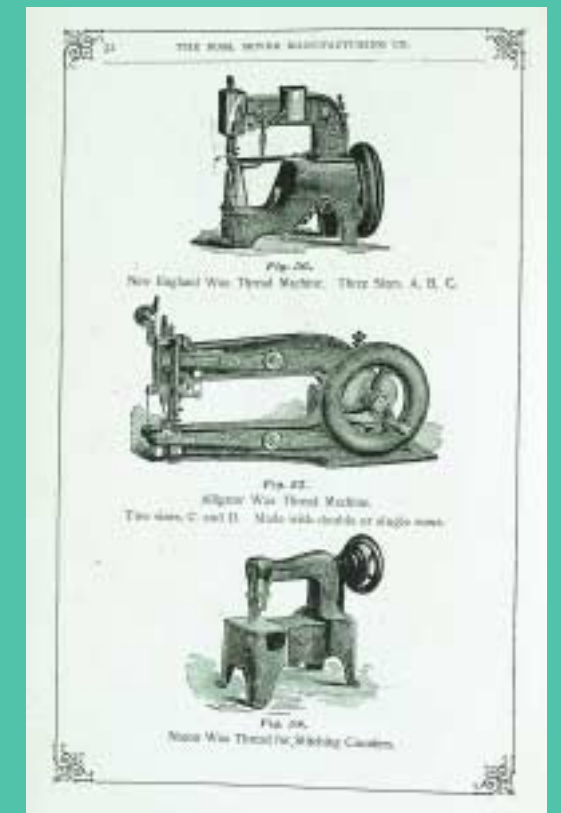
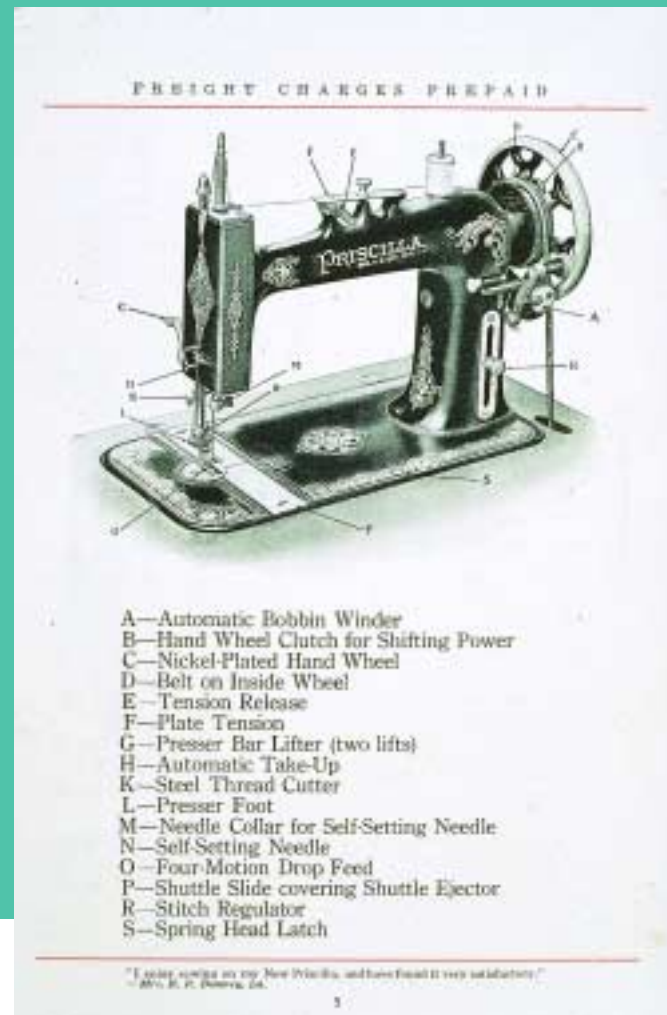


Sewing Machines

Historical Trade Literature in Smithsonian Institution Collections



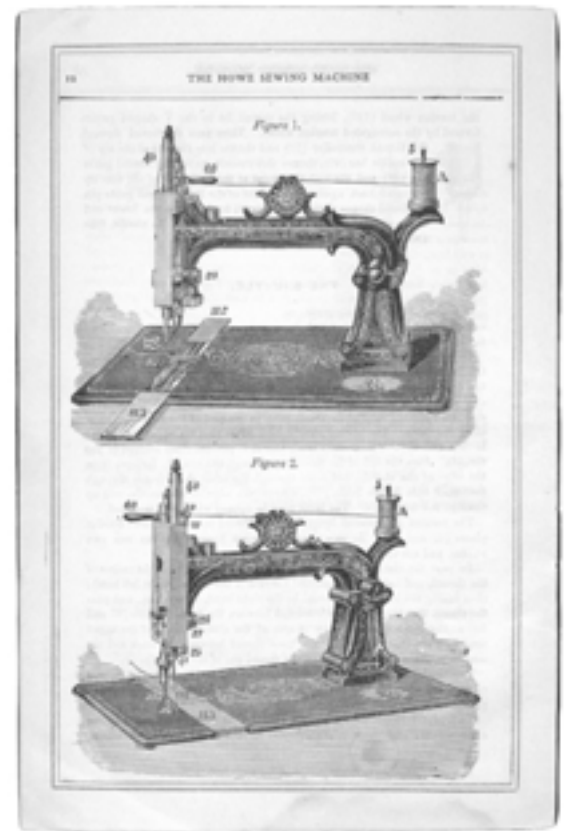
Smithsonian Institution Libraries



Sewing Machines

Historical Trade Literature in Smithsonian Institution Collections

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Sewing Machines

Historical Trade Literature in Smithsonian Institution Collections

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*Manual of Athletic Underwear
Manufacture. Union Special
Machine Co. (1921), p. 33*



This guide illustrates the range of materials published by and about sewing machine companies in the United States and other countries, starting in the 1840s. Sewing machine catalogs and other industry materials are just one portion of the remarkable collections of manufacturers' trade literature held in the libraries, archives and curatorial units of the Smithsonian Institution. The trade literature collection managed by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) alone numbers some 285,000 pieces published since the mid-nineteenth century and representing 30,000 American companies. The Smithsonian Libraries is a 22-branch system serving the information and research needs of the Institution's staff and the general public.

The Smithsonian collects trade literature for use by staff who are entrusted with the care and study of manufactured objects now in the collections of the national museums. This guide to sewing machine literature includes materials held in three separate collections: in SIL's Library in the National Museum of American History, Behring Center, and in the Museum's Archives Center and in its Textiles Collection. The sewing machine project illustrates the collaborative efforts of Smithsonian staff to provide relevant and useful information to the public as well as to the museum and research communities. This guide will be of interest to sewing machine collectors as well as to historians, and the curatorial and program staff within the Smithsonian Institution. We thank Barbara Suit Janssen of the Museum's Textile Collection and John Fleckner, Director of the Museum's Archives Center, for their cooperation with this project. Ms. Janssen prepared the Bibliography that appears in the guide.

A finding aid to these sewing machine literature collections including scanned images of many of the texts can be viewed at www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/trade-literature/sewing-machines/. It is a work in progress which will continue to grow, providing extensive details about the three collections. The website will eventually provide information on more than 3,000 items with many thousands of images. Full descriptions of each of the pieces of trade literature are given in the Libraries' catalog at www.siris.si.edu (Smithsonian Institution Research Information System). Funding for the scanning was provided by the Smithsonian Institution Image Archive Fund.

The reader is cautioned to read the Notes on Style very carefully. The text of this guide is based on information found on the pieces themselves and in available published resources. This guide directs the reader only to materials which are in the Smithsonian collections.

Many heads and hands contributed to this project, gathering the materials, sorting and classifying them, scanning and cataloging them, and preparing the text and index in this printed guide. The project was conceptualized by Amy Begg DeGross, Reference Librarian in SIL's American History Library, and she contributed her ideas and many hours of work in organizing and describing the materials. Rhoda S. Ratner, head of the

History and Culture Department of the Libraries, and head of the American History Library, completed coordination of the materials presented in this print guide. Nancy L. Matthews managed the production of this publication. In the Libraries' Information Systems Division, Martin R. Kalfatovic served as coordinator of the online project. Courtney S. Danforth oversaw the online design process. Interns Christine Winkler and JohnLee Curtis and volunteer Betty Spungen assisted in assembling and describing the materials. Volunteer Kristina Santilla, a sewing machine collector herself, helped with several stages of the project. Staff of the Libraries' Preservation Services Department, headed by Susan R. Frampton, scanned the images that can be seen online. David Holbert managed the production side of the scanning project, and Shawn Adams and Nicholas Worthy contributed to that work. In the Libraries' Cataloging Services Department, Suzanne C. Pilsk coordinated the cataloging and metadata collection efforts. Other Libraries' staff who contributed to the project are Maureen Daley who coordinated the photography for the print guide and Kari Richardson and Gwen Leighty who helped to prepare the funding proposal to the Lemelson Fund. Mario Rups proofread the text and the index, and Savannah R. Schroll assisted with production responsibilities. This guide was designed by Stephanie Firestone.

We are grateful to the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation for funds to publish this guide to a fascinating portion of Smithsonian Institution collections.

Nancy E. Gwinn, *Director*
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
February 2001

To the Trade...

The Trade Catalog Collection in the Smithsonian Libraries

If you were to consider the words ‘book’ or ‘magazine,’ there are few among us who would not have an image in mind of what these are. This is not necessarily true of the term ‘trade catalog,’ the name applied to commercial trade literature. As it is most often defined, the trade catalog is a multi-page listing of manufactured or produced items of any kind offered for sale by stock number or specific name. These include sale and parts catalogs, technical manuals, company histories, instructions for using the product, testimonials from satisfied customers, pattern books, design books, price lists, and internal factory record books. The earliest catalogs were directed ‘to the trade,’ meaning wholesalers and retailers. Today many trade catalogs are published for the ultimate consumer as well as for the sales and repair industries.

The trade catalog developed as a result of and along with the industrial revolution. By the second half of the eighteenth century, the growing factory system enabled workers to do twice to ten times the work of a single individual. Production rose, leading manufacturers to substantially increase their market territory to stimulate demand. The trade catalog became a critical means by which the resulting demand was met.

Trade literature is a primary historical record of innovations in machinery and industrial processes, in new techniques introduced for merchandising, and of other economic data relating to energy, manpower, and finance. The research value of these catalogs to the history of business, labor, and technology has only recently been fully recognized. The catalogs form both a by-product of and an index to industrialization and mass production.

The range of research possible in these materials is enormous. A researcher can trace a patent dream to reality. Outstanding authors and historians often wrote the copy, and accomplished artists and engravers provided the woodcuts and lithographs. Manufactured objects, including products that no longer exist, are fully documented as to size, materials, and operation, providing invaluable information to museum curatorial staff and collectors. Illustrations of the workplace may display labor conditions or manufacturing procedures and perhaps the function of tools. The items offered for sale are of special interest to those doing historical preservation or re-creations of interiors as indicators of cultural values and perceptions of status at that time. The history of technology and industry as they evolved emerges from a broad study of this literature. Throughout, trade catalogs reveal the shift of the consumer base from the privileged few to the general population, which products were commercially successful and which disappeared from the market, and the spread of innovations and techniques to different cities and regions.

Lawrence Romaine, a collector and dealer in trade catalogs, was the first to document and champion the trade catalog in the United States. In his 1960 book, *A Guide to American Trade Catalogs, 1744 – 1900*, he wrote, “It is high time that someone compiled and printed a record proving that Americans recognized the value of advertising catalogs and the mail order business even before they recognized the real value of freedom. There are ten thousand volumes that tell and retell the story of the American Revolution. I offer one that will, without bloodshed, convince you of the creative ability, imagination and Yankee ingenuity of the builders of this Republic throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.”

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries’ collection of historical trade catalogs contains over 285,000 items representing approximately 30,000 companies dating from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is the largest collection of its kind in the United States and encompasses the full range of products—from porcelain dinnerware to pipe fittings, seed catalogs to tractors, automobiles to medical equipment. This is one more national treasure being protected, preserved, and made accessible by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. It is our hope that this guide to one small segment of Smithsonian Institution Libraries’ trade literature collection will form a catalyst to others in the goals of preservation, access to researchers, and recognition of a rich source for historical research.

Rhoda S. Ratner
Head, History and Culture Department
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
October 2000

The Textile Collection

at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center

Sewing machines, along with firearms, clocks, and agricultural machinery, played a major role in developing nineteenth-century American industry. When history museums focus on the evolution of American technology, sewing machines serve as primary evidence in this study. Sewing machines were originally collected by Smithsonian Institution curators because of this importance to the early history of technology. Increasing interest in design, material culture, social and cultural history, economic history, labor history, technical communication, and advertising closely relates to the sewing machine industry and ensures that sewing machines will continue to be researched and explored.

During the nineteenth century, the United States Patent Office Museum of Models exhibited models of patents that had been granted. Ultimately, the number of models on display reached 150,000 and in 1926 Congress decided that the models should be dispersed. The Smithsonian was given the first chance to select models for the national collection, a responsibility shared by Museum curators Frederick Lewton and Carl Mitman. Fortunately for the Textile Collection, Lewton collected heavily in textile manufacturing, particularly sewing machines.

A major acquisition from the Singer Company in 1960 included many important patent models of sewing machines and attachments. Some recent accessions include Mrs. Tom Thumb's sewing machine; Watson's Family Sewing Machine, about 1850; an 1855 American Eagle Sewing Machine (cast in the shape of an eagle); and a collection of Singer Industrial Design Prototypes from the 1940s to the 1970s. The National Museum of American History sewing machine collection currently numbers approximately 750 sewing machine patent models, 750 sewing machine attachment models (tuckers, guides, buttonholers, etc.), and about 250 commercial, family, treadle, cabinet, electric, and toy sewing machines. The dates range from 1842 through 1976.

Early research based on the Textile Collection of sewing machines and models began with *The Servant in the House*, written by Frederick Lewton in 1929. This *Smithsonian Publication*, reprinted in 1930 from the *Smithsonian Annual Report*, 1929, pages 559-83, featured significant sewing machines and their inventors. Grace Rogers Cooper succeeded Lewton as curator and continued to collect sewing machines. Cooper's book, *The Sewing Machine: Its Invention and Development*, published in 1968, was revised and expanded in 1976. It is considered a classic in the field. Along with the written history of the sewing machine are photographs of many of the machines in the Collection and illustrations from various pieces of sewing machine trade literature. In 1990 the exhibition catalog, *Icons of Invention: American Patent Models*, edited by Barbara Suit Janssen, featured a chapter highlighting sewing machines in the Collection.

The Textile Collection of sewing machines has served other purposes as well. Over the years objects from the sewing machine collection have been exhibited in Smithsonian museums and in traveling exhibitions. Researchers—from high school participants in National History Day to academics working on their dissertations to sewing machine collectors—have published works based on the sewing machine collection.

One area of collecting that has grown greatly is that of trade literature. Cooper's 1976 book listed the holdings of the Textile Collection as consisting of thirty-two advertising leaflets, instruction booklets, flyers, and illustrated directions for threading and operating sewing machines. Currently the Textile Collection of sewing machine literature numbers more than 950. Researchers use the collection to enrich their knowledge of commercial sewing machine manufacturing. Collectors use trade literature to learn how to thread machines, to know what parts are missing from machines, and to understand operating instructions. Writers use illustrations from trade literature to picture a machine for which there may be no known surviving example. Finally, finding trade literature for a sewing machine about which little or nothing is known often provides leads to the commercial history of the machine, its inventor, or its manufacturer.

Barbara Suit Janssen
Museum Specialist, Textile Collection
Natural Museum of American History, Behring Center
October 2000

The Archives Center Collections at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center

The Archives Center supports the mission of the National Museum of American History by preserving and providing access to documentary evidence of America's past. The Archives Center's collections complement the Museum's artifacts and are used for scholarly research, exhibitions, journalism, documentary productions, school programs, and other research and educational activities. We are delighted that information about the Archives Center materials related to sewing machines is reaching the public through the efforts of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries' "Sewing Machines. Historical Trade Literature" project, both online and in this printed guide. The center holds two collections with substantial documentation of the history of the sewing machine.

The Warshaw Collection of Business Americana was assembled by New York bookseller Isadore Warshaw over a lifetime and sold to the Smithsonian Institution in 1967. The Collection contains an extraordinary variety of commercially produced business ephemera including advertisements, price lists, letterheads, receipts, trade cards, and trade catalogs. In total, the Collection occupies some 1,020 linear feet of shelving and is organized into some 470 categories, primarily by type of product. Sewing machine-related materials, found in six document boxes and six over-size folders, are organized by name of manufacturer.

The Singer Industrial Design Collection, 1927-1983, occupies some seventeen feet of materials that show the influence of industrial design on Singer machines. Included are presentation drawings, 1960-1983, by industrial designers such as Robert P. Gersin, Eliot Noyes, and Henry Dreyfuss and by designers from Singer's in-house design department. The Collection also includes Editorial Department product photographs, 1927-1979, and examples of decals applied to Singer products.

Many Center collections document entrepreneurial activity in which invention and marketing are inextricably linked. The creation of nationally recognized brands and corporate identities as well as commercial depictions of gender, ethnicity, and other cultural categories are well represented in the holdings. Some 700 Archives Center collections occupy more than 9,500 feet of shelving in the American History building and in off-site storage locations. In addition to paper-based textual records, many Center collections contain photographs, motion picture films, videotapes, and sound recordings.

With few exceptions, Archives Center collections are acquired by donation, often in conjunction with the acquisition of related artifacts and in collaboration with the Museum's curatorial staff. Documentation projects—including oral and video histories—actively create new research collections. The Museum's ability to acquire and care for artifacts and archival materials in all physical formats and to generate contemporary documentation gives it a unique capacity to record the complexity and richness of the American experience.

John Fleckner
Director, Archives Center
National Museum of American History, Behring Center
October 2000

Notes on Style

This guide provides information about materials produced by the American and foreign sewing machine industries, the manufacturers, the sales agents, and related industries. The materials themselves are held in three separate collections of trade literature, all housed in the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Behring Center.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

The Smithsonian Libraries' sewing machine trade literature is part of a larger collection of over 285,000 pieces of trade literature covering a wide variety of industries, businesses, and manufacturers from the late 19th- to the mid-20th centuries in a number of fields of technology, the decorative arts, and seed catalogs. The materials are arranged in alphabetical order by company name in the National Museum of American History Library, one of twenty-two branches of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

Textiles Collection, Division of Social History, National Museum of American History, Behring Center

The Textile Collection's sewing machine trade literature has been amassed over the years as specialists collected and researched various sewing machines. The collection includes primarily trade catalogs, manuals, and fliers, and is arranged by company name.

Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Behring Center

Trade literature is among the collections of the Archives Center, NMAH. The Warshaw Collection of Business Americana (c.1724-1975), a collection of advertising ephemera, includes materials generated by the American sewing machine industry, such as: trade cards, invoices, bills, receipts, letterhead stationary, business cards, and decals, dating from the early 18th to the late 20th centuries. The materials are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the manufacturer. The Singer Industrial Design Collection, 1927-1983, includes presentation drawings, product photographs, and examples of decals applied to Singer products.

This guide is designed to provide information about the sewing machine materials in each collection. It is arranged alphabetically by company name in a keyword in context format (KWIC).

When known, the city of the company's headquarters is noted. In some instances, only the city of publication is available. This city name has been used followed by a question mark. Company names sometimes changed, occasionally adopting model names as company names, for example. Wherever available, prior and subsequent company names are included with caution to the researcher that confirmation of this information may require significant additional research.

Definitive dating is difficult to confirm for most of these companies, so researchers are cautioned to consider the following dates as representative. The determination for the dates of the companies' operation has been guided by information in Grace Rogers Cooper, *The Sewing Machine: Its Invention and Development* (1976) and available dates on individual pieces. There are only four pieces in the collection for Montgomery Ward, for example, so those dates are used even though the company's operation spanned many years. In other instances, dates on correspondence and invoices are used.

Each company entry includes a table showing the types and numbers of materials held followed by brief information about the company and its products.

Access to the Collections

The National Museum of American History, Behring Center, is located on Constitution Avenue, NW (between 12th and 14th streets) Washington, DC 20560.

- **The National Museum of American History Library of the Smithsonian Libraries** is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, by appointment (202-357-2414). Email address: libmail@sil.si.edu
- **The National Museum of American History, Behring Center, Textile Collection** is open for research Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, by appointment (202-786-3100).
- **The National Museum of American History, Behring Center, Archives Center** is open for research Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday noon to 5:00 pm, by appointment (202-357-3270; archivescenter@nmah.si.edu). Additional information is available at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives/ac-i.htm>. Additional information about the Warshaw Collection is at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives/d7060a.htm>.

- **Internet Access**

An online finding aid to these sewing machine literature collections including scanned images of the texts can be viewed at:

www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/trade-literature/sewing-machines/

It is a work in progress which will continue to grow, providing extensive details about the three collections. The website will eventually provide information on more than 3,000 items with many thousands of images. Full descriptions of each of the pieces of trade literature are given in the Libraries' catalog at www.siris.si.edu (Smithsonian Institution Research Information System).

Glossary

Clippings

advertisements and clippings from newspapers and books

Company Materials

correspondence, memorandums, invoices, and business cards

Decals

intricate labels, designed to be affixed to a sewing machine

Fliers

one-page documents, often mailing inserts or advertising pieces

Manuals

instructional booklets for a specific model or make of sewing machine

Maps

insurance descriptions and drawings developed by Barlow's Insurance Surveys

Parts Lists

chiefly lists of parts, with or without images, often including current prices

Stereoscopic Photography

stereoscopic views of sewing machines in operation

Picture Books

child's story book about sewing machines

Postcards

picture postcards advertising sewing machines

Sheet Music

sheet music, with or without lyrics, relating to sewing machines

Trade Cards

colorful and image-intense cards, distributed by sewing machine vendors

Trade Catalogs

detailed sales catalogs featuring model illustrations; descriptions of machines, often with prices; machine accessories and attachments

Sewing Machines

Historical Trade Literature in Smithsonian Institution Collections

	Clippings	Company Materials	Details	Fliers	Manuals	Maps	Parts Lists	Stereoscopic Photography	Picture Books	Postcards	Sheet Music	Trade Cards	Trade Catalogs
1. Acme Buttonhole Attachment Company, Ltd. New York, New York Nineteenth century The Acme Buttonhole Attachment Company provided a sample of a nearly complete buttonhole made with its attachment on a trade card advertising the company.													
Archives Center													1
2. C. G. Akam (Location unknown) 1863-1889 C. G. Akam traded with dealers and jobbers buying sewing machines in quantity.													
Textiles Collection				1									
3. American Bobbin Company (Location unknown) 1902 Patriotism prevailed for the American Bobbin Company. The company's trademark American eagle was superimposed on an American flag decorating two bobbins.													
Archives Center													1
4. American Buttonhole, Over-Seaming and Sewing Machine Company Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1867-1893 1874: became the American Sewing Machine Company American Buttonhole, Over-Seaming and Sewing Machine Company materials include invoices for machines purchased; fliers featuring calls for sewing machine agents in the New England area; and trade catalogs featuring images of women in domestic settings and in fashionable dress sitting at sewing machines.													
Textiles Collection													2
Archives Center			3		1								

No. 1 Primal (\$50); No. 2 Desirable (\$55);
 No. 3 Elegant (\$60); No. 4 Complete (\$65).
 Domestic Sewing Machine Co. [n.d.]



5. American Sewing Machine Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1874-1888

The American Sewing Machine Company materials include fliers advertising for skilled seamstresses; parts lists with pictures of sewing machines; and trade cards featuring testimonials from owners of American Sewing Machine Company machines and pictures of a young girl in a flower bed, clowns, and an ox pulling a wagon. One of the trade cards was redeemable for entry in a drawing for a new sewing machine, courtesy of the company. Another trade card lists American Sewing Machine Company agents in Boston, Massachusetts.

	Clippings	Company Materials	Decals	Fliers	Manuals	Maps	Parts Lists	Stereoscopic Photography	Picture Books	Postcards	Sheet Music	Trade Cards	Trade Catalogs
Textiles Collection				1			2					1	
Archives Center				3								45	2

6. Avery Manufacturing Company

Bridgeport, Connecticut 1875-1887

1888: Avery Sewing Machine, New York, New York

Avery Manufacturing Company materials include trade cards which describe the Avery machine as the “best machine for agents to sell.”

Archives Center												1	
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7. Samuel Barker and Thomas White

Brattleboro, Vermont 1858-1861

The Brattleboro sewing machine produced by Samuel Barker and Thomas White was a patented single-thread family machine.

Textiles Collection				1									
---------------------	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. Bartholf Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York 1850-1865

A wholesale clothing company provided two testimonials describing the usefulness of and their satisfaction with the Bartholf machine.

Archives Center				1									
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9. Bartlett Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York 1870-1876

1866-1870: Goodspeed & Wyman, Wichendon, Massachusetts

The Bartlett Sewing Machine Company featured pictures of sewing machines powered by hand and foot.

Textiles Collection				1									
---------------------	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

10. A. H. Beebe and Company

(Location unknown)

1869- 1876

A. H. Beebe and Company manuals featured instructions for installing and using its Rose's embroidery needle attachment.

Textiles Collection

1

11. L. Philip Beers

New York, New York

Nineteenth century

The L. Philip Beers sewing machine could "hem, bind and cord without basting and will not cause machine work to ravel." The machine was awarded "first premiums" over other competitors for its general adaptation to all kinds of work in Europe and America.

Archives Center

1

12. F. O. Berg

Spokane, Washington

1902

An F.O. Berg trade catalog illustrates its improved pulling device shown as attached to a Union Special sewing machine.

Textiles Collection

1

13. Bernina

Switzerland

1966-

The Bernina Sewing Machine Company collection includes trade catalogs and instructions for specific models with possibilities for stitchwork and decorative techniques.

Textiles Collection

4

7

14

1

19

14. Bles Sewing Machine Company

Bordentown, New Jersey

1870-1873

Howard and Hyde were general agents for the Bles sewing machine salesrooms at 01 Central Street, Lowell, Massachusetts.

Archives Center

1

15. C. M. Boland

New York, New York

Nineteenth century

The C. M. Boland sewing machine for furs was patented in 1878 and the company advertised it as the only sewing machine suitable for sewing furs.

Archives Center

1

16. Boligano Manufacturing Company

Baltimore, Maryland 1894

Boligano company correspondence includes confirmation of shipment of one no. 1 motor to B. G. Johnson, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Archives Center

1

17. E. Bonnans

Marseilles, France Nineteenth century

E. Bonnans advertised its La Parisienne model sewing machine, which could do pleating, attach soutache, and perform other specialized techniques.

Archives Center

2

18. Boston Sewing Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1880-1888

1880: J. F. Paul & Company, Boston, Massachusetts

1881: Bi-Spool Sewing Machine Company, Boston, Massachusetts

1881: Acme Manufacturing Company, Boston, Massachusetts

The Boston Sewing Machine Company materials include trade cards and a trade catalog with pictures of the underside of the machine.

Archives Center

2

1

19. Bradbury Sewing Machine Company

Oldham, England 1881-1924

The Bradbury Sewing Machine Company trade catalog described its complete universal feed shoe-sewing machine.

Archives Center

1

20. Gebruder Brehmer Maschinen Fabrik

Leipzig, Germany 1886

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Materials include a declaration from the Gebruder Brothers to the U. S. Consulate for sewing machines being shipped to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a bill of sale from Leipzig, Germany to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Archives Center

1

Singer Sewing Machine Co.
[1930?]



Illustration with Foreword: "The United States of America Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco" [1915]. Gold Medal [award]. *Union Special Machine Co.* (1923)



21. Brosius Sewing Machine and Motor Company

Chicago, Illinois 1893 -

Trade catalogs featured a history of the Brosius Sewing Machine and Motor Company with pictures of its machine and plant. The Brosius ran without a treadle, was driven by power stored in springs, and was connected by gearing, thus eliminating a belt.

Textiles Collection

1

Archives Center

1

22. Brother Sewing Machine International Corporation

Somerset, New Jersey 1928-

The Brother Sewing Machine International Corporation flier included a diagram of its Select-o-matic with illustrations of its capabilities.

Textiles Collection

1

23. Butterfield and Stevens

Boston, Massachusetts 1854

Butterfield and Stevens fliers described its patent wax-thread sewing machines for boots and shoes.

Archives Center

1

24. H. J. Carpenter

Norwich and Marathon, New York Nineteenth century

“Don’t smash it but wait for H. J. Carpenter.” This was the sales promotion to acquaint the public with the services of Mr. H. Jay Carpenter, who repaired sewing machines, praising his reputation for excellent workmanship.

Archives Center

2

25. Cash Buyers Union

Chicago, Illinois Nineteenth century

A newspaper advertisement for the Cash Buyers Union offered the Arlington sewing machine – 10 year warranty; light running, noiseless, adjustable for heavy or light work.

Archives Center

1

26. Centennial Sewing Machine Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1869-1876

1873-1876: McLean & Bennor Machine Company

1873-1876: McLean & Hooper Sewing Machine Company

Centennial Sewing Machine Company’s manuals featured pictures of women sewing by hand in 1776 and at a machine in 1876.

Textiles Collection

1

27. Central Necktie Machine Company

(Location unknown)

1920-1949

The Central Necktie Machine Company advertised the “Perfect imitation hand-stitch machine.”

Textiles Collection

1

28. Chandler Company

Ayer, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

Trade catalogs from the Chandler Company informed us that the machines invented by Mr. Chandler “have revolutionized plaitings, ruchings, and pinking.”

Archives Center

4

2

29. Chicago Sewing Machine Company

Chicago, Illinois

1882-1890

1879-1882: Tryber & Sweetland Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago Sewing Machine Company materials include correspondence with customers, testimonials, price lists, and trade cards distributed at a world’s fair featuring images of cats in a classroom and sailboats.

Archives Center

3

1

5

30. A. D. Clark Shuttle Company

Danielsonville, Connecticut

1850

A. D. Clark Shuttle Company manufactured shuttles for both power and hand looms and dealt also in bobbins and spools of all kinds used in the universal trades. Clark bobbins may have been produced for sewing machines.

Archives Center

1

31. Cobb and Company

Boston, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

Trade catalogs from Cobb and Company offered Cobb’s improved sewing, embroidery, gimp, fringe and ruffling machines, and buttonhole cutters.

Archives Center

1

32. Coburn Shuttle Company

Lowell, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

The Coburn Shuttle Company advertised that its “corrugated spindle is superior to any now in use and will save a large percent of waste in weaving.” Coburn products may also have been manufactured for sewing machines.

Archives Center

1

Clippings

Company Materials

Decals

Filters

Manuals

Maps

Parts Lists

Stereoscopic Photography

Picture Books

Postcards

Sheet Music

Trade Cards

Trade Catalogs

33. Coles Universal Feed Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York

Nineteenth century

In addition to the universal feed motion which allows the most intricate patterns to be worked without turning fabric, the Coles Universal Feed sewing machine featured a reversible presser foot, universal braider, stitch indicator, and regulator.

Archives Center

3

34. Colton Water Motor Company

Boston, Massachusetts

1882

The vice president of the Colton Water Motor Company wrote a letter explaining the delay in paying a bill.

Archives Center

1

35. Common Sense Family Sewing Machine Company

(Location unknown)

Nineteenth century

Manuals were provided with instruction for using the Common Sense family sewing machine.

Archives Center

1

36. Consolidated Sewing Machine Corporation

(Location unknown)

1990

Consolidated Sewing Machine Corporation's Consew industrial sewing equipment included high speed, single needle, drop feed, lockstitch machines and strip cutting machines.

Textiles Collection

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37. J. W. Cook

Portland, Oregon

1871

J. W. Cook manufactured grommets to be sold in large quantities.

Archives Center

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38. A. Coulter and Company

Chicago, Illinois

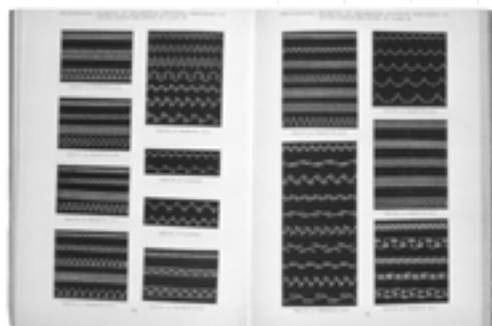
1865-1883

A price list from the A. Coulter Company included their line of sewing supplies as well as the Singer-style sewing machines they sold.

Textiles Collection

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"Ornamental stitching." *The Singer Manufacturing Company Catalogue* (1896).



How to Make Children's Clothes the Modern Singer Way. Singer Sewing Library No. 3. Singer Sewing Machine Co. [1930?]. p. 32



39. Cowles Sewing Machine Treadle

Granby, Connecticut 1869-1876

Medical doctors endorsed use of a treadle sewing machine in Cowles company fliers.

Textiles Collection

1

40. Crown Sewing Machines and Organs

(Location unknown) Nineteenth century

The Crown sewing machine no. 6 was lauded for its advantages.

Textiles Collection

1

41. S. E. Currier

(Location unknown) Nineteenth century

S. E. Currier claimed to be the sole manufacturer of the mechanical needle sharpener and whetstone. This sharpener could be used for sewing machine needles or any other needle or small pointed instrument.

Archives Center

1

42. Dauntless Manufacturing Company

Norwalk, Ohio 1870-1889

The New Dauntless sewing machine, "the best self-threading machine ever invented," was advertised on trade cards with pictures of King Neptune, mermaids, sea shells, coral, seaweed, and a variety of sailing ships.

Archives Center

4

43. Aaron Davis

Frederick City, Maryland 1870

Pattern-maker Aaron Davis endorsed sewing machine manufacturers on the back cover of his coat pattern booklet.

Archives Center

1

Sewing machine motor, hand power attachment, furniture polish, and japan varnish. *Right:* Button hole attachments. Free Sewing Machine Co. [n.d.]. pp. 8, 7



44. Davis Sewing Machine Company

J. A. Davis, New York, New York 1860s-1869
Watertown, New York 1869-1889
Dayton, Ohio 1886-1924

1924: purchased by the National Sewing Machine Company

The Davis Sewing Machine Company materials featured pictures of embroidery work done with a Davis machine, invoices, lists of Davis Sewing Machine Company salesrooms, and information on Davis's exhibits at the 1876 Philadelphia U. S. Centennial International Exhibition. Trade cards included images of children at play, courting couples, maritime scenes, and the Davis Sewing Machine Company factory. There is also a scale map and description of the Davis Sewing Machine factory in Watertown, New York, developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection	1								2	
Archives Center	15	2	1						78	15

45. Demorest Manufacturing Company

Plattsburgh, New York 1882-1908

1882: formerly the New York Sewing Machine Company (1880-1882)

The Demorest Manufacturing Company materials featured price lists, correspondence with a potential sewing machine agent, an advertisement in Mme. Demorest's illustrated portfolio of fashions and what to wear, and trade cards which included a picture of a wrapped Christmas present.

Textiles Collection			1							
Archives Center	1	1	1						1	

46. Diehl Manufacturing Company

Elizabethport, New Jersey 1906

division of Singer Manufacturing Company

The Diehl Manufacturing Company produced electric motors for driving sewing machines.

Textiles Collection										2
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"Setting the needle." *The Original Howe Sewing Machine*. The Howe Machine Co. [n.d.]. p. 8, Cover



Merric Sewing Machine, Foot Power Button Hole Cutter, Power Button Hole Cutter. The Ross, Moyer Manufacturing Co. [n.d.]



47. Domestic Sewing Machine Company

Norwalk, Ohio

1869-1924

1864: William A. Mack & Company and N. S. C. Perkins

1875: purchased Grover and Baker Sewing Machine Company

1924: purchased by and became a subsidiary of White Sewing Machine Company

The Domestic Sewing Machine Company collection includes a broad array of company materials, decals, fliers, manuals, trade cards, and trade catalogs. Illustrations on the trade cards range from images of domestic life, such as weddings or carriages on an outing, families with newly-acquired sewing machines, and farm scenes with livestock in fields, to samples of work done on a Domestic sewing machine, such as a flower stitched onto a trade card.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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48. G. L. DuLaney

Brooklyn, New York

1866-1876

Fliers for G. L. DuLaney featured drawings of the DuLaney sewing machine and attachments.

Textiles Collection

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49. Eclipse Sewing Machine Company

Cincinnati, Ohio

1885-1888

The Eclipse Sewing Machine Company marketed the Butterick sewing machine and its trade cards contained pictures of rural settings.

Archives Center

1

50. Eldredge Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company

Chicago, Illinois

1869-1886

Belvidere, Illinois

1886-1890

1890: consolidated with the June Manufacturing Company to form the National Sewing Machine Company

The Eldredge Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company materials feature trade cards advertising the Eldredge "B" sewing machine. Trade cards include images of children playing, painting in the woods, and cats and dogs in picturesque settings.

Archives Center

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14

51. Elliptic Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York

1867-1879

1858-1860: George B. Sloat and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1860-1861: Union Sewing Machine Company, Richmond, Virginia

1861-1867: Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company

The Elliptic Sewing Machine Company advertised its Elliptic lock-stitch sewing machine with a list of 1875 prices.

Textiles Collection

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52. Elna

Switzerland

1970-

The collection includes instruction books and manuals for the various Elna sewing machines, including the zig-zag.

Textiles Collection

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53. Empire Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York

1863-1871

The Empire shuttle sewing machine received a first prize at the Great Fair of the American Institute in New York, October 26, 1867, and highest premium for best manufacturing machine at the Paris Exposition universelle, 1867.

Archives Center

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54. English Singer Sewing Machine Company

(Location unknown)

1865-1883

A flier from the English Singer Sewing Machine Company provided information about model nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; prices, images of models, and list of advantages.

Textiles Collection

1

55. Erie Products Company

(Location unknown)

1930-1959

The Erie Products Company materials include diagrams of sewing techniques and text instructions on sewing.

Textiles Collection

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56. Erie Sewing Machine Company

Milan, Ohio

1860-1889

Erie Sewing Machine Company materials include ads, prices and replacement parts for the Erie Family Sewing Machine.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Archives Center

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57. D. J. Ewing

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1875

D. J. Ewing marketed the Secor lock-stitch family sewing machine.

Archives Center

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58. Eyelet Button-Hole Attachment Company

New York, New York Nineteenth century

The Eyelet Button-Hole Attachment Company advertised “One hundred perfect eyelets and buttonholes in one hour on any material” on their trade cards. The cards include pictures of cats.

Archives Center

2

59. Farmer and Gardner Manufacturing Company

Springfield, Massachusetts 1860-1890

Farmer and Gardner advertised its Springfield sewing machine with information and images of models, attachments, prices, and warranty.

Textiles Collection

1

60. Fessenden and Company

(Location unknown) 1872

Dr. Sapp’s improved walking motion treadle for sewing machines was the focus of the Fessenden and Company trade catalogs, which also contained testimonials of its value.

Textiles Collection

1

61. Finkle & Lyon Sewing Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1856-1872

1872: became Victor Sewing Machine Company

The Finkle & Lyon improved lock-stitch sewing machine was billed as the best for family use, simple and durable.

Archives Center

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62. Florence Sewing Machine Company

Florence, Massachusetts 1858-1885

The Florence Sewing Machine Company materials include trade cards featuring pictures of flower bouquets and sewing machines, trade catalogs with illustrations of the New Crown and Goodrich sewing machines, fliers that refer to Florence attendance at the 1867 Paris Exposition universelle, and a scale map and description of the Florence Sewing Machine Company factory developed by Barlow’s Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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12

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63. Foley and Williams Manufacturing Company

Cincinnati, Ohio 1885-1924

1880-1885: H. B. Goodrich, Chicago, Illinois

1924-1935: Goodrich Sewing Machine Company, Chicago, Illinois

The Foley and Williams Manufacturing Company advertising materials highlight the Goodrich sewing machine and sewing machine tables with descriptions, correspondence with customers, price lists, and testimonials.

Archives Center

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4

64. Folsom Sewing Machine Company

Winchendon, Massachusetts 1865-1872

Trade cards from the Folsom Sewing Machine Company carried basic information of prices at \$25 to \$35 and claimed "the best cheap machine in the world can be operated by hand or other power."

Archives Center

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65. Forster and Richardson

New York, New York 1869

Forster and Richardson sold sewing machines as well as needles and thread.

Archives Center

1

66. Foxboro Manufacturing Company

Foxboro, Massachusetts 1885-1887

formerly the Rotary Shuttle Sewing Machine Company (1881-1885)

The Foxboro Manufacturing Company materials include a stock certificate for 1,500 shares of stock in Foxboro Manufacturing Company, issued when Foxboro bought Rotary Shuttle Sewing Machine Company.

Textiles Collection

2

67. Free Sewing Machine Company

Chicago and Rockford, Illinois 1898-1958

1927: acquired the New Home Sewing Machine Company

1953: merged with National Sewing Machine Company

The Free Sewing Machine Company materials include a catalog of sewing machine sundries and supplies featuring needles and tools for use on Free sewing machines.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Archives Center

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68. Charles A. French

Boston, Massachusetts

1867

Charles A. French advertised a new novelty sewing machine.

Archives Center

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69. French Manufacturing Company

Boston, Massachusetts

1869-1876

The French Manufacturing Company claimed that “Ladies all say that French’s patent self-supporting drop-leaf table extension is the most useful attachment yet introduced for machines.”

Textiles Collection

1

70. Fuller and Barnum’s

(Location unknown)

1867-1889

Fuller and Barnum’s advertised their tack-creaser and “self-sewer” or self guide and baster combined.

Textiles Collection

2

Archives Center

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71. H. B. Goodrich

Chicago, Illinois

1880-1885

1885-1924: Foley and Williams Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois

1824-1935: Goodrich Sewing Machine Company, Chicago, Illinois

H. B. Goodrich manufactured the Goodrich machine and was a dealer in a variety of parts, attachments, oils, needles, etc.

Textiles Collection

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72. J. W. Greene & Company

Toledo, Ohio

Nineteenth century

J. W. Greene advertised his versatility for “pianos, organs and sewing machines repaired, pianos tuned.”

Archives Center

1

73. Greist Manufacturing Company

New Haven, Connecticut

1867 - 1965

The Greist Manufacturing Company materials progress from information about their early sewing machines to their later concentration on the production of sewing machine attachments and how to use them.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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74. Grover and Baker Sewing Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1850- 1876

1875: bought by Domestic Sewing Machine Company

The Grover and Baker Sewing Machine Company machines were awarded the Imperial Cross of the Legion of Honor at the Paris Exposition universelle of 1867 and received additional awards at other fairs and expositions. Materials in the collection include sheet music of the “Sewing Machine Gallop” (1865) and a sample of cloth with stitching done on a Grover and Baker sewing machine.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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75. William Haehnel

New York, New York 1884

William Haehnel patented his designs for the ornamentation of sewing machines. The collection includes the specification forming part of Design no. 15005, dated May 20, 1884.

Archives Center

2

76. Hall Treadle Manufacturing Company

(Location unknown) 1869

The Hall treadle was promoted as a health-preserving and labor-saving attachment to the machine and an improvement over earlier models. It could be stopped easily and instantly and could be run using one foot alone or both together.

Archives Center

1

77. William Hart

Troy, New York Nineteenth century

William Hart advertised card-raising machines, buttonhole-cutting machines, and sewing machine attachments.

Archives Center

1

78. H. G. Hawley

Albany, New York 1872

The H. G. Hawley water-powered motor was fed by a 3/8 inch pipe and had power enough to drive any sewing machine 600 to 800 stitches per minute using 75 to 100 gallons of water per hour. The machine was made of bronze, which would not rust or clog; used no oil; and was very quiet.

Archives Center

1

79. Holmes & Company

New York, New York

Nineteenth century

Holmes & Company advertised that any person wishing for an easier method than the old fashioned heel-and-toe method could have their Cowles' treadle installed, making the machine easier to control completely by feet.

Archives Center

1

80. Home Embroidery Machine Company

Kansas City, Kansas

Nineteenth century

A trade card for the Home Embroidery Machine company claimed that its machine used needles fine enough to work on fine fabrics, and they guaranteed that it could be used on any grade of goods from China silk to burlap.

Archives Center

1

81. Household Sewing Machine Company

Dayton, Ohio

1885-1906

1873-1884: Providence Tool Company, Providence, Rhode Island

The Household Sewing Machine Company advertised that "Household is everywhere acknowledged to be the simplest, most reliable, most beautiful, and the best sewing machine made." Its materials include poems and a large collection of trade cards which featured images of children in a multitude of settings; pets, birds; flower bouquets, angels, castles; and pictures of sewing machines. There are also scale maps and descriptions of the Household Sewing Machine Company's cabinet works developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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82. Howe Machine Company

Bridgeport, Connecticut

1867-1886

The Howe Machine Company won prizes for its sewing machines at the Exposition universelle, Paris, 1867, and the U. S. Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Its exhibition catalog of sewing machines and cases included a brief history of the sewing machine and its inventor, Elias Howe, Jr. Other company materials included pictures of the Howe machine, the first sewing machine from 1845, and poems about the sewing machine corresponding with each letter of the alphabet.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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83. Howe Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York 1853-1873
 Later sold to the Howe Machine Company

1873: purchased by the Stockwell brothers, who made Howe machines until 1886
 The Howe Sewing Machine Company (Amasa B.) materials include advertising for its light running high arm “best family sewing machine” and a broad range of trade cards, business cards, almanacs for 1881 and 1882, receipts, checks, and a history of Elias Howe, Jr. There is also a description of the Howe Sewing Machine Company’s works in Bridgeport, Connecticut, developed by Barlow’s Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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84. Charles W. Howland

Wilmington, Delaware 1859

Charles W. Howland fliers advertised the Harris improved boudoir sewing machine which was admired for its simplicity, reliability, and durability. “It’s easy enough for a child of twelve to use with no belts to worry about, it sews backwards and forwards, and it runs by friction.”

Archives Center

1

85. Hurltu Hautin & Diligeron

Paris, France 1889

The Hurltu French sewing machine boasted “the most complete variety offered by one manufacturer enabling each industry to have the best machine for their needs.”

Archives Center

1

86. Husqvarna

Sweden 1975-1976

Instructions for using Husqvarna model 2000 were provided in a variety of languages.

Textiles Collection

7

87. Ideal Stitcher and Manufacturing Company

Racine, Wisconsin 1910-1940

The Ideal Stitcher and Manufacturing Company materials include the Ideal Stitcher models and their applications with pictures and descriptions of stitches.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

1

88. Illinois Sewing Machine Company

Rockford, Illinois 1895-1897

The Illinois Sewing Machine Company manufactured the New Royal sewing machines, available in a variety of cabinet styles. Special emphasis was on the New Royal automatic drop head cabinet. The company also provided an essay on how to sell sewing machines.

Archives Center

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89. Independent Sewing Machine Company

Binghamton, New York 1873-

The Independent Sewing Machine Company produced a 'noiseless' family sewing machine, and its company materials included a flyer recruiting for new sewing machine agents.

Textiles Collection

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90. O. R. Ingersoll

New York, New York Nineteenth century

O. R. Ingersoll developed its Universal underfeed sewing machine based on the expired patents of machines such as Whitney, Singer, and Wilson & Gibbs.

Archives Center

1

91. Emile James

New York, New York Nineteenth century

Emile James produced a cylinder sewing machine with complete universal feed, specially adapted for steam power. It could sew leather, repair boots and shoes, and replace elastics.

Archives Center

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92. A. F. Johnson & Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1860

A. F. Johnson advertised that its sewing machine was a simple and durable double thread machine with no springs, cut-offs, clamps, friction wheels, or useless devices of any kind.

Archives Center

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93. Johnson, Flanders and Company

Houston, Texas 1865-83

Johnson, Flanders and Company were manufacturers of the Crescent sewing machine.

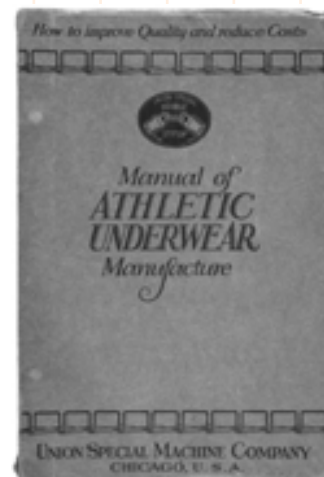
Textiles Collection

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"Machine No. 16-45: Two shuttles ... for leather."
The Singer Manufacturing Company Catalogue. (1896)



Manual of Athletic Underwear Manufacture. Union Special Machine Co. (1921). Cover



94. June Manufacturing Company

Chicago and then Belvidere, Illinois 1879-1890

1890: merged with Eldredge Sewing Machine Company to form National Sewing Machine Company

The June Manufacturing Company was one of the companies producing Singer-style sewing machines as well as “the new and elegant light-running ‘Jennie June’ sewing machine.”

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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95. Keystone Sewing Machine

Pennsylvania?

1872-1874

B. F. Demarree was an agent for the Keystone Sewing Machine company.

Archives Center

1

96. Joshua Kidd

(Location unknown)

1855-1870

The collection includes a request from Joshua Kidd for a patent for the invention of sewing machine improvements related primarily to the arrangement of necessary machinery for the well-known chain stitch and the double or cross chain stitch.

Archives Center

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97. König and Company

Germany

1865-1889

König and Company was a manufactory for Singer-style sewing machines. Company fliers provided information about and images of the models.

Textiles Collection

1

98. B. W. Lacy and Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1869-1873

1873-1876: McLean & Bennor Machine Company

1873-1876: McLean & Hooper Sewing Machine Company

The B. W. Lacy Company produced the McLean and Hooper elastic lock stitch family sewing machine which could stitch, hem, tuck, quilt, cord, braid, gather, and embroider without any extra attachments. See entries for McLean & Hooper and Centennial.

99. Ladd, Webster and Company

Boston, Massachusetts

1858-1866

Ladd, Webster and Company's improved tight stitch sewing machines won awards at fairs.

Textiles Collection

1

100. Landis Machine Company

Saint Louis, Missouri

1893

The Landis Machine Company manufactured the Landis wax thread lockstitch sewing machine which received the “Highest diploma and medal awarded at World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.”

Textiles Collection

1

101. Lane Brothers

Mittlebrook, New York

1875

The Lane hydraulic motor was attached to a home’s plumbing in such a manner that there was no leakage and it was easy to control speed.

Archives Center

1

102. Leader Sewing Machine Company

Cleveland, Ohio

ca 1870-1899

The Leader Sewing Machine Company materials include trade cards with pictures of children, unsolicited testimonials from customers, and prices of Leader Sewing Machine Company machines.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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103. Leavitt & Company

Boston, Massachusetts

1855-1870

1855-1857: Nichols, Leavitt & Company, Boston, Massachusetts

1857-1865: Leavitt & Company

1865-1870: Leavitt Sewing Machine Company

Leavitt & Company premium lockstitch sewing machines “provided the highest degree of qualities such as durability and easy management; sewed well on all types of goods; and used cotton and linen thread as well as silk.”

Archives Center

1

104. Leavitt and Brant

Boston, Massachusetts?

Nineteenth century

The Leavitt and Brant Colby hemmer “is the only broad hemmer ever invented that will turn any width hem from 1/4" to 5" width on any brand of goods from lightest to heaviest; cut straight or on the bias.”

Archives Center

1

Clippings
Company Materials
Decals
Files
Manuals
Maps
Parts Lists
Stereoscopic Photography
Picture Books
Postcards
Sheet Music
Trade Cards
Trade Catalogs

105. J. R. Leeson & Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1894

The Bates' patent non-spilling bobbin devices, marketed by J. R. Leeson, were extolled for their perfect tension ready wound bobbins that held three times the amount of thread. Their non-spilling shuttle bobbin holders were available for loan to manufacturers.

Archives Center

1

106. John E. Lewis

Reading, Pennsylvania Nineteenth century

John E. Lewis was a wholesale and retail dealer in all kinds of sewing machines.

Archives Center

1

107. Lewis Invisible Stitch Machine Company

New York, New York 1930-1959

1958: purchased by Union Special Sewing Machine Company

Materials for the Lewis Invisible Stitch Machine Company include information about its blindstitch and 'sew-pink' machines for women's wear. The "Lewis sew-pink is technology built into many other machines, including Singer, Union Special, and Willcox and Gibbs." A sample of stitch-work on fabric included.

Textiles Collection

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108. C. M. Linington and Bro.

(Location unknown) 1874

C. M. Linington and Bro. were manufacturers and importers of sewing machine and hand needles.

Textiles Collection

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109. Frederick Loesser Company

Brooklyn, New York Nineteenth century

The Loesser sewing machines had an automatic ruffler; models varied as to drop head and type of cabinet.

Archives Center

1

110. Long Shuttle Sewing Machine

(Location unknown) Twentieth century

The Long Shuttle Sewing Machine Company materials include an instruction book for using its household long shuttle sewing machine.

Textiles Collection

1

111. Love Manufacturing Company

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1885-Twentieth century

The Love sewing machine was the “latest and most attractive sewing machine for all purposes.” Later models could do zig-zag stitching with one or two needles; no extra attachments were needed to do overseaming or other sewing.

Archives Center

10

112. Marshall Field & Company

Chicago, Illinois

1890-1939

During this era, Marshall Field & Company offered various sewing machine models for sale.

Archives Center

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113. James McGranahan

New York, New York?

Late nineteenth century

James McGranahan wrote “My sewing machine” with nine related choruses and offered the sheet music for sale.

Archives Center

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114. McLean & Bennor Machine Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1873-1876

1869-1876 Centennial Sewing Machine Company

The McLean & Bennor Machine Company used trade cards to advertise their low prices.

Archives Center

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115. McLean & Hooper Sewing Machine Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1873-1876

1869-1876 Centennial Sewing Machine Company

McLean & Hooper elastic lock stitch family sewing machine “will stitch, hem, tuck, quilt, cord, braid, gather, and embroider without any extra attachments.”

Archives Center

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116. Merrick Thread Company

(Location unknown)

1879

Merrick’s ready made bobbin was recommended by the Singer Manufacturing Company.

Archives Center

1

Clippings

Company Materials

Decals

Files

Manuals

Maps

Parts Lists

Stereoscopic Photography

Picture Books

Postcards

Sheet Music

Trade Cards

Trade Catalogs

117. Merrow Machine Company

Hartford, Connecticut 1838-1982
 Newington, Connecticut 1982-

The Merrow Machine Company was the manufacturer of high speed overedge, overseaming, and shell stitch machines. Company materials include manuals and trade catalogs featuring sample stitches made using a Merrow sewing machine.

Textiles Collection

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118. Mersinger and Company

Joliet, Illinois 1860-1890

Mersinger and Company was a sewing machine sales agency.

Textiles Collection

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119. Metropolitan Sewing Machine Company

Nyack, New York 1910-1936

1936: purchased by Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company

The Metropolitan Sewing Machine Company materials include instructions on the care, operation, and adjustment of its various machines.

Textiles Collection

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120. Montgomery Ward

Mail order 1890-1959

At different times, Montgomery Ward offered its high arm sewing machine and reversible rotary sewing machine.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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121. H. O. Morell Son & Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Nineteenth century

The Reliable shuttle sewing machine of the H. O. Morell Son & Company “uses a straight needle, makes a lockstitch, has self-adjusting tension, and has a large shuttle.”

Archives Center

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“Perfection” wire stitching machines. J. L. Morrison Co. [n.d.]



122. Morley Button Sewing Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

The Morley Button Sewing Machine Company product had the capability of sewing 225 buttons per minute and could also sew buttons on shoes. The company also dealt in threads, needles, and machine supplies.

Archives Center

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123. Sam'l F. Morrill & Company

Concord, New Hampshire

1872

Sam'l F. Morrill was an agent for the Singer Manufacturing Company and family sewing machines. The company also dealt in watches, clocks, jewelry, silverware, cutlery, spectacles, fancy goods, etc.

Archives Center

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124. James Morrison and Company

Niagara Falls, New York

1870-1930

1920-1940: J. L. Morrison and Company, Niagara Falls, New York

The Morrison Perfection wire stitching machine no. 5-A was "Perfection by name; perfection in performance." The company also offered a patent sewing machine fan, which was operated by the machine's power, and they marketed the Morrison Perfection foot-power bottom-stitcher which was a product of Harris Seybold Potter.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Textiles Collection

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125. National Sewing Machine Company

Belvidere, Illinois

1890-1957

1890: formed by a consolidation of the June Manufacturing Company and Eldredge Sewing Machine Company

1924: acquired Davis Sewing Machine Company

1953: merged with Free Sewing Machine Company

1953: merged with New Home Sewing Machine Company

In a company history published in 1939, the National Sewing Machine Company proclaimed sixty years of fine workmanship, "1879 – modern then; 1939 – modern today."

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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126. Necchi

Italy

1940's-

Necchi manuals and instructions were produced in a variety of languages.

Textiles Collection

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19

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	Clippings	Company Materials	Decals	Fliers	Manuals	Maps	Parts Lists	Stereoscopic Photography	Picture Books	Postcards	Sheet Music	Trade Cards	Trade Catalogs
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127. Nelco

Italy

1970

Photographs of the Nelco models included the slant arm, Amica Super Practical, and the Maxi flatbed "For today's sophisticated customers."

Textiles Collection

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128. New Era Sewing Machine Company

Springfield, Ohio

Nineteenth century

The New Era Sewing Machine Company produced both low arm and high arm sewing machines. The low arm model was advertised as simple to use, made of steel, and as a strong, light-running lock-stitch machine which could sew on all weights of fabrics. The high-arm model was light-running and noiseless and had automatic tension; the needle didn't require adjusting.

Archives Center

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129. New Home Sewing Machine Company

Orange, Massachusetts

1877-1882

1869: Johnson, Clark and Company

1927: acquired by The Free Sewing Machine Company

1953: merged with The National Sewing Machine Company

1957: absorbed by the Janome Corporation

The New Home Sewing Machine Company materials include trade catalogs that advertised the various available models and cabinets; trade cards featuring images of pastoral scenes, beach scenes, children at play, and newlyweds; testimonials; fliers inviting fairgoers to visit the New Home booth at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition, Chicago; and complimentary synopses of Shakespeare's plays. There is also a scale map and description of the New Home Sewing Machine Company's factory developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection

2

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36

2

Archives Center

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14

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314

17

130. New Raymond Sewing Machine Company

(Location unknown)

Nineteenth century

The New Raymond Sewing Machine Company used a trade card to advertise their machine as "Light running, best in the world."

Archives Center

1

"(Rotary Shuttle)
For Corset Strip
Work." The
Standard Sewing
Machine Co.
(1895)



The Ross, Moyer
Manufacturing Co.
Boot, Shoe and
Harness Machinery
and Dies. [n.d.].
Cover



131. New York Sewing Machine Company

New York 1880-1882

1883-1888: Demorest Manufacturing Company

The New York Sewing Machine Company advertised their New York Shuttle machine as “the brightest diamond of them all.”

Archives Center

1

132. New York Singer Sewing Machine Company

New York 1880-1890

A trade catalog from the New York Singer Sewing Machine Company (not a branch of the Singer Manufacturing Company) gave images of models and information about the sales agent, Economy Emporium, prices of models, and testimonials.

Textiles Collection

1

133. Newton Wilson & Company

London, England 1850's

Newton Wilson & Company claimed to be the pioneers of the English sewing machine trade. According to their company material, the British Princess of Wales called theirs the most perfect lockstitch machine yet invented.

Archives Center

1

134. Nichols & BlissNew York, New York 1853-?
Boston, Massachusetts

Nichols and Bliss were manufacturers of Howe's improved patent sewing machines.

Archives Center

4

135. J. B. Nichols & Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1854?

J. B. Nichols was an early manufacturer of sewing machines, as noted in advertisements.

Archives Center

2

136. Nihon Mishin Yushutsu Kumiai

Japan 1954

Japan's sewing machine guidebook contained illustrations and descriptions of various sewing machines and the list of members of Japan's Sewing Machine Exporters Association.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

1

Clippings

Company Materials

Decals

Files

Manuals

Maps

Parts Lists

Stereoscopic Photography

Picture Books

Postcards

Sheet Music

Trade Cards

Trade Catalogs

137. Novelty Sewing Machine Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?

Nineteenth century

Novelty sewing machines could hem, braid, embroider, and do all kinds of family sewing.

Archives Center

1

138. L. M. Olmstead

(Location unknown)

1873

L. M. Olmstead was granted an award at the 1873 American Institute Exhibition in New York City.

Textiles Collection

1

139. Oxford Manufacturing Company

Chicago, Illinois

Nineteenth century

Oxford sewing machines were "strictly high grade, first class and have more good qualities than all others combined."

Archives Center

3

140. Palm and Fechteler

New York, New York

1881

Ewald Hahnel's patent for a new and original design for the ornamentation of sewing machines was assigned to Palm and Fechteler of New York, New York.

Archives Center

1

141. Perfect Hemstitcher Manufacturing Company

Springfield, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

The Perfect Hemstitcher Manufacturing Company provided instructions for attaching and using the perfect hemstitching and picoting attachment.

Archives Center

1

142. Georg Michael Pfaff Gedachtnisstiftung

Germany

Late nineteenth century and late twentieth century

Pfaff machines were marketed internationally. This collection of instruction manuals includes multiple languages.

Textiles Collection

7

17

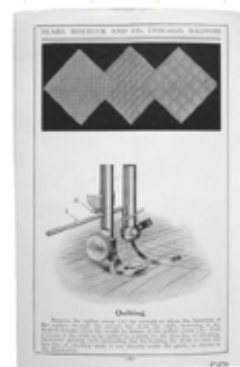
1

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Instructions for Operating the Franklin Sewing Machine.
 "To make a hem . . . To do hemstitching." Sears, Roebuck and Co. [n.d]. p. 27



"This complete outfit, dress, and cape . . ." *"Quilting." Instructions for operating the Franklin Sewing Machine.* Sears, Roebuck and Co. [n.d]. pp. 35, 34



143. Geo. F. Phillips & Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Nineteenth century

Geo. F. Phillips & Company had Crown sewing machines for sale as well as needles of various types and sizes for different sewing machines.

Archives Center

1

144. D. B. Piper

Winchendon, Massachusetts Nineteenth century

D. B. Piper manufactured sewing machine shuttles, bobbins, and screw drivers.

Archives Center

2

145. Planer, Braunsdorf & Company

New York, New York 1861

Successor to Planer & Kayser

A copy of the Planer, Braunsdorf letterhead is included in this collection for the information it provides about the company and its relation to sewing machines.

Archives Center

1

146. Pocket Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York 1860

The Pocket sewing machine was easily used, being held in the hand, and was especially adapted to doing quilting, embroidery, and braiding.

Archives Center

1

147. Pope Manufacturing Company

Boston, Massachusetts Nineteenth century

The Pope Manufacturing Company advertised a new and valuable household machine for darning stockings, repairing garments, and other purposes never before attempted by machinery.

Archives Center

1

New Priscilla Sewing Machines.
Priscilla Needlework Co. [n.d.].
Priscilla sewing machine model;
Cover.



148. Joseph Powell

Chicago, Illinois?

1865-1883

Joseph Powell represented various sewing machine companies, as reflected in his price lists for available models and parts.

Textiles Collection

1

149. Laurence Powell

(Location unknown)

1931

Laurence Powell wrote and published a piece of music titled, "Sewing Machine."

Archives Center

1

150. S. F. Pratts

Boston, Massachusetts

1857

S. F. Pratts advertised its ladies' companion treadle sewing machine as made expressly for family use, and all fabrics could be used. Its machine "was not got up for the purpose of selling patent rights and humbugging the public, neither do we use any other patents but our own."

Archives Center

1

151. Priscilla Needlework Company

Boston, Massachusetts

1870-1916

The Priscilla Needlework Company sold patterns for fancy needlework designs as well as sewing machines.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

3

152. Puritan Manufacturing Company

Norwich, Connecticut

1905-1959

The Puritan Manufacturing Company produced high-speed machines for shoe manufacturers.

Textiles Collection

1

153. Rand Manufacturing Company

Boston, Massachusetts

1865-1883

Family, or home use, sewing machines formed the line of the Rand Manufacturing Company.

Textiles Collection

2

154. Rapid Sewing Machine Company

Bedford, Quebec, Canada

Nineteenth century

The Rapid sewing machine literature claimed theirs was the lightest, strongest, and most durable machine on the market.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

2

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

1

155. Reece Button Hole Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts

Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

The Reece Button Hole Machine received the grand prize at the Paris Exposition universelle in 1889.

Archives Center

1

156. Regina

Switzerland

1940-1970

Company materials include information on the Regina topmatic with guides to its use.

Textiles Collection

2

157. Remington Sewing Machine Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1870-1894

1870-1872: Remington Empire Sewing Machine Company

1873-1875: E. Remington & Sons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1875-1888: E. Remington & Sons, Illion, New York

1888-1894: Remington Sewing Machine Agency, Illion, New York

The Remington Sewing Machine Company materials promoted its silent, light-running family sewing machine which could do a greater variety of work.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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158. Rex and Bockius

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1876-1881

The Goodes plain and fancy lock-stitch and overseaming sewing machine was a product of Rex and Bockius.

Textiles Collection

1

159. Louis Rich Machine Corporation

(Location unknown)

1920-1959

The Louis Rich Machine Corporation models included a flat-button sewing machine and a square-stitch industrial machine.

Textiles Collection

2

160. Richard's Patented Treadle Company

(Location unknown)

1872

The Richard's Patented Treadle Company materials include testimonials from customers.

Textiles Collection

1

161. Rikka Kabushiki Kaisha

Japan

1970's

The Riccar models of Rikka Kabushiki Kaisha machines were capable of zig-zag sewing and working on stretch fabrics.

Textiles Collection

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22

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10

162. Rose Label Machine Company

(Location unknown)

1920-1950

The Rose Label stitching machine was designed for sewing reinforcements for buttons and button holes on union suits and sewing labels on underwear, stockings, heavy textiles, shoe linings, etc.

Textiles Collection

1

163. Ross, Moyer Manufacturing Company

Cincinnati, Ohio

1870-1899

The Ross, Moyer Manufacturing Company materials include trade catalogs featuring pictures of its sewing machines.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

1

164. Rotary Shuttle Sewing Machine Company

Foxboro, Massachusetts

1881-1884

1860's-1869: J. A. Davis, New York, New York

1885: acquired by the Foxboro Manufacturing Company

The Rotary Shuttle Sewing Machine Company materials include trade cards featuring the story of the inventor, J. A. Davis.

Textiles Collection

1

165. Sackett Manufacturing Company

Wallingford, Connecticut

1860-1920s

The Sackett Manufacturing Company materials include fliers featuring embroidery completed using a Sackett Peerless embroidery attachment.

Textiles Collection

1

166. Sargent and Company

New York, New York

Nineteenth century

Sargent's new patent sewing machine casters allowed you to "Move your sewing machine wherever you please; to the right or the left, forward or back or in any direction by simply pressing your foot upon a lever. The machine is raised off the floor and securely rested on 4 swivel casters."

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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167. Sears, Roebuck and Company

Chicago, Illinois

Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Sears, Roebuck and Company sold a variety of brands of sewing machines and produced whole catalogs devoted to the sale of sewing machines and accessories.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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168. Secomb & Company

Boston, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Louis, Missouri

Secomb & Company marketed the Common Sense Family Sewing Machine.

Archives Center

5

169. Secor Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York

1876-1883

Company materials for the Secor Sewing Machine Company include an insurance description and drawing of the Secor Sewing Machine Company factory developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey.

Archives Center

1

Clippings

Company Materials

Decals

Fliers

Manuals

Maps

Parts Lists

Stereoscopic Photography

Picture Books

Postcards

Sheet Music

Trade Cards

Trade Catalogs

170. Self-Threading Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York

Twentieth century

The Self-Threading Sewing Machine Company materials include trade cards marketing its self-threading machines.

Archives Center

5

171. Sewing Machine Adjustable Table Company

(Location unknown)

1873

Tables produced by the Sewing Machine Adjustable Table Company were adapted to all the various sewing machines manufactured in the United States. Materials include fliers featuring testimonials from customers.

Textiles Collection

2

172. Shaw and Clark Sewing Machine Company

Biddeford, Maine

1857-1866

Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts

1867-1868

1868-1869: Chicopee Sewing Machine Company

The Shaw and Clark Sewing Machine Company materials include testimonials from customers, pictures of their headquarters, and terms to sales agents.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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173. Mark Sheldon

San Francisco, California

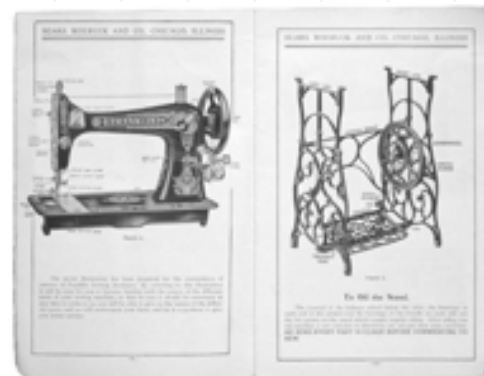
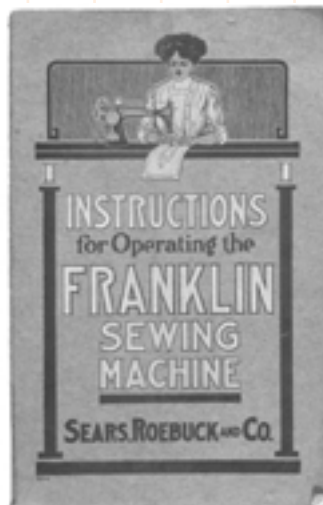
Nineteenth century

Mark Sheldon was the purveyor and agent for New Davis, New Howe, Household, Queen, and the June Singer sewing machines, and also dealt in sewing supplies.

Archives Center

3

Instructions for Operating the Franklin Sewing Machine. Cover. Fig. 1, Fig. 4, "To oil the stand." Sears, Roebuck and Co. [n.d]



Clippings
Company Materials
Decals
Files
Manuals
Maps
Parts Lists
Stereoscopic Photography
Picture Books
Postcards
Sheet Music
Trade Cards
Trade Catalogs

174. Singer Manufacturing Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1851-1853
 New York, New York 1853-1873
 Elizabethport, New Jersey 1873-
 1863: I. M. Singer & Company incorporated as the Singer Manufacturing Company
 1905: acquired Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company
 1931: acquired Osann (which had acquired Standard in 1928)

The Singer Manufacturing Company materials include a broad range of company materials, featuring pictures of Singer sewing machines and the Singer Manufacturing Company plant, lists of Singer shops, a history of the American sewing machine, and information on sewing clothing. Some of these materials were designed to be distributed at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries			1	3	1				39
Textiles Collection		3	6	146	44				60 49
Archives Center	27	44	7	7			1	286	9

175. Sloan & Company

Cincinnati, Ohio 1881
 Company materials celebrated Sloan & Company's six-wheel sewing machine caster.

Archives Center		1							
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176. George B. Sloat & Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1859-1861
 George B. Sloat & Company marketed a sewing machine called an "Elliptic lock stitch sewing machine. The machine has no friction belt, but a wonderful motor; the machine runs itself, no treadle."

Archives Center								1	1
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177. Slocum & Williams

(Location unknown) 1865-1880
 Slocum & Williams was the source for the Williams Champion self-threading Singer-style sewing machine.

Textiles Collection			1						
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Union Special Filled Bag Closing Machine. Belt Conveyor Type. Union Special Machine Company (1924). Cover



How to Make Children's Clothes the Modern Singer Way. Singer Sewing Library No. 3. Singer Sewing Machine Co. [1930?]. Cover



178. Smith & Egge Manufacturing Company

Bridgeport, Connecticut

1875-1900

The Little Comfort improved machine from Smith & Egge was a hand operated sewing machine with automatic tension; stitch and feed regulator; weighed only thirty ounces; and could be attached to the arm of a chair or the edge of a table. Despite its small size, the advertising stressed that this was not a toy. The selling price was \$4.00.

Archives Center

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179. Southern Supply Company

(Location unknown)

1881

Southern Supply Company marketed the Standard Singer-style machine.

Textiles Collection

1

180. Spring Motor Company

Fort Worth, Texas

1900-1929

The Spring Motor Company provided pictures of its attachments and instructions for using its no-treadle sewing machine.

Textiles Collection

1

181. St. John Sewing Machine Company

Springfield, Ohio

1870-1883

1883-1891: Royal Sewing Machine Company, Springfield, Ohio

1891-1894: Rockford, Illinois

The St. John Sewing Machine Company materials claimed that theirs was the “Only sewing machine in the world that continues to sew in the same direction whether run forward or backward.” It was a high arm machine with self-setting needle and no holes to thread in the machine or shuttle. One of the trade cards features a piece of music extolling the virtues of the St. John sewing machine.

Archives Center

24

182. Standard Sewing Machine Company

Cleveland, Ohio

1884-1931

1929: acquired by Osann

Standard Sewing Machine Company manufactured sewing machines for steam and foot power. Its Rotary model, with the needle of the machine centered in the cabinet directly in front of the seamstress, put less strain on the user's back because less stretching was required. One of the many company trade cards included a verse about the virtues of sewing machines and sewing.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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183. Standard Shuttle Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York 1874-1881

The trade catalog for the new and improved Standard Shuttle Lock Stitch sewing machine included testimonials from customers.

Textiles Collection

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184. Star Shuttle Sewing Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1860's

Advertisements from the Cleveland *Leader* and the Cleveland *Herald* for the Star shuttle sewing machine included testimonials.

Archives Center

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185. Henry Stewart & Company

New York, New York 1874-1883

1880-1883: Stewart Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Company materials provided general information about Stewart's family and manufacturing sewing machines, list of offices, information about attachments, prices, images of models.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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186. Stewart Manufacturing Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1880-1883

1874-1883: Henry Stewart & Company, New York, New York

The trade catalog for the Stewart Genuine sewing machine included images and information about models and attachments, prices, warranty, and a trademark warning.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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187. Straw and Morton

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1869

Straw and Morton was a wholesale and retail dealer in Singer's Sewing Machines and also marketed the Hinkley knitting machine

Archives Center

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188. A. H. Supplee

New York, New York 1865

A. H. Supplee sold and repaired sewing machines and sold needles, thread and trimmings for sewing machines.

Archives Center

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	Clippings	Company Materials	Decals	Files	Manuals	Maps	Parts Lists	Stereoscopic Photography	Picture Books	Postcards	Sheet Music	Trade Cards	Trade Catalogs
189. Tavano Geneva, Switzerland 1970's Tavano company materials include trade catalogs in a variety of languages providing information on use of the Elna Lotus model sewing machine. There is also correspondence from Tavano concerning the origin of the Elna trademark.													
Textiles Collection		1			16							1	12
190. Tennis Company New York, New York 1870-1899 The Tennis materials include price lists and information on the Tennis book-stitching machine and its offering of the "best soft and silk finish unbleached thread and bobbins."													
Smithsonian Institution Libraries							1						3
191. W. W. Thomas (Location unknown) 1887 W. W. Thomas marketed the Thomas High Arm Singer-style sewing machine with attachments.													
Archives Center							1						
192. John Thornton and Company (Location unknown) 1877 John Thornton and Company sold sewing machine parts, attachments, and findings from multiple companies.													
Textiles Collection							1						
193. Torrington Company (Location unknown) 1940 The Torrington Company was a purveyor of sewing machine parts, needles, and supplies.													
Textiles Collection							1						
194. Tracy Sewing Machine Company (Location unknown) Nineteenth century Advertising from the Tracy Sewing Machine Company credited Mrs. Tracy with inventing the first lock-stitch and chain-stitch sewing machine with a rotary shuttle.													
Archives Center							1						1
195. Tryber & Sweetland Chicago, Illinois 1879-1882 Tryber & Sweetland were representatives for the Chicago Singer factory.													
Textiles Collection													1

196. Union Button Hole Machine Company

(Location unknown) 1869-1882

The Union Button Hole Machine Company provided instructions for setting up and operating their machines.

Archives Center

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197. Union Family Sewing Machine

Chicago, Illinois 1850-1879

The Union Family Sewing Machine company advertised its product as “the best ten dollar family sewing machine.”

Archives Center

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198. Union Manufacturing Company

Toledo, Ohio 1860-1899

Fliers from the Union Manufacturing Company included testimonials from satisfied customers.

Archives Center

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199. Union Special Machine Company

Chicago, Illinois 1880-

1958: purchased Lewis Invisible Stitch Machine Company

The Union Special Machine Company materials include information about its filled-bag-closing machine, the manufacture of knitted undergarments, special machines in the shirt industry and kindred linens, and the manufacture of shoe uppers. Correspondence refers to the company's World War II efforts.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

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Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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200. Union Supply Company

(Location unknown) 1860-1899

The Union Supply Company actively advertised for agents to market its products.

Archives Center

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201. United States Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York 1876-1880

The \$12.00 family sewing machine from the United States Sewing Machine Company could use any kind of thread to hem, stitch, quilt, and bind.

Archives Center

1

202. Universal Buttonhole Attachment Company

New York, New York

Nineteenth century

The Universal Buttonhole Attachment could be attached to leading double-thread machines; it was self-feeding and easy to manage.

Archives Center

1

203. Universal Fashion Company

London, Paris, New York

1876-1899

The Universal Fashion Company advertised White sewing machines.

Archives Center

1

204. Universal Sewing Machines

(Location unknown)

1970

The Universal Sewing Machines company advertised 'total concept' sewing machines in a variety of models.

Textiles Collection

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205. Universal Spring Motor

Boston, Massachusetts

Nineteenth century

The Universal Spring Motor product could perform the labor of powering a sewing machine while a "person will sit quietly by with nothing to do but guide the work." This "easily controlled motor could be readily attached to any sewing machine, would cost nothing to run, and would outlast a dozen sewing machines."

Archives Center

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206. Victor Sewing Machine Company

Middletown, Connecticut

1872-1888

1867-1872: Finkle and Lyon Manufacturing Company

The Victor Sewing Machine Company materials provide information about its shuttle lockstitch sewing machines. These included images of and information about models, price list, testimonials, list of advantages, etc. There is also an insurance description and drawing of the Victor Sewing Machine Company Works in Middletown, Connecticut, developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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207. Arnaldo Vigorelli Italian Sewing Machine Works

Italy 1940-1959

An Arnaldo Vigorelli Italian Sewing Machine Works manual featured images of sewing machines and instructions for use.

Textiles Collection

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208. Viking Sewing Machine Company

Minneapolis, Minnesota 1970's

Viking free arm-model sewing machines were advertised as "A great step towards making sewing simpler."

Textiles Collection

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209. Walcott Brothers

Boston, Massachusetts 1853

H. D. Walcott's Patent Graduating Button-hole Cutters were designed for both family and professional use.

Archives Center

1

210. J. B. R. Walker

Hartford, Connecticut Nineteenth century

J. B. R. Walker manufactured the Protean buttonhole lancette and the Webster's buttonhole worker.

Archives Center

1

211. R. M. Wanzer & CompanyHamilton, Ontario, Canada
New York, New York Nineteenth century

R. M. Wanzer & Company made sewing machines in a variety of sizes.

Archives Center

2

212. Weed Sewing Machine CompanyHartford, Connecticut 1865-1899
Formerly Whitney & Lyons

Models from the Weed Sewing Machine Company included the Hartford and the Favorite. A booklet featuring articles in praise of Weed sewing machines and testimonials was published for the great trial or contest for superiority between sewing machines at the 22nd annual exhibition of the Maryland Institute. The three Favorite machines are described: the Family Favorite was good for general sewing, the General Favorite could do work on leather and heavy cotton, and the Manufacturer's Favorite could sew baskets.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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Clippings	Company Materials	Decals	Files	Manuals	Maps	Parts Lists	Stereoscopic Photography	Picture Books	Postcards	Sheet Music	Trade Cards	Trade Catalogs
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213. J. I. West

New York, New York 1875

J. I. West's duplex braiding embroidery attachment was adaptable to all makes of machines.

Textiles Collection

1

214. Western Electric

Chicago, Illinois Late nineteenth – Early twentieth century

Western Electric provided a manual with general instructions for the use of its portable sewing machine.

Archives Center

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215. Westinghouse Sewing Machine Company

(Location unknown) 1870-1899

A trade card from the Westinghouse Sewing Machine Company featured a woman sitting at a sewing machine who claims, "Yes, I'll be at the bridge club, but with the aid of my Westinghouse sewing machine motor I'm going to do a whole day's sewing before I start."

Archives Center

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216. Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company

Watertown, Connecticut 1853-1856

Bridgeport, Connecticut 1856-1905

1851-1853: Wheeler, Wilson & Company, Watertown, Connecticut

1905: acquired by Singer Manufacturing Company

The Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company lock-stitch sewing machines were awarded the only gold medal among 82 competitors given for sewing machines at the Exposition universelle, Paris, 1867. Wheeler and Wilson produced family sewing machines, button-hole machines, and automatic high-arm sewing machines appropriate for heavy work – stitching heavy clothing, boots and shoes, and harness carriage trimmings.

Textiles Collection

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Archives Center

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"The New Weed."
Tennis Company [n.d].
Cover



"The Modern Sewing Machine." *The New White*. White Sewing Machine Co. [n.d.].
Cover



217. White Sewing Machine Company

Templeton, Massachusetts 1858-1866
 Cleveland, Ohio 1867-

1924: acquired Domestic Sewing Machine Company

The White Sewing Machine Company materials include a broad assortment of company materials, manuals, trade cards, and trade catalogs featuring price lists. White exhibited sewing machines at world's fairs and expositions and advertised its wares in booklets of poetry and information aimed at both children and adults.

	Clippings	Company Materials	Decals	Files	Manuals	Maps	Parts Lists	Stereoscopic Photography	Picture Books	Postcards	Sheet Music	Trade Cards	Trade Catalogs
Smithsonian Institution Libraries													1
Textiles Collection		3			3							7	2
Archives Center		12		9	3			1				161	4

218. Whitehill Sewing Machine Company

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1875-1888

The light-running Whitehill sewing machine was advertised as “the people’s choice.”

Archives Center													2
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219. J. H. Whitney Company

Boston, Massachusetts Nineteenth century

J. H. Whitney Company advertised “the life-saving cushion treadle” for sewing machines which lessened fatigue during long periods of use.

Archives Center													1
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220. D. Whittemore

Boston, Massachusetts Nineteenth century

D. Whittemore produced a union wax-thread sewing machine to be used for shoe repairs and pegging.

Archives Center													1
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221. Elihu Wilder

Springfield, Massachusetts Nineteenth century

Wilder’s patent adjustable hemmer and guide would enable the sewing machine operator to make a wide hem without previously basting or folding the cloth. The hemmer was easily adjusted and easily used.

Archives Center				1									
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222. Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company

New York, New York: 1857-1973

1936: purchased Metropolitan Sewing Machine Company

The Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company materials include company materials, fliers, manuals, parts lists, trade cards, and trade catalogs featuring price lists, with detailed instructions for a wide variety of machines designed for the industrial setting. There are samples of stitch work done on Willcox and Gibbs machines and lists of world's fairs where the Willcox and Gibbs Sewing Machine Company exhibited.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries									1	
Textiles Collection		2		42	8		19		29	46
Archives Center	6	9		9	4				8	1

223. Williams and Orvis Sewing Machine Company

Boston, Massachusetts 1859-1869

Williams and Orvis, manufacturers of the Williams celebrated \$25 family sewing machine, produced a small, treadle-powered, friction-driven machine.

Archives Center	2									
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224. Williams Manufacturing Company

Montreal, Canada 1865-1899

Plattsburg, New York

The Williams Manufacturing Company marketed Singer-style machines and also advertised its Helpmate silent running sewing machine. Company materials include an insurance description and drawing of the Williams Manufacturing Company Works in Plattsburg, New York, developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey.

Textiles Collection				2					2	
Archives Center				1		1			12	

"A portion of Fitting Room. Cushman Hollis Co., Auburn, Maine." [Manual on manufacture of shoe uppers]. Union Special Machine Co. (1923)



The Singer Manufacturing Company Catalogue. Machines for Every Stitching Process (1896). Cover



225. Wilson (W. G.) Sewing Machine Company

Cleveland, Ohio 1867-1885
Chicago, Illinois 1879-1882
Wallingford, Connecticut 1882-1886

The Wilson Sewing Machine Company materials include advertising for its Buckeye under-feed sewing machine and oscillating shuttle sewing machine, as well as the Wilson mending attachment, something "new and wonderful that should have been discovered twenty-five years ago." There is also a copy of the official report of George A. Fairfield, Esq. to the United States government describing the world-renowned Wilson shuttle sewing machine at the Vienna Weltausstellung (international exhibition), 1873. An insurance description and drawing of the Wilson Sewing Machine Company Works in Wallingford, Connecticut, developed by Barlow's Insurance Survey is also included.

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226. Winsted Sewing Machine Company

Winsted, Connecticut Nineteenth century

The Winsted Sewing Machine Company was a supplier of sewing machines.

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227. C. A. Wood Company

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1890

The C. A. Wood Company advertised High-Arm Philadelphia Singer sewing machines.

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228. L. Wright Machine Works

Newark, New Jersey 1872
1874: Wright and Smith Machine Works

L. Wright's patent variable-speed attachment for sewing machines changed the speed of machines instantly from the slowest to the fastest rate without any stopping of belts or face plates.

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Illustrated Description and Price List of the Willcox & Gibbs Silent Sewing Machine (1870). Cover, pp. 30-31



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The standard history of sewing machines is Grace Rogers Cooper's book, *The Sewing Machine: Its Invention and Development*. First published in 1968, and then revised and expanded in 1976, it provided the foundation for the history of the sewing machine. Most of the photographs in her book are of sewing machines and patent models in the National Museum of American History's Textile Collection. Serving as a guide to the collection and an early classic in the history of the sewing machine, Cooper's book remains in demand. As part of this project, Cooper's book, as well as Frederick Lewton's *The Servant in the House*, will be scanned and linked to the website at www.sil.si.edu.

The Smithsonian's collection of trade literature includes over 3,000 pieces related to sewing machines. The National Museum of American History, Behring Center continues to collect sewing machine trade literature and ephemera that will be added to the Website as resources permit.

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Barbara Suit Janssen
Museum Specialist, Textile Collection
National Museum of American History, Behring Center
October 2000

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