Collection #
M 0961
OMB 0124
OM 0499
BV 3704–BV 3716

ADAMS & WESTLAKE (ADLAKE) COLLECTION, CA. 1872–CA. 1959

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Amy C. Vedra
October 2011
Updated August 2012

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	**Manuscript Materials:** 5 Manuscript Boxes, 2 OMB Boxes, 1 OM Folder, 13 Bound Volumes **Visual Materials:** 2 Photograph Boxes, 2 Graphics Boxes, 2 OVA Graphics Boxes, 1 OVB Graphics Box, 1 OVC Graphics Box, 1 Oversize Graphics Folder in Flat File
COLLECTION DATES:	ca. 1872–ca. 1959
PROVENANCE:	Janet Chonody, Greenwood, IN, October 2007
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	There are a significant number of related pamphlets and books within the Printed Collections holdings. Search the library catalog for materials.
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2007.0356
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Adams & Westlake Company, otherwise known as Adlake, is reported by the company to have been founded in 1857. This was most probably the date at which one of the first concerns that would grow, merge and evolve into Adlake was organized in Chicago, Illinois. However, it wasn't until 1874 that J. McGregor Adams and William Westlake merged their interests and provided the lasting name for the company.

The first namesake, J. (John) McGregor Adams, was born in Londonberry, NH in 1834. He began his work in railroad supplies by gaining employment with Clark and Jesup, a New York firm. He was transferred, around 1858, to Chicago to run that company's new sales office. John Crerar, another member of the Jesup firm, joined him shortly thereafter and eventually the two formed Crerar, Adams & Company.

William Westlake, the second namesake, was born in Cornwall, England in 1831. He came to the United States at age 16, working various jobs in the Midwest. In 1862, he invented the loose globe lantern which was used on railroads. He created other railroad lamps as well, which accounts for that particular specialty of the firm.

Since the beginning, the company has produced railroad and hardware supplies. By the early 1900s, Adlake was hailed as one of the largest suppliers of transportation equipment. The company manufactured transportation related hardware such as lamps, lanterns, lights, keys, sashes, luggage racks, lavatories and much more. They were successful enough to absorb at least portions of the operations of other prominent railway suppliers.

In 1927, Adams & Westlake moved their operations to Elkhart, Indiana. They continue to operate there through the current day manufacturing products for the transportation industry. The company's Web site currently lists over 15 different types of transportation related products, including but not limited to lamps, locks, latches window accessories, door holders, and handles/pulls, many of which they have been producing in one form or another for years.

Sources:

Information in the collection

Adams & Westlake, Ltd., http://www.adlake.com/about.php, accessed online June 2, 2011.

"Death of William Westlake," *New York Times*, December 29, 1900, http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F10713FC3F5B11738DDDA00A94DA415B808CF1D3, accessed online June 16, 2011.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection has been divided into four distinct series by the processor. The series are laid out as follows.

Series 1: Correspondence, Personnel and Legal Documentation: This series contains company correspondence. It also includes patent and trademark documents. Shares and shareholder information is also within this series.

Series 2: Product Designs and Technical Information: Design documents for various company products are in this series. Also included are product blueprints which are organized by product group, or when that information was lacking, item type. Within the product blueprints there are large runs of identification numbers, however, there are many gaps within those numbers, we do not have a full run of product blueprints for the Adams & Westlake product lines.

Series 3: Advertising, Leaflets, and Product Information [Including Catalogs]: This series contains general information regarding the company as well as partial or dismantled catalogs. Those materials dealing with one item or type of product have been separated and organized alphabetically by type of item, i.e. hardware, keys, lamps, et cetera. Many of the photographs and graphics were in ring binders and have been kept in the order in which they appeared in those binders.

Series 4: Pricelists, Ledgers and Account Books: Pricelists comprise one folder. Some lists are for Adlake while others list prices for other related companies products. Sales binders and ledgers are included in this series. Sales ledgers were especially difficult to date, dates were determined as close as possible based primarily on notations within the items.

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World's Columbian Exposition Forms (Includes typed information regarding various Adams & Westlake products)	Box 1, Folder 2
Patent Information, 1872–1884, 1907	Box 1, Folder 3
Trademark Registrations, 1915–1929	Box 1, Folder 4
Argentinean Trademark Registrations, 1909–1931	Box 1, Folder 5
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Design Document, Adjustable Guard-rail for open street cars	OVC Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1
Design Documents, Compartment Racks	Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2
Design Documents, Hardware-General	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1
Design Documents, Hardware Plans with Index	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2
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Design Documents, Hardware-Locks	Oversize Graphics: Folder 1 FF 3C
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Keys #A-612 and #A-51-1	Artifacts: 2007.0356
Design Documents, Key #559	Box 1, Folder 15
Keys #559	Artifacts: 2007.0356
Design Documents, Key #48-2096 for Illinois Central	Box 1, Folder 16
Design Documents, Switch Key for Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad	Box 1, Folder 17
Design Documents, Lavatories	Graphics: Box 1, Folder 4
Design Documents, Lighting	Graphics: Box 1, Folder 5

Design Document, Light #807	Oversize Graphics: Folder 1 FF 3C
Design Documents, #120-F Indicator Lamp for American Locomotive Co.	Box 1, Folder 18
Design Documents, Specifications for Lighting Glass, U.S. Military	Box 1, Folder 19
Glass Samples	Artifacts: 2007.0356
Design Documents, No. 603, Electric Dash, Head-light	OVB Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1
Design Document , Mosher Headlight with parts index and letters	OVC Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2
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Product Blueprint, Product BP-30924	OVB Graphics: Box 1, Folder 4
Product Blueprint, Product C-7514, Trap Door Lock and Details	Oversize Graphics: Folder 1 FF 3C
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Product Blueprints, Product Group P2500-3499 [incomplete run]	OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 6
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Product Blueprints packet, Springs, various product groups	Graphics: Box 1, Folder 9
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Product Blueprint, U.S. H-L. Co. [U.S. Head-light Co.], No. 1381	Oversize Graphics: Folder 1 FF 3C

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0961).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.