ADAMS & WESTLAKE (ADLAKE)
COLLECTION ADDITION, CA. 1881–CA. 1980

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Processed by
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June 2018

Revised
October 2018

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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www-indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 7 shoebox-size manuscript boxes, 1 half-size manuscript box, 22 bound volumes, 3 photograph folders, 5 graphics folders, 1 OVA graphics box, 1 OVB graphics box, 2 OVB photograph folders, 1 OVC graphics box, 2 OVC photograph folders, 3 oversize (OVD) graphics flat file folders, 6 oversize graphics flat file folders, 7 printed items.

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1881–ca. 1980


RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: M 0961: Adams & Westlake (Adlake) Collection; additional company materials including pamphlets and books can be found within the Printed Collections holdings by searching the Library's online catalog.


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, New Hampshire, 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 sixteen, 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 more. They were successful enough to absorb at least portions of the operations of other prominent railway suppliers, including but not limited to, Union Brass Manufacturing, the Curtain Supply Company, and Dressel.

In 1927, Adams & Westlake moved their operations to Elkhart, Indiana. They continue to operate there, through to the current day, manufacturing products for the transportation industry. The company’s website currently lists over fifteen different types of transportation related products, many of which they have been producing in one form or another for years.

Sources:

Information in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

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

Series 1: Personnel: This series contains personnel cards from the late 1800s through the 1920s. The cards are not comprehensive of the company’s employees during that time period, and only a portion of the alphabet is represented. The cards in this collection often contain first and last names, birth dates, employment dates, and nationalities, including, in some cases, the nationalities of the employee's parents. Reasons for the employee's departure from the company are also sometimes noted.

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 numbers, 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 any of the Adams & Westlake product lines.

Series 3: Advertisements, Product Information [Including Catalogs], and Scrapbooks: This series contains general information regarding the company as well as full, partial, and dismantled catalogs. Those materials dealing with one item or type of product have been separated and organized alphabetically by type of item. Adams & Westlake products reside first in the series, with additional companies noted after. The last section of this series includes scrapbooks related to some of the company's products.

Series 4: Ledgers and Account Books: This series is comprised of financial, order, and production ledgers and account books. They represent different geographic entities and aspects of the company's business. The ledgers and account books are organized in roughly chronological order, though there is some overlap in volume dates.

Series 5: Artifacts: This series contains artifacts related to the company and the types of products created by railroad supply companies. Not all artifacts in this collection were manufactured by Adams & Westlake.
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## Series 1: Personnel

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## Series 2: Product Designs (including related correspondence) and Technical Information

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Hardware–NY Port Authority (Pullman Standard Car)
OVVC Graphics
Box 1, Folder 1

Hardware, Related Drawings, Door and Lock Hardware–NY Port Authority (Pullman Standard Car)
Oversize Graphics
FF4-m, Folder 2

Hardware, Push Plate, Handle and Plate–NY Central Railroad
Box 8, Folder 5

Hardware, Related Drawings, Push Plate, Handle and Plate–NY Central Railroad
OVVB Graphics
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Hardware, Design Documents, Shackle #BP-306674 and BP-307081
OVVB Graphics
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Hardware, #48-600 Switch Lock–Pennsylvania Railroad
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Hardware, Related Drawings, #48-600 Switch Lock–Pennsylvania Railroad
OVVB Graphics
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Hardware, #48-2129 Switch Lock, Cap #48–Illinois Central Railroad
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Hardware, Related Drawings, #48-2129 Switch Lock, Cap #48–Illinois Central Railroad
OVVB Graphics
Box 1, Folder 6

Hardware, #48-2153 Switch Lock–Penn Central
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Hardware, Related Drawings, #48-2153 Switch Lock–Penn Central
OVVB Graphics
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Hardware, Loose design drawings removed from hardware scrapbook, BV 5423
Oversize Graphics
FF4-m, Folder 3

Lighting, Photographs, #11820-11830, 11910-11920, 14020-14030, 14050-14060 (disbound scrapbook, originally numbered 11780-16660, numbered in 10s, only pages with photographs retained)
OVVB Photographs
Folder 1
Lighting, Photographs, #15040-15090, 16000-16010, 16030, 16050-16060, 16080 (disbound scrapbook, originally numbered 11780-16660, numbered in 10s, only pages with photographs retained)

Lighting, Mounted Photographs, #24890-25050
[incomplete run]

Lighting, Mounted Photographs, #25090-25230
[incomplete run]

Lighting, #1100-B Cupola Lamp, DM-6002–International Railway, Req. 1539

Lighting, #31 Electric Lamp–Hiram L. Piper Co.

Lighting, #300 and #400 Kerosene Lantern, Kopp Glass Globe Change

Lighting, #1221-E-1 Combination Oil and Electric Marker Lamp–Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad

Lighting, Experimental Sheet Metal Marker Lamp–Req. 2658

Lighting, Design Drawings, Experimental Sheet Metal Marker Lamp–Req. 2658

Lighting, #543 Old Colonial Electric Lamp–Adams & Westlake Company

Lighting, Related Drawing, #543 Old Colonial Electric Lamp–Adams & Westlake Company

Lighting, #1162 1/2 Aluminum Switch Lamp–Adams & Westlake Company

Lighting, Design Drawings, #1162 Electric Switch Lamp, #DM-5089

Lighting, Design Drawings, Experimental Stainless Steel Switch Lamp with Inland Rubber for Lens Retainer, DM-6009

Lighting, Design Drawings, Experimental Stainless Steel Switch Lamp with Inland Rubber for Lens Retainer, DM-6009
Lighting, Switch Lamp Fork—Southern Pacific

Lighting, Related Drawing, Switch Lamp Fork—Southern Pacific

Lighting, #31-C Electric Lantern, #DM-5914—Adams & Westlake Company

Lighting, Loose product blueprints removed from lighting scrapbook, BV 5424, Products M2505, M3151, and unnumbered

Product Blueprints, Unnumbered Products, Lighting

Product Blueprints, Product Group M48-M577 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M170-493 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M511-1105 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M611-1972 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprint, Product M983

Product Blueprints, Product Group M2414-2569 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M2541-3932 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M4082-4490 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M5153-6380 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group M5159-6390 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Products M6529, M6530
Product Blueprint, Product M8447

Product Blueprints, Product Group P40004-40904 [incomplete run]

Loose Product Blueprints removed from BV 5420, Product Groups P40150-40908 [incomplete run], P43780, P95014, P95031, S2807, unnumbered

Product Blueprints, Product Group P42907-42953 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product P42919

Product Blueprints, Products P42919, P42929

Product Blueprints, Product Group P46250-46570 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Products, P60027, P60028

Product Blueprints, Product Group P63157-64436 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group P63048-63737 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group P63262-63820 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group P64025-64455 [incomplete run]

Product Blueprints, Product Group P64368-64437 [incomplete run]

Johnson Manufacturing Co., Revised Blue Prints, 1927–Electric Welded Steel Ware with Pricelist

Johnson Manufacturing Co., Revised Blue Prints, 1927–Electric Welded Steel Ware

OVC Graphics
Box 1, Folder 6

BV 5420

Graphics
Folder 2

OVB Graphics
Box 1, Folder 14

Graphics
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OVA Graphics
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OVC Graphics
Box 1, Folder 7

OVA Graphics
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OVB Graphics
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OVA Graphics
Box 1, Folder 15

Graphics
Folder 4

Graphics
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OVA Graphics
Box 1, Folder 7

OVB Graphics
Box 1, Folder 16

OVB Graphics
Box 1, Folder 17
Loeffelholz Hardware Catalog, Product Design Drawings, 1947-1956 (1 of 4)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 8

Loeffelholz Hardware Catalog, Product Design Drawings, 1947-1956 (2 of 4)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 9

Loeffelholz Hardware Catalog, Product Design Drawings, 1947-1956, includes items formerly offered by Dayton Manufacturing Company (3 of 4)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 10

Loeffelholz Hardware Catalog, Product Design Drawings, 1947-1956, includes items formerly offered by Dayton Manufacturing Company (4 of 4)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 11

Loeffelholz Company, Product Design Drawings, 1947-1953 (1 of 2)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 12

Loeffelholz Company, Product Design Drawings, 1947-1953 (2 of 2)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 13

Loeffelholz Company, Product Design Drawings, 1949-1950 (1 of 2)  OVA Graphics  Box 1, Folder 14

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Series 3: Advertisements, Product Information [Including Catalogs], and Scrapbooks

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Advertising Pamphlet, Transportation Equipment, advertising Adams & Westlake as a manufacturer, ca. 1980  Printed Collections: Pamphlet Q TF440.A29

Advertising Blueprint, Hardware, Locks  OVC Graphics  Box 1, Folder 8

Advertising Blueprint, Lighting, Adlake Acetylene Gas Conductor's Lantern with instructions for use  OVB Graphics  Box 1, Folder 18
Advertising Blueprints, Lighting, Conductors' Fancy Lanterns; Railroad Lanterns

Catalog, Lighting, *Adlake Lighting Fixtures*, ca. 1910

Catalog, General, *Adams & Westlake Company: [catalog],* 1887

Loose items removed from *Adams & Westlake Company: [catalog],* 1887

Loose cyanotypes removed from *Adams & Westlake Company: [catalog],* 1887

Catalog, Metal Finishes, *Anolok by Adlake: 500 series,* showing anodized finishes for Adlake products, ca. 1980

Dayton Manufacturing Company Advertisements from periodicals

*National De Luxe Window, National Lock Washer Company, 1929*

Trolley Supply Company (Canton, Ohio) advertisement from *Electric Railway Journal*

Safety Car Heating & Lighting Company advertisements from periodicals


Catalog, Lighting, *Electric Fixtures, Safety Car Heating & Lighting Company,* 1914

Product Scrapbook, containing periodicals, periodical articles, and company materials

OVG Graphics
Box 1, Folder 9

Printed Collections: General Collection
TK4198.A3

Printed Collections: Folio Q
TF440.A419 1887

Box 8, Folder 19

Photographs
Folder 2

Printed Collections: Pamphlet F
TS694.2.A33

Printed Collections: Pamphlet F
TH2275.N35 1929

Box 8, Folder 20

Printed Collections: Pamphlet F
TH447.S24 v. 3, no. 5

Box 8, Folder 21

Printed Collections: Folio Q
TF449.S24 1914

BV 5421
Product Scrapbook, containing advertising correspondence, company materials, and periodical articles

Hardware, Scrapbook, Cyanotype Photographs, including door hardware, signs, brackets

Loose cyanotype photographs removed from BV 5423, Hardware, Scrapbook, including door hardware

Lighting, Scrapbook

Loose items removed from BV 5424, Lighting, Scrapbook, including correspondence, pricing information, and catalog pages

**Series 4: Ledgers and Account Books**

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<td>[Financial Ledger, 1891-1896]</td>
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<td>[Financial Ledger, 1898-1900], includes limited 1901 notations</td>
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<td>[Production Ledger, Machinery, Tools, Dies, Jigs, etc., 1911-1924]</td>
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<td>[Order Ledger, 1917-1918], handwritten alphabetical company listing, with typescript order notations</td>
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<td>[Financial Ledger, Curtain Supply Co., 1918-1923], includes limited 1924 notations</td>
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[Financial Ledger, 1919-1923], includes accounts payable, dividend accounts, salaries, expenses, etc. BV 5435

[Financial Ledger, 1922-1923] BV 5436

[Patents, Stocks, and Tax Ledger, 1923-1957] BV 5437

[Order Ledger, 1925-1927], includes company name and location, order number, and date BV 5438

[Financial Ledger, Cash Receipts, 1930] BV 5439

[Order Ledger, n.d.] BV 5440

Index to [Order Ledger (BV 5440), n.d.] BV 5441

**Series 5: Artifacts**

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CONTAINER

Sign, "Adlake, Since 1857," "Extruded by us, of course" on verso 2001.0020


Yellow Pennsylvania Railroad Lantern manufactured by Dressel 2000.0958


2 Brass Signs, "Passengers are not allowed to stand on the platform," no makers marks 2000.0958

Illinois Central Railroad Spittoon, marked I.C.R.R. on bottom 2000.0958

Louisville and Nashville Railroad doorknob, marked L&N 2000.0958

2 Illinois Central Railroad Brass and Leather Luggage Tags 2000.0958

2 Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Plastic Luggage Tags, #1485090, #1485091, ca. 1975 2000.0958
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