

Collection #
SC 3145

REAL SILK HOSIERY MILLS GUARANTEE CERTIFICATE, 1922

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Rebecca Pattillo
April, 2016

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1922

PROVENANCE: Priscilla Gadzinski

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: M0507 Real Silk Company (Indianapolis, Ind.) Records,
1920–1952

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2015.0014

NOTES: Historical sketch written by Paul Brockman

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Real Silk Company was founded in 1922 by J.A. and L.L. Goodman. The company ran knitting mills which manufactured hosiery, lingerie, and underwear. At its peak, the company's sales volume averaged more than one million dozen pairs of women's hosiery, annually. In addition, Real Silk owned plants in Linton, Indiana, Georgia, and Mississippi.

The company ran into financial difficulties in the early 1930s as a result of the Great Depression, and control was assumed by a bank committee. Real Silk's financial situation began to improve shortly thereafter and Gustav Efroymsen assumed control of the company in 1932. Difficulties soon occurred with labor over wage increases which resulted in a strike in April and May, 1934, that included the arrests of sixteen strikers in Indianapolis. The amount of company profits declined in the early 1940s because of the need for silk during World War II, although the company was instrumental in the manufacturing of parachutes for bombs as well as hosiery for both male and female military personnel.

After a post-war profit increase, the financial situation again declined in the early 1950s. Gustav Efroymsen died in 1946, and control of the company passed to his son, Robert. Under Robert Efroymsen's control, the company first closed its manufacturing operations in Indianapolis and Dalton, Georgia, and a short time later closed all other manufacturing operations as well. All the machinery was sold except that which was related to direct-to-consumer selling, and the plant, which was located at 611 N. Park was leased to a printing company. Robert Efroymsen also directed the retiring of all preferred and some common stock and invested the surplus funds in securities. In 1957 Real Silk Inc. became registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment company, although they continued the door-to-door selling of hosiery, lingerie, and other clothing products on a national scale. The former plant was converted into apartments in the late 1980s.

Sources:

Brockman, Paul. Collection Guide. M0507 Real Silk Company (Indianapolis, Ind.) Records, 1920–1952. Indiana Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains one guarantee certificate from the Real Silk Hosiery Mills dated 1922. The certificate guarantees to replace their product free of charge if the customer is unsatisfied.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Real Silk Hosiery Mills (Indianapolis, Ind.) guarantee
certificate, 1922

CONTAINER

Folder 1