

Thomas A Edison Papers

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey • New Brunswick • New Jersey 08903
(908) 932-8511 • FAX: (908) 932-6763 • E-mail: taep@zodiac.rutgers.edu

Edward Weston (1850-1936) Papers

Special Collections, R.W. Van Houten Library
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Newark, NJ
201596-3201

Preliminary Inventory of Unprocessed Collection (74 boxes)
Prepared by T. Collins & L. Gitelman, Thomas Edison Papers, Rutgers University
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Box 1 Investigation of American Instrument Co. (Baldwin Detectives)

Box 2 Investigation of American Instrument Co. (Baldwin Detectives), cont'd
Joint Hearings of the US Senate, Cttee on Education and Labor; Testimony of Mr. Bryant, 1919
Electric Metropolitan Railway at Berlin of Seimens and Halske by F. Baltzer. Translation, 1897.
Information pertaining to owners and locations of various electrical systems, c. 1900-1901
Tables include date completed, location, owner, occupant, system, installation, and installed by.

LITIGATION

USEL vs. Warren Electric & Specialty Co. No. 5614 Bill of Complaint, answer, etc. 1897. (OH, No Dist)
USEL v. Louisiana Elect Light Co., Charter LELCo
Elliot Mason et al v. American Bicycle Co., 1902 (US, NJ) receivership

Box 3 Meehan Detective Agency. Cases.

Box 4 Newark Technical School, c. 1910. Alumni material
National Assn. Of Manufacturers, board of directors & exec. ctte. meetings; circulars; c 1923-24
The Franklin Institute [Incandescent Lamp & Dynamo Tests]
Approx. 200 pp. Mostly correspondence concerning tests rules, procedures and performance reports, 1884-1885. Primarily incoming correspondence to Weston from George B. Prescott, Jr and William D. Marks. The letters concern the competitive testing of Edison and Weston lamps and dynamos for efficiency and endurance in Philadelphia. There is also some correspondence with William P Tatham (Franklin Inst) and Francis R. Upton of the Edison Lamp Works. Some of the material relates to Weston's complaint that "while there seems to be a general distrust of the results, the Edison Company has constantly advertised the report as though it was full and correct." (1886).

to Weston, June 1, 1885 "Great News: Edison 100 lt. dynamo, first to be tested, broke down -- communitator when all to pieces -- roton mica you know."

William D. Marks to FR Upton, March 19, 1885 "the committee understand and appreciate your willingness to afford Mr. Weston an opportunity to retrieve for his blunder in the selection of lamps."

Related material in TAEM 77: 563-4, 567, 584 consists of summary reports of daily tests on May 21 and 25, 1885 and a telegram from JH Vail to TAE, June 17, 1885

Electricity Newspaper Co., c. 1896-1907 corresp.

International Electrical Exhibition, 1884 Franklin Institute circulars, etc.

History & Sketches on Early Development of Electrical Instruments.

Typed notes and blue photo dupl. of drawings and other document. Probably gathered by Woodbury, 1940s

Box 5 Literature of General interest during Weston's life. Catalogs: Patent medicines, portable houses; NY Photo electrotype; grinding tools; telegraph pole ordinance in Newark; ThomsonHouston Electric Railway System 3 folders

Receipts and statements of interest. Typed list enclosed.

Box 6 **LETTERBOOKS**

April 1877- February 1882

November 1877- April 1878 No TAE in either index..

Box 7 **September 1885-March 1886. Indexed only through 149. 226 pages used.**

Edward Weston to TAE, Dec. 12, 1885 already filmed TAEM 77: 212

Correspondence Misc. , c. 1895-1896

mostly requests for lists of electrical companies in various states; also unproofed printed re C.O, Mailloux

Box 8 Partial records of Interferences

US Patent Office. Petitions of McDonough and Gray to Reopen the Speaking Telephone interference, 1888

Opinion of Examiner in favor of Swan, TAE v. HS Maxim v. JW Swan

Interference, **Weston v Edison**; Weston v. Beneckel Weston v. King; Thomson v. Weston; Reichenback v.

Goodwin (mfr. of photo. films) **all Weston's side of case; no Edison; but nice Weston testimony**

Box 9-11 Weston Electrical Instrument Co v. Empire E.I. Co

Box 12 Interference, Weston and patent of Sawyer and Man for method of treating carbons
WEIC v. Queen & Co. And Otto T. Louis

Box 13 WEIC v. J Franklin Stevens and Elmer P. Morris.

Box 14 WEIC v. Jewell Electrical

Box 15 WEIC v. Mather Dyanmo

Box 16 WEIC v. Whitney Electrical

Box 17-18 Brush and Brush Electricl v. John Owen, et al

Box 19 Brush v. Condit, 1882

Box 20 Thomson-Houston v. Western Electric and Enos Barton

Box 21 Thomson-Houston v. Western Electric and Enos Barton

Electric Accumlutor v. Julien Electric

Thomson-Houston v. Citizen's Electric Light et al

Philip Bird v. Namusa Corp ... Weston et al

Interference Ball v. Weston

INTERFERENCE, Weston, Latimer, Edison (testimony for Weston only)

Box 22 Pamphlets re lighting systems, gas engines, etc and re patents (US & foreign), incl history of US Patent System (1891

Box 23 Misc. Patents not belonging to Weston
Weston Patents
Foreign Patents
Patents relating to Celluloid
Edison Patents
Patents pertaining to telegraph (not belonging to Weston)

Box 24 Weston's Patent Files, file nos. 3-145

Box 25 Weston's Patent Files, nos. 150-252

Box 26 Laboratory Notes. 4 vols, 1892 AC Voltmeter development; calculations of static voltmeter; proposal of a Wattmeter with compensation; struggle with problems of temperature compensation Experimenters: Covers identify experimenters as R.O. Heinrich and A.O. Benmeyer(sp?)

Pocket Notebooks.

One volume covers the period Oct 1878-Jan 1879. It contains notes relating to unidentified chemical experiments

2 vols cover the period Dec 1882-April 1893.. One is calendar of activities (journal); another is more experimental and partly re: lamps before becoming a calendar of shop order numbers, etc. (Includes instructions on how to check card catalog for info).

Laboratory Notes. Undated, includes "Notes on New Salts of Nickel and Boran;" and an section entitled, "Laboratory in M&ERR Ave. Shop, Newark August 30, 1880 Bancroft's Gas Lighting and Extinguishing System." Also included, Salem map.

Laboratory Notes. 1887-1888 Notes and drawings re: variety of experiments and instrument development, including, "Communication with Vessels at Sea," "Cheap Portable Voltmeter," Galvanometers, etc

Mr. Weston's Technical Notes, Diagrams, Specifications and Tabulations. Covers the period, 1876-1887. Lamp Efficiency Tests, Dynamos coupled together, galvanometers, "Duane Street Station Switchboard of the Edison Electric Illuminating Co," t.s., nd.; Baking Tamadine avg resistance; treating carbons Paper and Tamadine; Dump reports; loss reports; Weston motors

Box 26(cont) **Patents. Interference. Weston. Edison. All Weston side of case; no Edison.**

Patents. British claims and applications

Box 27 Misc. Notes drawings, etc re: Weston Patents. Sketches, notes drawings (originals and printed) advertisements -- machines for electroplating, electric light, telegraphing, etc; photographs, USEL ads. for arc lights; voltmeter advert; speeches; reports on instruments; French patents and publicity; Newark Morning Register on Weston; Electric dynamo machines (1877), Newark Sunday Call on Weston's Electric Transmission of Power (1878); American Electric Co., cert. of org., CT (1880); transcribed notes from Wiedemann's Galvanismus; translated German article, "Weston's Light Machine," 1882; list of employees, 1880s; transcriptions of some notebooks described above; lists of drawings showing development of the moving coil instrument; Weston speeches; reports on instruments

Incomplete, mounted photostat letter, Aylsworth and Jackson (Carbon Specialties, Orange, NJ), c. 189_ [JW Aylesworth and F.E. Jackson

George B. Prescott, Jr., Jr (Asst. Electrician) to Weston, reports on Edison Station in Harrisburg, PA, 1886 (other sites visited incl. Schyler ELCo of Elizabeth NJ, Rhode Isl ELCO; New England, etc.

BOX 28???

Box 29 Account Books; Patent lists; Index of Articles (library-periodicals); Card index list (library-periodicals)

- Box 30 Cover marked, "Laboratory Notebook" contains general and cash statements. H.S. Maxim rec'd 2500 shares of USELC for two patents (1880) and S.D. Schuyler recd 2400 shares for his patents
- Laboratory Expense Account, 1881-1886
- "Ledger, A.W.K Paris" Some of the entries are R Kipling & Sons
- Box 31 Incandescent Lamp Tests, Curve and Consecutive Tests and 6 vols 1885
- Box 32 Incandescent Lamp Tests contd, 7 vols, 1885-1886
- Box 33 Indices, Laboratory Orders, Weston Sketches, Time and Work reports; c. 1882
- Index, Misc. Sketches, letters and telegrams (no TAE listed), library books, trade catalogues, Weston special Newark Electric Light & Power Company: trial balances, operating expenses, employees (WB Sprague, supt); statement of customers (weekly); montly report; inventory of stock on hand at Mechanic St Stn.; People's Telegraph Co.
- Index to Notebooks
- Sketches
- Daily Record, Weston Laboratory, Dec. 1881
- Calculations, Mechanic St. Station; "Parts belonging to the Multiple Series System -- Large incandescent lamps" (with illustrations); and reostat tests (1885)
- Laboratory Invoices, 1882-1884
- Material received and used, 1881
- Box 34 History of Weston's Work folder; notes on alloys 1884, electrical properties, pat research, pat app., patents. Speeches, Talks Etc. Given by Dr. Weston.
- Baldwin Lumber Co v. Local #560. 1920 strike case.
- Weston v. Edison, 2nd copy of testimony for Weston in transmission of power interference, w/ Weston exhibits
- Applications for letters of Patents
- Newark Electric Light & Power Co, cost and performance reports of 1883, # of lamps, hours of illumination, etc.
- Misc. folder, includes statements of manufacture (w/ costs) at Weston factory 1882-5. Also List of Isolated Incandescent Plants of the United States System (1886?)
- Weston Biographies (3 folders); sketches w/ some correspondence. Elmer Sperry letter of 12/14/11 inviting Weston to address joint mtg of "our Society, the Chemical Industries and the American Chemical Society" on the subject of "research" (suggested by Backeland) "inasmuch as you were one of the pioneers who were making researches long before the term in its present meaning came into vogue."
- Box 35 "Misc" series. Brush patent = Weston testimony from 1890
- Stanley Electric Co.
- Testimony (taken by reporter Jas O Clephane, of Patent examination May 1880 in Altneck v. Weston.
- Weston Testimony - Elevator Case
- Misc Testimony (2 folders)
- Kenyon Testimony
- Cross Testimony (on elevator case, Otis Bros v. Haliday)
- Box 36???? MISSING**
- Box 37 Whole box of printed patents.
- Box 38 Same
- Box 39 Mostly photos WWII vintage; 1957 newsletter for Weston Instruments Co.; list of patents by Edw Faraday Weston (b. 1878); NJIT connection
- Box 40 Folders labelled miscellaneous and items w/o folders. Includes great 1884 "Catalogue and Price List, Steriopticons, Dissolving-View Apparatus, Magic Lanterns, and Artistically-Colored Photographic Views on Glass" T.H. McAllister, Manufacturing Optician, NY. Also printed patents, copy of EELC v. USELC decision.

Small folder of 1908 material on Baekelite incl samples, notes, and a sales letter (later Weston Co did some baelkite work). Diplomas, testimonials &c, junior and senior Weston.

- Boxes 41-47 Biographical Series. Consist of numbered, black looseleaf binders compiling biographical information gleaned from these papers, from publications, and reference works. Covers Weston/Edison litigation, also the *Scientific American* letters and flap, giving 3pp of analysis. Binders 8 and 15 contain full descriptions of Weston's labs in Newark, the first at USELCo 1882-1886, and the second on his own, 1887. These binders likely by Woodbury, author of Weston's biog. Or for projected company history. Last binder quotes Newark Evening News of April 1889: "Vapor for the Wars; The Inventor Talks of his Favorite Scheme to Revolutionize Warfare. . ." "Since the unique experiments of Edward Weston with nitrate of amyl were described in the News about a year ago the possibility of a revolutionary change in naval warfare of the world has been widely discused, and the suggestions thrown out by Dr. Weston have been considered here and in Europe. Officers in the United States Navy and Army have been impressed more or less with the feasibility of the plan of overcoming the enemy by making his force unconscious for a few hours by means of the wonderful compound, nitrate of amyl. . ." Final items are list of Weston's patent litigation, (incl 1881 interference Weston v. Edison, Latimer; 1882 Weston v. Edison, 1884 same on dynamos, 1885 same) and Index to men who had personal contact with Weston, name file
- Box 48 Bound Volumes Weston Electrical Instrument Co. litigation; 2 cases
- Box 49 Whole box of photolithographs and other plates illustrating various Weston technologies
- Box 50 Bound Volumes; duplicate testimonies; also record in 2 more Weston Elec Instrument Co cases
- Box 51 Bound Volumes (2) WEICo v. Jewell, more of the record
- Box 52 Printed patents
- Box 53 Box contains transcribed articles from periodicals, mentions of Weston and his companies, including one French periodical and one British, also including *Eletrician & Electrical Engineer* coverage of litigation in 1885. Large Miscellaneous folder contains similar reference materials, including some clippings and later interview. Description of USELCo works (including Weston Lab) from Newark *Sunday Call*, August 3rd, 1884. Says Description of Edison plant in Harrison to be published "next week." [note: I see no way that this is the Box 53 or Box353 referred to by Millard.]
- Box 54 Contains similar material collected at a slightly later date, also some small primary printed. Some more descriptions of his lab, statements to the press re electricition, and other bits culled from newspapers and other periodicals. Substantial *SciAm* file.
- Box 55 Newspaper clippings etc. some photocopy (20th century) some original (19th century) ; includes typed list of older clippings. Much re Newark Technical School (the NJIT connection).
- Box 56 Scrapbook on electric lighting, starts 1878. Get for TAE Newark Daily Advertiser 9/16/78; The Sun 9/10/78 and 10/20/78 and many more (pp. 8-35 particularly). Good coverage of NorthEast US papers with some British. GET CARTOON "The Decadence of the Wizard of Menlo Park - From Phonograph to Polyform" the Cincinnatti Enquirer 7/25/86 (p. 64).
- Box 57 Contains an 1893 issue of the Western Electrician w/ long article on electricity and Weston at the Exposition. Box also contains bound volume "Record": a General Record of the Weston Laboratory, Monday August 29, 1881. Transcribed group of experiments in 1879-81, nos 1-70. The first "The first Weston Laboratory experiment of which any record as kept by me, Henry A. Beckenmeyer. . ." Then "Cases" no 1-16 give pointed summaries of different inventions, dated and initialled by EW. Blank pp. 22-641.
- Box 58 2 copies "Inventory of the Dr. Edward Weston Collection, June 21, 1937" including Books, Transactions, Periodicals "available at the College" and Unbound periodicals "released to the Newark Public Library, and "Apparatus and Instruments" either assigned to several departments of the colege or unassigned and of possible value.

- Box 59 4 notebooks, one scrapbook. Lab notebooks of lamp tests & calculations, 1884-5 includes Edison and Swan lamps, 2 appear not to be Weston (Kelly?). 3rd notebook by Weston, on his taminine carbon filaments compared to stats on Edison bamboo filament; notes at other end of book from May 1884 on dynamo components. 4th marked "Kelley" and "1883" by Weston, incl "notes on Cincinnati Tests" -- more comparative Edison/nonEdison tests. Later diurnal record of work. Scrapbook is 20th century re Newark Technical school.
- Box 60 More photolithographs and plates, plus one envelope of further material re provenance of collection.
- Box 61 Offset printed lectures by Lord Kelvin 1884; notebook w/ scattered and various notes as study book; compilations entitled "Weston Proofs of Different Cases" by Mr. Benecke, notes on different Weston technologies & patents. And bound "index to drawings" which is just that, giving drawing nos. for Weston dynamos etc.
- Box 62 Reference files on litigations. Printed patents and transcribed copies of Weston testimonies and depositions from a variety of cases. Typescripts appear to be of same vintage as periodical reference files in boxes 53-54.
- Box 63 contains mostly card file for different instruments. Also loose, rolled transcription of a Weston notebook of 1887-90, a medal from the American Institute, 1877, his medal from the Paris Expo of 1878, and spectroscope "gratings"
- Box 64 More reference files re provenance of collection and disposition of artifacts and publications. Transcriptions of chain of corresp w/ a disgruntled instrument user; a biographic appreciation by Baekeland. Sundry notes and transcriptions
- Box 65 Reprints, excerpts, and transcriptions of more later material on Weston, his estate, and attempts to hit him up for money before he died.
- Boxes 66-8 Card files, one on instruments, another a subject index w/ chronological section of biographical material.
- Boxes 69-74 Bound court records continuing instrument cases, like boxes 48 and 50.

Map Cases contain what appears to be a pretty extensive collection of Weston's drawings, including many originals from early electric lighting & power work.