

Collection Information

Collection Number: 2010.92

Collection Title: American Velvet Co. Collection

Dates: 1868-1952

Size: Approximately 5 linear ft., 12 boxes

Creator/Collector: American Velvet Co., Wimpfheimer & Bro, Awbro Co., Awvel Liquidating Co.

Acquisition Info:

Custodial History:

Languages: English, German

Repository: R.W. Woolworth Library and Genealogical Research Center

Processed by: Kaitlin DeNovellis, Robert Palmer, Elizabeth Boucher, 2010 & 2016

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research

Publication/Intellectual Property Rights: Contact the Stonington Historical Society to inquire about licensing and publication.

Related Collections: 2012.114 (Emily Lynch Slide Collection); "Stonington Industries" (Library Collection)

Location of Originals: Woolworth Library Stacks

Subject Headings: American Velvet Company

Biographical Information/Organizational History

The American Velvet Company's Stonington mill was built in 1888 by the town of Stonington, and began producing velvet in 1892 under the direction of A. Wimpfheimer & Bros. with 25 looms and 35 employees. By 1900, production at the Stonington velvet mill had doubled, and products were being exported worldwide. The company continued to employ Stonington and Mystic residents through its closing in 1996.

Scope and Content Note

This collection includes scrapbooks, ledgers, financial and legal records, photographs, velvet swatches, advertising materials, news clippings and correspondence relating to the American Velvet Company, A. Wimpfheimer & Brothers, Inc., and the Awbro Company from 1891-1992.

Collection Inventory

Series 1 – Scrapbooks, Ledgers and Daybooks

- American Velvet Co./Awbro Company ledger containing legal records
- Wimpfheimer & Bro./Awbro Company Ledger containing stock records
- American Velvet Company scrapbook, 1939-1952
- Awvel Liquidating Company ledger
- A. Wimpfheimer & Bro. Bank Transactions, 1940-1955
- A. Wimpfheimer & Bro. Receipts and Disbursements, 1939-1959
- American Velvet Company Profit Sharing Records, 1960-1983
- American Velvet Co. scrapbook (with news clippings), 1949-1952
- American Velvet Company daybook, 1891-1897
- Awbro Company original minute books (2)

Series 2 – Manuscripts

- Box 1

- Folder 1 – Blueprints (3) for American Velvet company machinery, 1900, 1927 and 1935
- Folder 2 – American Velvet Employer’s Club bill of sale and Stonington Arion Singing Society souvenir program, 1909
- Folder 3 – Receipts of Charles Wimpfheimer, 1901-1907
- Folder 4 – Souvenir booklets, “American Velvet Company 100th Year in Stonington, 1892-1992”, “One Hundred Years of Velvet, A. Wimpfheimer and Bro., Inc., 1845-1945” and “Velvet Ball, 1954”
- Folder 5 – American Velvet Company news clippings
- Folder 6 – A. Wimpfheimer & Bro., velvet specifications, 1996
- Folders 7 & 8 – A. Wimpfheimer & Bro. correspondence, cables, between Berliner Handels Gesellschaft and A. Wimpfheimer & Bro., 1921-1922
- Box 2
 - Folder 1 – American Velvet Company letters of patent, 1903 – 1935
 - Folder 2 – American Velvet Company trademark
 - Folder 3 – A. Wimpfheimer & Bro. correspondence regarding trade names
 - Folder 4 – A. Wimpfheimer & Bro. correspondence with the Trade Mark Bureau
 - Folder 5 – A. Wimpfheimer & Bro. correspondence regarding trade names, 1930-1936
 - Folder 6 – Rossie Velvet Company trademark certificates, 1930-1933
- Box 3
 - Folder 1 – American Velvet Company and A. Wimpfheimer and Brothers agreement booklets, pension plans and profit-sharing plans, 1945-1996
 - Folder 2 – American Velvet Company news clippings, 1947-1993
 - Folder 3 – Appraisal of the Stonington Building Co. (site of the American Velvet Co.), 1933
 - Folder 4 – Magazine articles re. the American Velvet Co., 1968-1988
 - Folder 5 – Wimpfheimer correspondence in German
 - Folder 6 – Wimpfheimer receipts, 1863-1869
 - Folder 7 – Booklets relating to Stonington Industry and the American Velvet Co.
 - Folder 8 – Wimpfheimer and Brother legal contracts, 1865, 1908, 1922
 - Folder 9 – A. Wimpfheimer and Bro. correspondence, 1943-1945
 - Folder 10 – American Velvet Co. correspondence and receipts, 1944-1945
 - Folder 11 – Typed manuscript – “History of the American Velvet Co.” (1947?), and correspondence detailing the history of the American Velvet Co., 1929
 - Folder 12 – American Velvet Company Corporate Citizenship Award, 1995
 - Folder 13 – Correspondence, 1959
- Box 4 – Chas. A. Wimpfheimer/American Velvet Company deeds and lease agreements, 1906-1940

Series 3 – Photographs

- Box 1 – 2 photograph albums: 1 containing color snapshots of the American Velvet Company 100th Anniversary Celebration, 1992; 1 containing black and white photographs of various American Velvet Company employee events (banquets, parties, picnics, publicity shoots) with additional loose photographs in a folder, c. 1940s-1950s

- Box 2
 - Folder 1 – Two photos of Jacques D. Wimpfheimer and Joseph Sposato on mill floor
 - Folder 2 – Photographs of J.D. Wimpfheimer, J. Sposato signing documents
 - Folder 3 – 2 mounted photographs of American Velvet Co. employees, c. late 1800s/early 1900s
 - Folder 4 – drawing of A. Wimpfheimer & Bro storefront on photograph paper, photograph of A. Wimpfheimer
 - Folders 5 & 6 – Photos and descriptions of fashions and styles offered by the Kairalla Agency, New York, NY. 1964-1969 (black & white and color photographs)

Series 4 – Objects and Memorabilia

- Box 1 – collection of fabric labels, Tricon fiberglass reinforcement fabrics catalog, framed print of A. Wimpfheimer & Bro storefront in NYC on Spring Street, framed capital stock certificate for the Stonington Building Company (1921), guest register for the American Velvet Company's 100th Anniversary Celebration, 1950 Report on mobilizing America's strength for world security, Awvel Liquidating Corporation stock certificate ledger 1940s
- Box 2 – A. Wimpfheimer & Bro velvet sample booklets (multiple varieties), Viva Velvet catalog