

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Botwinik Brothers
Collection

1999.05

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
February, 1999

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Collection Information

Abstract: Botwinik brothers was established in the late 1920s to rebuild machine tools. The company moved into a new facility in 1943. The collection includes advertisements, photographs, and other materials re the company's activities between ca. 1943 and ca. 1953.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form available at Worcester Historical Museum Library and Archives. Folder level description.

Preferred Citation: Worcester Historical Museum Archives, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Donated by Julia Gwinn, President, Presmet Co., new owners of the Botwinik plant, who found the materials on the premises. February 11, 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (LCSH, AAT, TGM, GMGPC)

Botwinik Brothers of Mass., Inc. (Worcester, Mass.)

Machine-tools.

Machine-tools – Advertising.

Machine-tools – Maintenance and repair.

Machine-tool industry.

Machine-tool industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Industries – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Industrial recreation – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Industrial buildings – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Photographs.

Advertisements.

Organizational History

Botwinik Brothers was established around 1928 in Worcester, and is first listed in the City Directory of that year. Listed in the 1993 city directory but not in subsequent years. The company was engaged in the rebuilding of machine tools, and became nationally known for its ability to rebuild machinery for specific purposes or to individually tailored specifications required by industry. The company bought the American Steel and Wire facility on Sherman Street in 1943 and renovated it for their purposes. Operations in the new facility began in fall, 1943.

Throughout the 1940s the company was active in the affairs of its employees and in the local community. The company sponsored basketball teams for several years, provided outings and events for its employees, and held an annual Halloween party for children living in and near the plant. The company also sponsored other events, such as fashion shows for women in Worcester and surrounding towns.

Botwinik Brothers ceased operations in Worcester in the early 1990s.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a large number of mixed unidentified photographs and negatives, other identified and labeled photographs, several albums of clippings and photographs of specific events or activities, advertisements of machine tools, many with full descriptive information and specifications, and miscellaneous items. Clippings, advertisements, and other dated material are from the 1940s and early 1950s, specifically the period of time starting with the opening of the Sherman Street plant in 1943, and throughout the next five or more years. Photographs are undated, but the bulk apparently represent the same time frame.

The collection is arranged topically, with folder level description.

Series Description

Series 1: Advertisements/Public Relations, etc. The series includes advertisements from the early 1950s published in trade journals and directories. Included are “proposals”, listings of specific machine tools with full descriptions and specifications. Also included are photographic prints of machine tools taken for advertising/public relations purposes. Arranged by form and format.

Series 2: Company programs/activities. The series includes notes, clippings, and photographic prints of company sponsored sports teams, company events such as Halloween Party for neighborhood children, employees’ summer outings, and similar events. The series also includes memoranda, clippings, photographs, relative to employee awards, employee relations, company awards, and similar activities. Arranged topically and chronologically.

Series 3: Photographs. Miscellaneous mixed photographs, including some negatives. Includes photographs of personnel, visitors, groups, office and building facilities, machine shop activities and tools. Arranged into four folders: individuals and groups, office, machine shop, and negatives.

Series 4: Miscellaneous. Includes building permit, serials, letterhead plate, and other miscellaneous items.

Botwinik Brothers Collection
1999.05
Series 1, Advertising, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.05.1.1	Advertisement. Botwinik Brothers of Mass., Inc., rebuilt machine tools. In <u>Surplus Record</u> , August 1951.
1	2	1999.05.1.2	Advertisements. Excerpts from Polk's city directory, 1953; proof of advertising forms from Thomas Register, 42 nd ed., 1954; advertisements from Thomas Register, 1951; advertising copy for Thomas Register, 1955; product descriptive information for Thomas Register, 1952.
1	3	1999.05.1.3	Proposals. Botwinik Brothers rebuilt machine tools, descriptions and specification of particular items. Nd.
1	4	1999.05.1.4	Photographic prints. Most 8x10 b&w prints of machine tools for advertising/public relations purposes. Nd.
1	5	1999.05.1.5	Advertisement bulletins. Botwinik Brothers of Mass., Inc., machine tool rebuilding. ca. 1950.
1	6	1999.05.1.6	Clippings. Advertisements from various publications, 1951-1953.

Botwinik Brothers Collection
1999.05
Series 2, Company activities, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	1999.05.2.1	Materials re basketball team sponsored for 1946/47 season; photographs, lists of players, awards, schedules, sponsors, pass, etc.
1	8	1999.05.2.2	Materials re banquet held for sponsored basketball team, 1947 season; photographs, lists, letter, invitation, etc.
1	9	1999.05.2.3	Materials re basketball team sponsored in 1948; photographs, clippings.
1	10	1999.05.2.4	Materials re opening of new facility on Sherman Street September 25, 1943; invitations, cards, letters, clippings, etc.
1	11	1999.05.2.5	Photographic prints. Employees, guests, facilities, taken at opening of new facility September 25, 1943. B&w, most 8x10 in.
1	12	1999.05.2.6	Memoranda, clippings, agenda, for annual office staff party, 1945-1947.
1	13	1999.05.2.7	Memoranda, clippings, photographs, invitations, etc., for annual Halloween party held for children of the neighborhood, 1944-1949.
1	14	1999.05.2.8	Memoranda, clippings, photographs, etc., of annual company summer outing, 1943-1948.
1	15	1999.05.2.9	Memoranda, clippings, photographs, etc., re company and individual awards and recognition, public relations, etc., including labor relations.

Botwinik Brothers Collection
1999.05
Series 3, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	16	1999.05.3.1	Photographic prints. Buildings and grounds, offices, reception areas, etc. B&w. Most 8x10 in. Nd.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.05.3.2	Photographic prints. Building, offices and reception area, etc. B&w. 17x24 in. Nd.
2	17	1999.05.3.3	Photographic prints. Individuals and groups of personnel and/or visitors. B&w. Most 8x10 in. Nd. Most unidentified.
OVS	OVS-2	1999.05.3.4	Photographic prints. Individuals. B&w. 11x17 in. Nd. Unidentified.
2	18	1999.05.3.5	Photographic prints. Machine tools, display models, showroom. Some col. 8x10 in
2	19	1999.05.3.6	Photographic prints. Display models, machine shop, repair and rebuilding, etc. B&w. 3x5 in. and 5x7 in.
2	20	1999.05.3.7	Photographic prints. Machine shop, machine rebuilding and repair, other manufacturing processes. B&w. 8x10 in.
2	21	1999.05.3.8	Negatives, most 3x5 in. Some col. Topically identified.
2	22	1999.05.3.9	Negatives, most 3x5 in. Mixed, unidentified subjects.

Botwinik Brothers Collection
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Series 4, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	23	1999.05.4.1	Advertising display form, annotated.
2	24	1999.05.4.2	Serial publication. WPI Journal, Spring 1998.
2	25	1999.05.4.3	Inspection Certificate. Botwinik Brothers, 2 Sherman Street, Worcester, issued by Worcester Building Inspector, June 14, 1943. In frame.
OVS	OVS-3	1999.05.4.4	Print. Public Square at New Haven, Connecticut, copy of 1840 print, 18x24 in. Printing plate for letterhead illustration.