

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 2005.61

Crompton and Knowles Loom
Photograph Collection

Processd by Robyn Christensen
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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains six photo albums containing various pictures of Crompton and Knowles Looms.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of Nancy Evans (September 2005)

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

A power loom was patented by William Crompton of Taunton, MA in 1837. Prior to the development of the power loom operating with water power, weaving was done by hand-powered looms, frequently as a cottage industry. George Crompton, son of William, formed a partnership with Merrill Forbush and began manufacturing looms in Worcester in 1851. The merger was dissolved in 1859, and Crompton Loom Works operated independently. Crompton looms were specifically designed to weave cotton fabrics.

L.J. Knowles began the manufacture of satinet in Warren, MA in 1855, and developed and patented new textile machinery for the weaving process. Knowles, in partnership with his brother, began the manufacture of looms in Warren in 1862. Knowles Loom Works specialized in looms for weaving wool.

The two companies were competitors throughout much of the last half of the nineteenth century, and were frequently involved in litigation over patent infringement, as both companies pursued the development of improved machinery.

The two companies consolidated in 1897, and were chartered in Rhode Island under the name Crompton & Knowles Loom Works. In 1900, the company was reincorporated in Massachusetts under the same name. The company had manufacturing facilities in Worcester, Providence, Rhode Island, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Charlotte, North Carolina. The company closed in 1981.

Scope and Content

Collection contains six photo albums containing various pictures of Crompton and Knowles Looms.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Photo Albums

Crompton and Knowles Loom Photograph Collection
2005.61
Series 1, Photo Albums

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2005.61.1.1	Photo Album containing photographs of Crompton and Knowles Looms. (Negative numbers 6794 – 8809)
1		2005.61.1.2	Photo Album containing photographs of Crompton and Knowles Looms. (Negative numbers 9370 – 14286)
1		2005.61.1.3	Photo Album containing photographs of Crompton and Knowles Looms. (Negative numbers 15299 – 17360)
1		2005.61.1.4	Photo Album containing photographs of Crompton and Knowles Looms. (Negative numbers 18475– 19216)
2		2005.61.1.5	Photo Album containing photographs of Crompton and Knowles Looms. (Negative numbers 20034 – 21144)
2		2005.61.1.6	Photo Album containing photographs of Crompton and Knowles Looms. (Negative numbers 27644 – 27882)