

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

2003.37

Davey's Handbag
Collection

Processd by Robyn Christensen
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Collection Information

Abstract : The collection contains sketchbooks, correspondences, purchase orders, invoices, personal papers, advertisements, mailing and retail lists on and about Davey's, Inc. Also included are a larger assortment of handbags, belts and shoes manufactured by Davey's (please see curator for objects).

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of Davey;s Family

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

Historical/Biographical Notes

Chester E. Herwitz was born in Swampscott, Mr. Herwitz stumbled upon this profession by accident. One day, in search of a belt himself, he stopped by a leather store in New York, bought a strip of leather and asked the owner to show him how to cut it. The end result proved so popular with his friends and customers that Herwitz started turning out belts and sandals by the dozens from the basement of his shop, Davey's Retail Store at 47 Pleasant Street, until eventually, he shut down his retail business and decided to manufacture leather goods full time. He started his company, Davey's, named after Chester Herwitz wife Davida, here in 1953, designing leather belts. For several years he worked alone making belts by hand and selling them to New England College shops. The business grew quickly and he moved out of his basement shop and to 3 Winter Street and hired help. The business continued to grow so it moved to 194 Front Street until 1962, when it moved to 18 Grafton Street (Osgood Bradley Building) and started specializing in handbags.

At its peak, Herwitz designed purses for such prominent department stores as Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Lord & Taylor and Bloomingdale's. The company had over 200 employees and maintained offices in New York City and Los Angeles. In addition to belts and handbags, Herwitz designed women's skirts and dresses in Worcester under the Cottage Tailor label. He was twice presented with the "American Handbag Designer Award" presented by the Leather Industries of America.

Herwitz was also president of Saddlemaker Manufacturing Corporation, Davey's Debs and President of the Jewish Family Service Agency. Mr. Herwitz and his wife Davida were also world renowned collectors of Indian Art. They created the Chester and Davida Herwitz Charitable Trust to support Indian art in the United States.

Mr. Herwitz was killed at the age of 72 as a result of a motor vehicle accident on Route 122 in Petersham in June 1999.

Scope and Content

The collection contains sketchbooks, correspondences, purchase orders, invoices, personal papers, advertisements, mailing and retail lists on and about Davey's, Inc. Also included are a larger assortment of handbags, belts and shoes manufactured by Davey's (please see curator for objects).

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Designs

Series 2: Correspondences

Series 3: Billing

Series 4: Purchase Orders

Series 5: Personal Papers

Series 6: Retail Outlets

Series 7: Photographs

Series 8: Product Tags

Series 9: Advertisements

Series 10: Miscellaneous

Series 11: Objects (See Curator)

Davey's Handbag Collection
2003.37
Series 1, Designs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.37.1.1	Design book (October 1961)
1	1	2003.37.1.2	Design book (May 1962)
1	2	2003.37.1.3	Design book (October 1962)
1	2	2003.37.1.4	Design book (1964)
1	3	2003.37.1.5-.6	Design books (1965)
1	4	2003.37.1.7	Design book (October 1966)
1	4	2003.37.1.8	Design book (1967)
1	5	2003.37.1.9	Design book (1967)
1	5	2003.37.1.10	Design book (May 1967)
2	6	2003.37.1.11-.12	Design books (March 1968)
2	7	2003.37.1.13-.14	Design books (Summer 1968)
2	8	2003.37.1.16	Design book (November 1968)
2	9	2003.37.1.17	Design book (May 1969)
2	9	2003.37.1.18	Design book (October 1969)
2	10	2003.37.1.19	Design book (June 1970)
2	10	2003.37.1.20	Design book (1971)
3	11	2003.37.1.21	Design book (Fall 1971)
3	11	2003.37.1.22	Design book (February 1972)
3	12	2003.37.1.23	Design book (Fall 1972)
3	12	2003.37.1.24	Design book (February 1972)

Series 1, Continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	13	2003.37.1.25-.26	Design book (September 1972)
3	14	2003.37.1.27	Design book (September 1973)
3	14	2003.37.1.28	Design book (February 1974)
3	14	2003.37.1.29	Design book (October 1974)
3	14	2003.37.1.30	Design book (February 1975)
3	14	2003.37.1.31	Design book (Sept-Oct 1975)
3	15	2003.37.1.32	Design book (Aug-Sept 1987)
3	15	2003.37.1.33	Design book (Fall 1987)
3	15	2003.37.1.34	Design book (Nov-Dec 1987)
3	16	2003.37.1.35	Design book (Spring 1985)
3	16	2003.37.1.36	Design book (Spring 1992)
4	17	2003.37.1.37-.39	Design books (undated)
4	18	2003.37.1.40-.42	Design books (undated)
4	19	2003.37.1.43	Design book (undated)
4		2003.37.1.44	Design book (undated)
4		2003.37.1.44a	Design book (undated)
4	20	2003.37.1.45-.47	Design book (undated)
5	21	2003.37.1.48-.80	Handbag designs (Spring 1962 – Fall 1971)
5	22	2003.37.1.81-.114	Handbag designs (Spring 1972 – Holiday 1976)

Series 1, Continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	23	2003.37.1.115-.149	Handbag designs (Spring 1977 – Holiday 1982)
5	24	2003.37.1.150-.173	Handbag designs (Spring 1983 – Holiday 1986)
5	25	2003.37.1.174-.204	Handbag designs (Spring 1987 – Fall 1992)

Davey's Handbag Collection
2003.37
Series 2, Correspondences

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	26	2003.37.2.1-.3	Correspondences (August – September 1963)
6	27	2003.37.2.4-.5	Correspondences (November 1972)
6	27	2003.37.2.6-.13	Correspondences (February – June 1973)
6	28	2003.37.2.14-.25	Correspondences (March – September 1974)
6	29	2003.37.2.26-.30	Correspondences (May – November 1975)
6	29	2003.37.2.31-.33	Correspondences (February – October 1976)
6	29	2003.37.2.34-.39	Correspondences (January – June 1977)
6	30	2003.37.2.40-.49	Correspondences (January – April 1978)
6	30	2003.37.2.50-.57	Correspondences (September – November 1979)
6	31	2003.37.2.58-.88	Correspondences (May 1980 – August 1980)
6	32	2003.37.2.89-.93	Correspondences (April – October 1981)
6	32	2003.37.2.94-.108	Correspondences (February – December 1982)
6	33	2003.37.2.109-.143	Correspondences (February – December 1983)
6	34	2003.37.2.144-.167	Correspondences (March – December 1984)
6	35	2003.37.2.168-.181	Correspondences (January – November 1985)
6	35	2003.37.2.182-.205	Correspondences (February – December 1986)
6	36	2003.37.2.206-.248	Correspondences (January – March 1987)
6	37	2003.37.2.249-.297	Correspondences (April – June 1987)
6	38	2003.37.2.298-.330	Correspondences (July – August 1987)
6	39	2003.37.2.331-.368	Correspondences (August – September 1987)

Series 2, Continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	40	2003.37.2.369-.400	Correspondences (October – November 1987)
6	41	2003.37.2.401-.434	Correspondences (Nov. 1987 – December 1987)
7	42	2003.37.2.435-.460	Correspondences (January 1988 – March 1988)
7	43	2003.37.2.461-.500	Correspondences (March 1988 – June 1988)
7	44	2003.37.2.501-.538	Correspondences (June – August 1988)
7	45	2003.37.2.539 -.570	Correspondences (September – November 1988)
7	46	2003.37.2.571-.592	Correspondences (November - December 1988)
7	47	2003.37.2.593-.619	Correspondences (January – March 1989)
7	48	2003.37.2.620-.644	Correspondences (April - June 1989)
7	49	2003.37.2.645-.684	Correspondences (July – December 1989)
7	50	2003.37.2.685-.719	Correspondences (January – April 1990)
7	51	2003.37.2.720-.741	Correspondences (May – July 1990)
7	52	2003.37.2.742-.766	Correspondences (August – December 1990)
8	53	2003.37.2.767-.793	Correspondences (January – July 1991)
8	54	2003.37.2.794-.816	Correspondences (August – October 1991)
8	55	2003.37.2.817-..828	Correspondences (November – December 1991)
8	56	2003.37.2.829-..838	Correspondences (April – August 1992)
8	56	2003.37.2.839	Correspondences (February 1993)
8	57	2003.37.2.840-.853	Correspondences (No Date)

Davey's Handbag Collection
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Series 3, Billing

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
8	58	2003.37.3.1-.13	Billing (Spring, Fall and Holiday 1987)
8	59	2003.37.3.14-.25	Billing (Spring, Fall and Holiday 1988)
8	60	2003.37.3.26-.45	Billing (Spring, Fall and Holiday 1989)
8	61	2003.37.3.46-.58	Billing (Spring, Fall and Holiday 1990)
8	62	2003.37.3.59-.61	Billing (Spring and Fall 1991)
8	63	2003.37.3.62-.65	Billing (Spring and Fall 1992)

Davey's Handbag Collection
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Series 4, Purchase Orders

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
8	64	2003.37.4.1-.12	Purchase Orders (1983 – 1987)
8	65	2003.37.4.13-.23	Purchase Orders (1988)
8	66	2003.37.4.24-.35	Purchase Orders (1988)
9	67	2003.37.4.36-.45	Purchase Orders (1989)
9	68	2003.37.4.46-.63	Purchase Orders (1990)
9	69	2003.37.4.64-.100	Purchase Orders (1991)
9	70	2003.37.4.101-.130	Purchase Orders (1991)
9	71	2003.37.4.131-.150	Purchase Orders (1991)
9	72	2003.37.4.151-.178	Purchase Orders (1991)
9	73	2003.37.4.179-.220	Purchase Orders (1991)
9	74	2003.37.4.221-.254	Purchase Orders (1991)
10	75	2003.37.4.255-.285	Purchase Orders (1992)
10	76	2003.37.4.286-.325	Purchase Orders (1992)
10	77	2003.37.4.326-.363	Purchase Orders (1992)
10	78	2003.37.4.364-410	Purchase Orders (1992)
10	79	2003.37.4.411-.417	Purchase Orders (1993)
10	80	2003.37.4.418-.450	Purchase Orders (no date)
10	81	2003.37.4.451-.476	Purchase Orders (no date)

Davey's Handbag Collection
2003.37
Series 5, Personal Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
10	82	2003.37.5.1	Invitation to private viewing of Contemporary Indian Paintings from the Chester and Davida Herwitz Charitable Trust.
10	82	2003.37.5.2-.12	Various speeches given by Chester and Davida Herwitz.
10	83	2003.37.5.13-.17	Miscellaneous letters to Mr. and Mrs. Herwitz.
10	83	2003.37.5.18-.22	Various annual reports from Yeshiva.
10	84	2003.37.5.23-.26	Miscellaneous papers.

Davey's Handbag Collection
2003.37
Series 6, Retail Outlets (By States)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
11		2003.37.6.1	Retail Outlets, A-P (1982 – 1984)
12		2003.37.6.2	Retail Outlets R-W (1982 – 1984) and A – W (1984 – 1985)
13		2003.37.6.3	Retail Outlets (Spring 1988 – 1989)
14		2003.37.6.4	Retail Outlets (1990 – 1992)
15		2003.37.6.5	Retail Outlets (A – CA)
16		2003.37.6.6	Retail Outlets (CA - IL)
17		2003.37.6.7	Retail Outlets (IL - MD)
18		2003.37.6.8	Retail Outlets (MA – NJ)
19		2003.37.6.9	Retail Outlets (NJ – NC)
20		2003.37.6.10	Retail Outlets (NC – PA)
21		2003.37.6.11	Retail Outlets (PA – TX)
22		2003.37.6.12	Retail Outlets (TX – W)

Davey's Handbag Collection
 2003.37
 Series 7, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
23		2003.37.7.1	Spring 1972 Cottage Tailor line of clothes.
23		2003.37.7.2	Fall 1972 Cottage Tailor line of clothes.
23		2003.37.7.3	Winter 1972 Cottage Tailor line of clothes.
23	85	2003.37.7.4	Undated catalog of clothes.
23	86	2003.37.7.5-.40	Various photographs of handbags.
23	87	2003.37.7.41-.80	Various photographs of handbags.
23	88	2003.37.7.81-.120	Various photographs of handbags.
24	89	2003.37.7.121-.171	Various photographs of handbags.
24	90	2003.37.7.172-.227	Various photographs of handbags.
24	91	2003.37.7.228-.256	Various photographs of handbags.
24	91	2003.37.7.257-.259	Chester Herwitz being presented with American Handbag Designer Award.
24	91	2003.37.7.260	Confirmation class (1974)

Davey's Handbag Collection
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Series 8, Product Tags

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
24	92	2003.37.8.1-9	Various product tags for Davey's
24	93	2003.37.8.10-.16	Various product tags for Davey's
24	94	2003.37.8.17-.21	Various product tags for Davey's
24	95	2003.37.8.22-.26	Various product tags for Davey's

Davey's Handbag Collection
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Series 9, Advertisements

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
24	96	2003.37.9.1	Advertisements 1958 – 1960s
24	97	2003.37.9.2	Advertisements 1960s
24	98	2003.37.9.3	Advertisements 1960s
24	99	2003.37.9.4	Advertisements 1960s
25	100	2003.37.9.5	Advertisements 1970s
25	101	2003.37.9.6	Advertisements 1970s
25	102	2003.37.9.7	Advertisements 1980s
25	103	2003.37.9.8	Advertisements (undated)
25	104	2003.37.9.9	Advertisements (undated)

Davey's Handbag Collection
2003.37
Series 10, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
25	105	2003.37.10.1	Mailing Lists
25	106	2003.37.10.2	Mailing Lists
25	107	2003.37.10.3	Mailing Lists
25	107	2003.37.10.4	Commendation Certificate for employing disabled veterans.