

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Graton & Knight Manufacturing  
Company Collection

2000.40

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
July 2000

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### Collection Information

Abstract : Graton & Knight Co. established in 1851, as tanners and manufacturers of leather belting and other leather goods. Tanned over 300,000 hides annually, employed 1400 with branches throughout United States and other countries. The company was no longer in business in Worcester after 1962, likely as a result of competition from plastics and synthetics.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Purchased (in part) from Kenneth E. Schneringer, Woodstock, Ga., June 2000; in part gift of Mrs. Germaine Bachand, Worcester, Mass., March 1979; in part FIA.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Graton & Knight Manufacturing Co. (Worcester, Mass.)  
Graton & Knight Manufacturing Co. (Worcester, Mass.) – Catalogs.  
Graton & Knight Manufacturing Co. (Worcester, Mass.) – History.  
Tanneries – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Leather industry and trade – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Industries – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Worcester (Mass.) – Manufactures.  
Leatherwork.  
Catalogs. lcsh  
Fliers (Printed matter). aat  
Newsletters – Massachusetts – Worcester. lcsh

## **Historical/Biographical Notes**

Graton & Knight Manufacturing Co. was established in Worcester in 1851, as tanners and manufacturers of leather belting and other leather goods. The company incorporated in 1872. Throughout its peak years the company processed over 300,000 hides annually, with over 1400 employees. Company branches were scattered throughout the United States, and in many other countries throughout the world. Development of plastics and synthetic materials after World War II drastically reduced the demand for leather, and the company ceased operations about 1962.

## **Scope and Content**

The collection is comprised of catalogs of leather goods, 1910-1930s; and company manuals, 1916 & 1945. Also included are annual reports of the company and reports to stockholders, ca. 1925-1931; company newsletters, 1940-1943. Much of the collection is comprised of catalogs, fliers, and leather samples relating to leathercraft, with patterns and instructions for leather hobbyists, ca. 1927 - ca. 1937.

The collection provides significant insight into the many uses of leather prior to the development of plastics and synthetic materials.

## **Series Description**

Series 1: Reports. Includes annual reports, reports to stockholders, etc.

Series 2: Catalogs/Manuals.

Series 3: Leathercraft fliers, catalogs, samples, etc., directed at amateur leather hobbyists.

Series 4: Newsletters, 1940-1943.

Graton & Knight Co. Collection  
2000.40  
Series 1, Reports

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.40.1.1	Annual Report, Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Massachusetts. January 3, 1931. 8 p.
1	1	2000.40.1.2	Annual Report, Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Massachusetts. March 3, 1926. Part missing.
1	1	2000.40.1.3	List of Branches in the United States, foreign branches, and foreign distributors. n.d.
1	1	2000.40.1.4	Report to stockholders for year ending December 28, 1929. Cover only.
1	1	2000.40.1.5	Memorandum relating to stock in Graton & Knight Company, July 10, 1926.

Graton & Knight Company Collection  
2000.40  
Series 2, Catalogs/Manuals

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2000.40.2.1	Graton & Knight Mfg. Co., catalog, ca. 1910, 80 p.
1	2	2000.40.2.2	Graton & Knight Mfg. Company, catalog, ca. 1915. 124 p.
1	3	2000.40.2.3	Dog furnishings and sporting goods : catalog / Graton & Knight, 1931. 56 p.
1	3	2000.40.2.4	Stretched leather belting, with price list : advertising card / Graton & Knight, July 1870.
1	4	2000.40.2.5	Belting manual / Graton & Knight Mfg. Co., 1916. 96 p.
1	4	2000.40.2.6	Graton & Knight notebook, with lists of products, notes relating to accounts, 1906.
1	BV	2000.40.2.7	Mechanical Packings Manual / Graton & Knight, 1945. 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. 319 p.

Graton & Knight Co. Collection  
2000.40  
Series 3, Leathercraft

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2000.40.3.1	“Ornakraft” leather ornament craft price list ? Leathercraft Studios, Graton & Knight Company, n.d. Accessioned as 1979.45.
1	5	2000.40.3.2	Leathercraft catalogue / Leathercraft Studios, Graton & Knight Company, 1936. 31 p.
1	5	2000.40.3.3	Leathercraft catalogue / Graton & Knight Company, 1937. 34 p. Accessioned as 1979.45.
1	5	2000.40.3.4	Leathercraft catalogue / Leathercraft Studios, Graton & Knight Company, 1933. 31 p. Accessioned as 1979.45.
1	6	2000.40.3.5	Patterns for billfold and key case, ca. 1930. 5 items.
1	7	2000.40.3.6a-e	Fliers and handbills relating to leathercraft projects. 5 items. Accessioned as 1979.45.
1	7	2000.40.3.7a-d	Flier relating to leathercraft supplies, order form, bill. Ca. 1930s. 4 items.
1	8	2000.40.3.8	Leathercraft in the new and interesting Graton & Knight way : pamphlet, 94 p. / Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Mass., 1927. Accessioned as 1975.58.14.
1	9	2000.40.3.9	Description of leathers furnished on sample cards. 2 p. Accessioned as 1979.45
1	10	2000.40.3.10a-d	Sample cards, various types, finishes, colors of leather. 4 cards.

Graton & Knight Company Collection  
 2000.40  
 Series 4, Newsletters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	2000.40.4.1a-g	GraKnight Life : newsletter / Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Mass., 1940. 7 items.
1	11	2000.40.4.2a-h	GraKnight Life : newsletter / Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Mass., 1941. 8 items.
1	12	2000.40.4.3a-e	GraKnight Life : newsletter / Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Mass., 1942. 5 items.
1	12	2000.40.4.4a-c	GraKnight Life : newsletter / Graton & Knight Company, Worcester, Mass., 1943. 3 items.