

WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

E.B. Luce Collection

2008.72

Processed by Rebecca Doyon-Lavallee
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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains over 76,000 glass plate and film negatives taken by E.B. Luce and his successors. Also included in the collection are a number of cameras and camera supplies, some of E.B. Luce's personal belongings, company advertisements and various company ledgers.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated to the Worcester Historical Museum by Larry MacDonald and Barry Berggren on September 23, 2009.

MARC Access :

Historical/Biographical Notes

Edwin Luce was 19 years old when he established his Worcester photographic studio in 1881. He specialized in commercial and landscape photography and was a fixture in Worcester until his death on May 24, 1938. In an 1893 publication on the Board of Trade (later to become the Chamber of Commerce) he was named official photographer for the Columbian Tribute. The writer described him as a landscape photographer “who is today without equal.”

E.B. Luce photographed many turn-of-the-century street views, valuable imprints of a now-vanished Worcester – pictures of downtown, parks, hotels and churches. He also took pictures of exteriors and interiors of businesses and factories and countless pictures of their many products, which illustrate the variety of local enterprises of the time. Subjects include: Charles G. Allen Company ; American Steel and Wire, Osgood Bradley; Pullman Standard; Harrington and Richardson; Poli’s Palace Theatre; and Reed Prentice Company.

After Luce died in 1938, the company continued under his name with many different owners. E.B.Luce closed its doors for the last time in 2007.

Scope and Content

Collection contains over 76,000 glass plate and film negatives taken by E.B. Luce and his successors. Also included in the collection are a number of cameras and camera supplies, some of E.B. Luce’s personal belongings, company advertisements and various company ledgers.

Series Description

Series 1: Business

Sub-Series 1: Ledgers

Sub-Series 2: E.B. Luce Photographic Advertisements

Sub-Series 3: Products by E.B. Luce Photography

Sub-Series 4: Newsletters by E.B. Luce

Sub-Series 5: Articles on E.B. Luce

Sub-Series 6: Business Ephemera

Sub-Series 7: Exhibits

Series 2: Personal

Sub-Series 1: Family History

Sub-Series 2: Family Photographs

Sub-Series 3: Personal Documents

Sub-Series 4: Bound Volumes

Sub-Series 5: Personal Items – See Curator

Series 3: Photographs

Sub-Series 1: Various photographs by topic

Sub-Series 2: Osgood Bradley Company

Sub-Series 3: Pullman – Standard Car Company

Series 4: Cameras and Lenses – See Curator

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 1, Business
 Sub-Series 1, Ledgers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV 1	2008.72.01.01.01	Sales Register (Book #1), 1897 - 1911
1	BV 2	2008.72.01.01.02	Sales Register (Book #2), 1896 - 1911
2	1	2008.72.01.01.02a	Received from E.B. Luce Form from Edwin M. Roberts, June 20, 1902
2	1	2008.72.01.01.02b	Received from E.B. Luce Form from George O. Gardner, August 2, 1902
1	BV 3	2008.72.01.01.03	Alphabetical Sales Register (Book #4), 1912 - 1915
1	BV 4	2008.72.01.01.04	Sales Register, 1930 - 1938
1	BV 5	2008.72.01.01.05	Alphabetical Sales Register, 1930 - 1934
1	BV 6	2008.72.01.01.06	Predominately Alphabetical Sales Register, 1934 - 1937
1	BV 7	2008.72.01.01.07	Alphabetical Sales Register, 1937 - 1938
2	BV 8	2008.72.01.01.08	Alphabetical Sales Register, 1941 - 1945
2	BV 9	2008.72.01.01.09	Alphabetical Sales Register, 1945 - 1946
3	BV 10	2008.72.01.01.10	Alphabetical Sales Register, 1947 - 1958
2	BV 11	2008.72.01.01.11	Chronological Studio Sitting Register, 1895 - 1910
2	1	2008.72.01.01.11a	Compliments of...Cotter's Barber Shop, n.d.
2	BV 12	2008.72.01.01.12	Cash Ledger, August 1931 - August 1932

2	BV 13	2008.72.01.01.13	Cash Ledger, January 1942 - December 1943
2	BV 14	2008.72.01.01.14	Cash Ledger, January 1944 - January 1945
2	BV 15	2008.72.01.01.15	Cash Ledger, January - December 1945
2	BV 16	2008.72.01.01.16	Payroll Ledger, January 1947 - December 1951

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 1, Business
Sub-Series 2, E.B. Luce Photograph Advertisements

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	2	2008.72.01.02.01a	Copy print of <i>The Worcester Commercial</i> , Volume I, No. 12, April 1893
2	2	2008.72.01.02.01b	Photocopy of Negative from <i>The Worcester Commercial</i> , Volume I, No. 12, April 1893 (A.Q.P.)
2	2	2008.72.01.02.01c	<i>The Worcester Commercial</i> , Volume I, No. 12, April 1893 (A.Q.P.)
2	2	2008.72.01.02.02	Description of E.B. Luce in <i>Worcester and Its Points of Interests: with Illustrations from Outside Photographs</i> , 1895 (A.Q.P.)
2	2	2008.72.01.02.03	Advertisements in <i>The Worcester Suburban Directory</i> , No 1, 1896-1897 (A.Q.P.)
2	2	2008.72.01.02.04	Copy print of <i>The Saturday Observer</i> , Vol. I, No. 5, showing E.B. Luce Advertisement, October 9, 1897
2	2	2008.72.01.02.05	Copyright Advertisement for E.B. Luce Photographic Art Studio, 1889

2	2	2008.72.01.02.06	Copyright Advertisement for The Central Studio Hillside Studio, Holliston, Mass, E.B. Luce Proprietor, 1889
2	2	2008.72.01.02.07	Copyright Advertisement for E.B. Luce Photographer, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1889
2	2	2008.72.01.02.08	Advertisement in <i>Worcester Directory</i> , 1912 (A.Q.P.)
2	2	2008.72.01.02.09	Advertisement in <i>Business Directory of Patrons</i> , n.d. (A.Q.P.)
2	2	2008.72.01.02.10	Letter from Eleanor O'Donnell (American Antiquarian Society) to Helen K. Martin regarding E.B. Luce, July 8, 1980
2	2	2008.72.01.02.10a	Photocopy of E.B. Luce Advertisement in 1914 <i>Worcester Business Directory</i>
2	2	2008.72.01.02.10b	Envelope from American Antiquarian Society to Helen K. Martin, July 8, 1980

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 1, Business
Sub-Series 3, Products by E.B. Luce Photography

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	3	2008.72.01.03.01	Product Brochure for Elegant Entries, Inc. (photographs of hand-carved wood doors), n.d.
2	3	2008.72.01.03.02	Worcester Hahnemann Hospital, Annual Report, 1973
2	3	2008.72.01.03.03	Article "Photomurals for Industry: Assembling the Corporate Image with Color Photographs," <i>Industrial Photography</i> , January 1977
2	3	2008.72.01.03.04	Article "Photography As Art: Stephen Knapp," <i>Interior Design</i> , March 1977

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 1, Business
 Sub-Series 4, Newsletters by E.B. Luce

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	4	2008.72.01.04.01	<i>Visually Speaking</i> , Edwin B. Luce Company, Vol. II, No. 1, Summer 1968
2	4	2008.72.01.04.02	<i>Visually Speaking</i> , Edwin B. Luce Company, Vol. III, No. 1, Winter 1969
2	4	2008.72.01.04.03	<i>Video Views</i> , Luce Video Systems Corporation, Vol. I, No. 1, Winter, 1969

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 1, Business
 Sub-Series 5, Articles on E.B. Luce

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	5	2008.72.01.05.01	Article "Photo Firm Plans Open House," Unknown Publication, n.d.
2	5	2008.72.01.05.02	Article "E.B. Luce Celebrates 100th: 'Called America's Oldest Lab'," <i>Processing Week: Photo Weekly</i> , November 2, 1981

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 1, Business
 Sub-Series 6, Business Ephemera

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	6	2008.72.01.06.01	E.B. Luce Photographer Envelope, n.d.
2	6	2008.72.01.06.02	Edwin B. Luce, Photographs for Illustrating and Advertising Business Card, n.d.
2	6	2008.72.01.06.03	E.B. Luce Photographer Order Slip (Murphy & Son), April 21 [?]
2	6	2008.72.01.06.04	Wage Envelope for Edwin B. Luce Co, Commercial Photographers since 1883, n.d.
2	6	2008.72.01.06.05	Invoice from Carl Zeiss Jena to E.B. Luce Photographer, June 16, 1910
2	6	2008.72.01.06.05a	Envelope to Mr. E.B. Luce Photographer from Carl Zeiss Jena, ca. June 16, 1910
2	6	2008.72.01.06.06	Copy print of Vendor Seed's Dry Plates, n.d.
2	6	2008.72.01.06.07	Copy print of Vendor AZO, n.d.
2	6	2008.72.01.06.08	E.B. Luce Corporation Price List, Effective April 1, 1981
2	6	2008.72.01.06.08a	E.B. Luce Corporation, Quantity Color Prints Price Sheet, ca. 1981
2	6	2008.72.01.06.08b	E.B. Luce Corporation, Black & White Prints Price Sheet, ca. 1981
2	6	2008.72.01.06.09	Luce Video Systems, Business Reply Mail Postcard for Demonstrations, n.d.
2	6	2008.72.01.06.10	Negative Brought to E.B. Luce Co., August 8, 1972

E.B. Luce Collection

2008.72
 Series 1, Business
 Sub-Series 7, Exhibits

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	7	2008.72.01.07.01	Worcester Historical Museum "Exhibit Reminder", January 24, 1981
2	7	2008.72.01.07.02	Worcester Historical Museum "Exhibit Opening - for Immediate Use," n.d.
2	7	2008.72.01.07.03	Worcester Historical Museum Invitation to Opening of E.B. Luce's Worcester: A Centennial Photographic Exhibit, February 17, 1981
2	7	2008.72.01.07.04	Program Guide for E.B. Luce's Worcester: A Centennial Photographic Exhibit, February 17 - May 2, 1981)
2	7	2008.72.01.07.05	Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage Calendar, E.B. Luce Photographer Exhibit, October 25, 1981 - February 28, 1982

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72

Series 2, Personal
 Sub-Series 1, Family History

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	8	2008.72.02.01.01	Family Tree of E.B. Luce, n.d. (A.Q.P.)
2	9	2008.72.02.01.01a	Family Tree of E.B. Luce, n.d.
2	8	2008.72.02.01.02	Timeline of E.B. Luce and E.B. Luce Photographer, n.d. (A.Q.P.)
2	9	2008.72.02.01.02a	Timeline of E.B. Luce and E.B. Luce Photographer, n.d.
2	8	2008.72.02.01.03	

			Notes on E.B. Luce's Family Burial Sites, n.d. (A.Q.P.)
2	9	2008.72.02.01.03a	Notes on E.B. Luce's Family Burial Sites, n.d.
2	8	2008.72.02.01.04	Historical Notes on E.B. Luce and E.B. Luce Photographer, n.d. (A.Q.P.)
2	9	2008.72.02.01.04a	Historical Notes on E.B. Luce and E.B. Luce Photographer, n.d.

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 2, Personal
Sub-Series 2, Family Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	10	2008.72.02.02.01	E.B. Luce Family Photograph Guide
2	10	2008.72.02.02.02	Photographs of E.B. Luce Family (6 pictures)

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 2, Personal
Sub-Series 3, Personal Documents

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	11	2008.72.02.03.01	Lease bbetween Edwin by Luce (Lessee) and Joseph H. Malker (Trustee), May 1, 1895 (A.Q.P.)
2	12	2008.72.02.03.01a	Lease bbetween Edwin by Luce (Lessee) and Joseph H. Malker (Trustee), May 1, 1895
2	11	2008.72.02.03.02	United States of America, Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines: Explosive License for E.B. Luce, May 3, 1918 (A.Q.P.)

2	12	2008.72.02.03.02a	United States of America, Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines: Explosive License for E.B. Luce, May 3, 1918
2	11	2008.72.02.03.03	Last Will & Testament of Edwin B. Luce, May 11, 1938 (A.Q.P.)
2	11	2008.72.02.03.04	Copy of Death Record for Edwin B. Luce, March 27, 1979

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 2, Personal
Sub-Series 4, Bound Volumes

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	BV 17	2008.72.02.04.01	Automobile Book, May 23, 1914 - June 1925
2	BV 18	2008.72.02.04.02	Pocket Holy Bible
2	BV 19	2008.72.02.04.03	Pocket Holy Bible (Marion Bower, Auburn, NY)

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 2, Personal
Sub-Series 5, Personal Items

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
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SEE CURATOR FOR ITEMS

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 3, Photographs
 Sub-Series 1, Various Photographs by Topic

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4		2008.72	Buildings (2 Folders)
4		2008.72	Businesses (3 Folders)
4		2008.72	Cameras
4		2008.72	Cars (Miscellaneous)
4		2008.72	Churches
4		2008.72	Goddard, Robert
4		2008.72	Hospitals (Identified and Unidentified)
4		2008.72	Hotels
4		2008.72	Bancroft Hotel
4		2008.72	Ice Storm
4		2008.72	Knowles Building Fire
4		2008.72	Lakes
4		2008.72	Luce, E.B. (Luce Studio, Luce House, Luce Cat, Luce Portrait of Girl)
4		2008.72	Miscellaneous - GAR Veterans, Clara Barton House, Rufus Stockwell house, Greenwood Family Home, Hot Air Balloon, Schenectady Locomotive Works (Osgood Bradley), Store Front with president Taft's Picture for His Visit
4		2008.72	Monuments
4		2008.72	

Parks

4	2008.72	Poli Theatre
4	2008.72	Rail Road and Trolleys (2 Folders)
4	2008.72	School
4	2008.72	Street Scenes (4 Folders)
4	2008.72	Theatres
4	2008.72	Millbury
4	2008.72	Shrewsbury

E.B. Luce Collection
2008.72
Series 3, Photographs
Sub-Series 2, Osgood Bradley Company

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5		2008.72	Album 1 – Electric Cars, 1911-1922
5		2008.72	Album 2 – Steam Passenger Equipment, 1911-1929
5		2008.72	Album 3 – Electric Cars, 1922-1939
5		2008.72	Album 4 – Gas Electric Cars
5		2008.72	Album 5 – Baggage and Mail Cars
5		2008.72	Album 6 – Export Cars
6		2008.72	Album 9 – Passenger Cars, 1952-1955
6		2008.72	Album 10 – Passenger Cars, 1950
6		2008.72	Album 11 – Passenger Cars, 1957-1958
6		2008.72	Album 12 – Passenger Cars, 1947-1948

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 3, Photographs
 Sub-Series 3, Pullman-Standard Car Company

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
7		2008.72	Album 1 – Trolley Cars, 1941-1945
7		2008.72	Album 2 – Trolley Coaches, 1931-1940
7		2008.72	Album 3 – Passenger Cars, 1949
7		2008.72	Album 4 – Trolley Coaches, 1946-1948
7		2008.72	Album 5 – PCC Type Motor Cars, 1940-1948, 1957
7		2008.72	Album 6 – PCC Motor Cars, 1950
7		2008.72	Album 7 – Trolley Coaches, 1948-1951
7		2008.72	Album 8 – Steam Passenger Caboose Cars, 1930-1939
7		2008.72	Copy Prints – Various Photographs

E.B. Luce Collection
 2008.72
 Series 4, Cameras and Lenses

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
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SEE CURATOR FOR ITEMS