

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Torrey Razor Company
Collection

2001.50

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
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Collection Information

Abstract: The J. R. Torrey Razor Co. was established in Worcester in 1858 by Joseph R. Torrey, and manufactured razors until it ceased operations in 1952. J. R. Torrey & Co., in the same building, manufactured razor strops and other accessories.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form is available in the repository.

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

Provenance: Gift of Louise Erskine, Worcester, Mass., 1996 (?).

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, rbgenr, tgm, etc.)

Torrey, Joseph R.
J. R. Torrey Razor Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
J. R. Torrey & Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
Razor industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Razors – Catalogs.
Business enterprises – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Industries – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Catalogs. lcsh
Ledgers. aat

Historical Background

The J. R. Torrey Razor Company was established in 1858 by Joseph R. Torrey, and manufactured straight razors for over 90 years until it ceased operations in 1952. The company was located on Chandler Street at Piedmont Street. Operating at the same time in the same location was J. R. Torrey & Co., manufacturers of razor strops and other accessories. Production peaked during the World War I years, and the company employed some 350 hands. The development of the safety razor, and later the electric razor, dramatically reduced the demand for straight razors, and by mid-20th century remaining business did not warrant continuing the business.

Scope and Content

The collection includes an inventory ledger, 1930s and 1940s; a cash book, 1930s and 1940s; payroll book, 1946-1947; catalogs of Torrey Razor Co. and Torrey & Co., 1880s; sales orders, 1928; letter, 1890s; and photographs, probably of Joseph R. Torrey, grandson of the founder, and airplane enthusiast.

Series Description

Series 1: Inventory Lists. (1 item)

Series 2: Cash Books. (1 item)

Series 3: Payroll Records. (1 item)

Series 4: Catalogs. (4 items)

Series 5: Sales Orders. (10 items)

Series 6: Letters. (1 item)

Series 7: Photographs. (14 items)

Torrey Razor Company
2001.50
Series 1, Inventory Lists

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV	2001.50.1.1	Inventory lists, January 1937 – January 1947 : ledger, 32 cm.

Torrey Razor Company
2001.50
Series 2, Cash Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	BV	2001.50.2.1	Cash book, September 1937 – April 1945 : ledger, 36 cm.

Torrey Razor Company
2001.50
Series 3, Payroll Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV	2001.50.3.1	Payroll book, wage and hour withholding tax and social security records, December 1945 – December 1947 : ledger, 36 cm.

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Series 4, Catalogs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV	2001.50.4.1a-b	<i>Illustrated catalog of the J. R. Torrey Razor Co. and J. R. Torrey, 1881 : 30 x 23 cm. (2 copies)</i>
1	1	2001.50.4.2	<i>List of goods manufactured by the J. R. Torrey razor Co. and J. R. Torrey, 1882 : paper, 25 cm.</i>
1	1	2001.50.4.3	<i>List of goods manufactured by the J. R. Torrey razor Co. and J. R. Torrey, 1883 : paper, 25 cm.</i>
1	1	2001.50.4.4	<i>List of goods manufactured by the J. R. Torrey razor Co. and J. R. Torrey, ca. 1889 : paper, 25 cm.</i>

Torrey Razor Company
2001.50
Series 5, Sales Orders

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2001.50.5.1-.10	J. R. Torrey Company Sales Order, shipping room copy, January – May 1928. (10 items)

Torrey Razor Company
2001.50
Series 6, Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2001.50.6.1	Manuscript letter on J. R. Torrey Razor Co. letterhead, to "Annie" from "Lewis" (L. H. Torrey) (2 p.)

Torrey Razor Company
2001.50
Series 7, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2001.50.7.1-.5	Unidentified individuals and groups, members of Torrey family including J. R. Torrey II : snapshots / ca. 1920s. (5 items)
1	4	2001.50.7.6-.10	Hot air balloons, unidentified people : snapshots / ca. 1920s. (5 items)
1	4	2001.50.7.11-.14	Aerial views, taken from hot air balloon : snapshots / ca. 1920s. (4 items)