

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

-LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. B59

Date processed: January 10, 1985

- I. Title C. Cowles and Company Records, 1873-1964
- II. The papers of C. Cowles and Company deposited in the Library on May 12, 1983, by
In converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3"
Approximate number of items: 86
- IV. Restrictions:
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: C. Cowles and Company, originally a firm of carriage hardware manufacturers, was established in 1838 by William Conwell and Chandler Cowles under the name of Conwell and Cowles. With the arrival of the motor car the firm made the transition to manufacturing automobile hardware. Since 1855 it has been known as C. Cowles and Company, and is currently located at 83 Water Street.

The Dana Collection contains extensive historical information on this company in Volumes 38, 109 and 123.

- VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of 86 items housed in one box. It contains nine old photographs, mostly undated, but (with one exception which is dated 1964) they are obviously late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The photographs were in extremely poor condition, but they are still very interesting images of the times. Also included are fourteen photographs of silver carriage lamps which have been pasted on stiff cardboard pages from a catalog. These especially beautiful designs are certainly worthy of note. The remainder of the collection consists of miscellaneous business papers and old catalogs. The oldest item is a promissory note dated October 20, 1873; the most recent is a 1964 photograph of company executives. Included in the material when it was received from the Company we found a copy (dated 1880 and signed by David Torrance, Connecticut Secretary of State) of the Articles of Association for the New Haven Clock Company dated February 10, 1853. We (cont.)

Processed by: Patricia J Bromley

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Analysis (Continued)

were told by an executive of the Cowles Company that the desk he was using when they moved into their present building had "come with the building." He found this document fallen down behind a drawer, where it apparently had been for a long time. The original of this has been put with the New Haven Clock Company papers (MSS#4), and a copy has been retained in this collection.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Box 1

Folder A:	Promissory notes and protests for non-payment, 1873-1882	(41)
B:	Copies of agreements with James Bradnack, 1880, and C. L. Stone and Sons, 1888	(2)
C:	Power of Attorney Forms, signed by George R. Hyde and Lewis A. Hyde, 1881; insurance policy on stock and equipment, n.d.	(3)
D:	Balance Sheet, 1883	(1)
E:	C. B. Wood's Design for a Lamp	(1)
F:	Drawing for bicycle gear shifts by F. H. Hart, 1937	(4)
G:	Photograph, notation "Frank Hill, Supt."	(1)
H:	Photograph, notation "Gerald Howard, George Tolman, Tillinghast Salesmen"	(1)
I:	Photograph of a Cowles Company Exhibit, n.d.	(1)
J:	Photograph of a Cowles Company Exhibit, notation "World's Fair, Calif." n.d.	(1)
K:	Photograph, notation "Girls' Lamp Cleaning Dept."	(1)
L:	Photograph "Picnic - Waverley Grove, 1882"	(1)
M:	Xerox copy of a photograph of snow on Orange Street, March 13 and 14, 1888	(1)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont.)Box 1

Folder N:	Photograph of an early automobile exhibit	(1)
O:	Photograph, notation "Fred. Cowles, President" (1897?)	(1)
P:	Printed photograph of Louis Chandler Cowles	(1)
Q:	Photograph, William A. Carmichael, Charles M. A. Costello, Charles H. Costello, Alan C. Bennett, Sept. 23, 1964	(1)
R:	Pages from a catalog of lamps, each with a photograph	(8)
S:	Pages from a catalog of lamps, each with a photograph	(6)
T:	Lamp Catalogs, 1907 and 1914	(2)
U:	Motor Vehicle Body Hardware Catalog, 1938	(1)
V:	Recent Company advertisement, n.d.	(1)
W:	New Haven Clock Company, Articles of Association, 1853 (copy, 1880)	(5)