



BHC-MSS 0056

Guide to the Select Records of Bryant Electric from Roy Wiley

By Meg Rinn, August 2019

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Bryant Electric

Title: Select Records of Bryant Electric from Roy Wiley

Dates: 1888-1988 [bulk 1888-1930]

Quantity: 1 record carton

Abstract: The collection contains four bound volumes of patents, along with several product catalogs that run from the 1920s to 1988, providing a broad overview of Bryant's products.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History

Founded in 1888, Bryant Electric Company was founded by Waldo C. Bryant. A Bridgeport company that began on John Street, Bryant Electric quickly invented all manner of electrical designs relating to switches, electrical components, and wiring.

Bryant was instrumental in creating the concept of standards for electrics, such as the single type of electrical plug in the United States. (The actual standard electric plug used in the USA was invented by Harvey Hubell of Hubell Inc., another Bridgeport manufacturing company.) The company grew very, very quickly, with a majority interest going to Westinghouse in 1901. Bryant remained a subsidiary until 1927, and even after that changed, Bryant was a distinct entity.

Westinghouse shut down the Bryant Electric plant in 1988, relocating to non-union areas. In turn, Westinghouse sold remaining interests to Hubbell Incorporated, another Bridgeport founded company. Hubbell Incorporated now operates out of nearby Shelton.

Scope and Content note:

The collection contains four bound volumes of patents, along with several product catalogs that run from the 1920s to 1988. This provides a broad overview of the products Bryant made during its time in existence. There is a single additional catalog from Bridgeport Metal Goods Manufacturing Company.

Arrangement note

The material is arranged into two series. Series one contains patent books and a set of small technical drawings, whereas series two contains product catalogs.

Administrative information:

Provenance:

Donation from Roy Wiley, who worked for Bryant for many years. He saved material marked to be discarded. A portion of the documents, along with physical objects Wiley saved, are at the Barnum

Museum.

Preferred Citation:

Select Records of Bryant Electric from Roy Wiley (BHC-MSS 0056.) Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Corporate names

Bryant Electric Company

Subject tracings

Bridgeport, Conn.

Electric apparatus and appliances

Electric switchgear

Electric wiring

Detailed box and folder listing

Series I, Patent books and technical information

Box 1

1. Patent book, switches, 1888-1916
2. Patent book, sockets, 1891-1898
3. Patent book, sockets, 1898-1916
4. Patent book, 1917-1930
5. Technical drawings of component parts, undated

Series II, catalogs

6. Spanish language catalog, 1922
7. Wiring devices catalog, 1927
8. Catalog #30, 1930
9. Catalog #34, 1934
10. Catalog #51, 1951
11. Bryant Superior Wiring Devices catalog A, 1959
12. Wiring devices catalog BDB-1504, 1988
13. Bridgeport Metal Goods Manufacturing Company, 35 years of metal goods, 1944