



BHC-MSS 0085  
Guide to the Papers of Louis H. Hertz  
By Meg Rinn  
August 2020

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Louis H. Hertz

**Title:** Papers of Louis H. Hertz

**Dates:** 1933-1997

**Quantity:** 2 manuscript boxes

**Abstract:** Louis H. Hertz was born in New York City on May 17, 1922. Around the age of 19, he began to collect toys, with a particular emphasis on model railroading. In quick order, this saw him become an authority on model trains, as well as a remarkable toy historian. His interest included that of the Ives Manufacturing Company, a major model train maker based in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

*Louis H. Hertz*

Louis H. Hertz was born in New York City on May 17, 1922. Around the age of 19, he began to collect toys, with a particular emphasis on model railroading. In quick order, this saw him become an authority on model trains, as well as a remarkable toy historian.

Hertz served as the editor and publisher of "The Model Railroad Digest" from 1937 to 1940, wrote for the Electric Train Magazine, and was an editor at Polks Catalog among his many trade and general publications.

Most notably, he wrote the book Messrs. Ives of Bridgeport in 1950, providing a history of the Ives Toy Company. He also was the author of *Antique Collecting for Men* and a co-founder of the Standard Gauge Association.

He died in Scarsdale, New York in 1997.

*Ives Toy Company*

Ives Manufacturing Company, also known as Ives Toys, was a toy company that began in Plymouth, Connecticut in 1886. Much of its subcontracting work was performed by the Haberline and Hayes Bridgeport Tool and Die in Bridgeport. Ives was in existence until 1932, when it was bought by Lionel.

The company was best known for its model railroad toys, which were made of tin and/or cast iron, and as such more durable than their competitors. These trains marked the beginning of various gauge sizes for trains, with Ives making the first "O" gauges.

A full history of the company is available in various publications and histories, including work by Louis H. Hertz.

**Scope and Content note:**

Most of the contents relate to Hertz's work in publishing pieces related to model railroading. This primarily relates to serial publications, but also includes copies of his Antique Collecting for Men, and reviews of his book Messrs. Ives of Bridgeport.

There is a small but vital section of material relates to Ives Manufacturing Company specifically, including a patent, some advertisements, and photographs of a plaque unveiling with several members of the Ives family. This is not an extensive collection of research, but a small sample.

**Arrangement Note:**

Series 1 features Hertz's personal materials, with his obituary placed first, followed by correspondence, then other material. The second series contains articles written by Hertz about model railroads and articles he collected.

Series 3 contains all of Hertz's material relating to Ives, with a particular focus on a plaque that was unveiled by some of the remaining company employees. There are also catalogs and advertisements, although they are by no means comprehensive.

Other publications and collecting comprises series 4, and includes "Antique Collecting for Men" along with additional auction catalogs and other items Hertz retained.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Unknown

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of Louis H. Hertz (BHC-MSS 0085) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

*Personal names*

Hertz, Louis Heilbroner

*Corporate names*

Discovery Museum (Bridgeport, Conn.)

Ives Manufacturing Corporation

Lionel Corporation

*Subject tracings*

Railroad cars--Models

Railroads--Models--Periodicals

Toys--Collectors and collecting

Toys--Collectors and collecting--United States

**Detailed box and folder listing**

Box 1

Series 1, Personal writings and material

1. Obituary, 1997
2. Correspondence, Discovery Museum, 1959
3. Correspondence, Robert Forbes, 1982
4. Correspondence, other, 1976
5. Teaching certification, 1935
6. Publisher's contract, 1968
7. Promotional materials for book, undated
8. Photographs, undated

#### Series 2, Model railroading

9. Hobby railroad memberships, 1933-1958
10. Miniature railroad service and repair manual by Hertz, 1967
11. Model railroad publications written or edited by Hertz, 1938-1952
12. Model railroad publications written or edited by Hertz, 1994
13. Other model railroad publications, 1950

#### Series 3, Ives Toys material

14. Ives toys patents, 1903
15. Ives toys catalogs, undated
16. Ives toys advertisements, undated
17. Ives toys promotional ephemera, undated
18. Photographs of unveiling the Ives plaque, May 23, 1959
19. Photographs of unveiling the Ives plaque, May 23, 1959
20. Photographs of unveiling the Ives plaque, May 23, 1959
21. SGA Journal #5, issue and layout of unveiling of Ives plaque on May 23, 1959
22. Letters regarding Messrs. Ives of Bridgeport, 1950

#### Box 2

1. Reviews of Messrs. Ives of Bridgeport, 1950
2. Reviews of Messrs. Ives of Bridgeport, 1950

#### Series 4, Other publications and collecting

3. Antique Collecting for Men, 1969
4. Antique Collecting for Men, 1969
5. Auction catalogs, 1983, 1987
6. The Angel in the House [Bridgeport Public Library book]
7. Good House Keeping, 1964
8. Collection of shoe and shirt advertisements