

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Phoenix Horseshoe Collection

Collection Number: MSS.22

Date Range: 1857, 1895-1971

Size: 2 Linear Feet

Location: RR.6.3, CO.OS.01, CO.OS.02

Creator: Phoenix Horseshoe Co., Phoenix Horseshow Manufacturer

Abstract: The Phoenix Horseshoe Collection contains correspondence, agreements, blueprints, catalogs, publications, and photographs pertaining to the operation of the Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. The company, based out of New York and Chicago, operated a manufacturing plant in Joliet beginning in 1893.

Acquisition Information: This collection has been composed from various accessions relating to the history of Phoenix Horseshoe Co. There was no reasonable original order to these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

Separated Materials: None

Citation: Item Description. MSS.22 Phoenix Horseshoe Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History:

Phoenix Horse Shoe Company, founded by Charles W. Miller, began operations in Hartford, CT in 1882 under the original name Spring Horse Shoe Company. By 1884, the Spring Horse Shoe Company purchased a manufacturing plant in Poughkeepsie, NY and renamed the company the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company. After ten years of operation, the plant in Poughkeepsie was found to be inadequate to keep pace with increasing demand, the company purchased land in Joliet in 1893, erecting a second factory location. Along with the purchase of a second factory in Joliet the company relocated their general offices to the Rookery Building in downtown Chicago and maintained executive offices on Madison Ave. in New York.

Up until the end of the second world war Phoenix was one of only two horse shoe manufacturers in the nation, the second being the Bryden Neverslip Horseshoe Co. In 1928 the company was acquired by Phoenix Horse Shoe and their manufacturing facilities were converted to the production of commercial forgings and flanges renaming the plant the Phoenix Forging Company. Over the next several years Phoenix purchased several other horseshoe facilities, but unlike the Bryden Co. Phoenix often liquidated or moved operations.

In 1957 the Union Car Company purchased Phoenix along with all divisions and subsidiaries. In 1971 Union Car Company was purchased by the Trans Union Company, who then sold all of the original Phoenix facilities, except for the Phoenix Forging Company, to the Continental Steel Corporation.

Scope and Content Arrangement:

The Phoenix Horse Shoe Collection contains correspondence, business agreements, blueprints, financial records, catalogs, publications and photographs pertaining to the operation of the Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. The collection has been arranged into 4 series based on the content of documents and the materials in each series are arranged chronologically.

There are a small number of oversized materials in the collection. They have been listed in Series 4 of the collection and are recorded in the finding aid with their original series number as well. All oversized materials for this collection are housed in oversize storage drawer 7 located in the Curator's Office.

The series in the collection are as follows:

Series 1: Organizational Records, 1895-1971

Series 2: Publications and Advertisements, 1943-1965

Series 3: Photographs and Scrapbooks, 1857-1960

Series 4: Oversized Materials

Related Materials:

Content Listing:

Series 1: Organizational Records, 1895-1971

Location: RR.6.3

Scope: This series contains correspondence, horse shoe blueprints, purchase orders, horse shoe tags, and other materials relating to the operation of Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. Of note are a collection of job descriptions for factory workers along with a procedure for job evaluations. It can be assumed that the procedure guidelines were used in the creation of the organizations job descriptions. This series also contains several agreements between Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. and other organizations. Of note is an agreement for the purchase of Bryden Neverslip Co. from 1928. All materials in this series are organized chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Invoices, 1895	1	1
Correspondence, 1908-1911, 1927, 1966	2	1
Abstract of the Title to Lands owned by Phoenix Horse Shoe Co., 1908	3	1
American Steel and Wire Co. of New Jersey and Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. Agreement, 1924	4	1
Phoenix Horse Shoe Company and First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago, Indenture, 1925	5	1
United States Horse Shoe Co. and Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. Agreement, 1928	6	1
American Horse Shoe Co. and Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. Agreement, 1928	7	1
Bryden Neverslip Co. and Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. Agreement, 1928	8	1
Phoenix Manufacturing Co. Job Descriptions, 1944	9	1
Suggested Procedure for Job Classification or Evaluation, 1944	10	1
Wareham Manufacturing Co. and Phoenix Manufacturing Co. Agreement, 1945	11	1
Purchase Orders, 1965	12	1
Price Lists, 1965	13	1
Phoenix Manufacturing Co. and United Steelworkers of America Agreement, 1971	14	1
Retirees Contact List, Undated	15	1
Phoenix Manufacturing Co. Blank Checks, Undated	16	1
Horse Shoe Tags, Undated	17	1
Phoenix Horse Shoe Blueprints, Undated	18	1
American Steel & Wire Co. Horse Shoe Blueprints, Undated	19	1

Series 2: Publications and Advertisements, 1943-1965

Location: RR.6.3

Scope: This series contains publications and advertisements including product catalogs, blueprint purchase catalogs, and newspaper articles. Of note is a book published by Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. titled "Horseshoes and Our Civilization," which outlines the history of horse shoe manufacturing (prior to the Industrial Revolution) up to the founding of Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. It also includes a short history of the organization and development of the company. All materials in this series are arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
How to Care for the Feet of your Horses and Mules, 1943	20	1
Newspaper Articles, 1955, 1963-1964	21	1
General Product Catalog, 1965	22	1
Die Rolling as Experienced by George Saems, 1978	23	1
Horseshoes and our Civilization, Undated	24	1
Phoenix Pitching Shoes Official Rules and Publications, Undated	25	1
Phoenix Horse and Mule Shoes Catalog, Undated	1	2
The Phoenix Line Catalog, Undated	2	2
Phoenix Horse Shoe Advertisements, 1939	3	2

Phoenix Horse Shoe Blueprint Catalog, Smyrna, Undated	4	2
Phoenix Horse Shoe Blueprint Catalog, Constantinople, Undated	5	2

Series 3: Photographs and Scrapbooks, 1857-1960

Location: RR.6.3

Scope: This series contains photographs of the Phoenix Horse Shoe factory in Joliet, along with employee photographs. Also included is a scrapbook put together of letters, newspaper articles and photographs of the presentation of gold-plated horse shoes to U.S. Presidents including Harry Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. As well as a scrapbook contains newspaper articles about the life and career of John W. Kiser, the president of Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. from 1903 until 1916. All materials in this series are organized chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
John W. Kiser Scrapbook, 1857-1916	6	2
Presentation of Gold-Plated Horse Shoes to U.S. Presidents, 1949-1953	7	2
Factory Photographs, C. 1960s	8	2
Employee Photographs, C. 1960s	9	2

Series 5: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.01, CO.OS.02

Folder Title:	Series #:	Box #:
Phoenix Horse Shoe Company, Poughkeepsie, Blueprint, 1873	Series 1	OS.02
Rotary Horse Shoe Bender Blueprints, 1899	Series 1	OS.02
Bryden Neverslip Co. and Phoenix Horse Shoe Co. Agreement Blueprints, 1928	Series 1	OS.02
Phoenix Horse, Mule and Ox Plates Blueprint Catalog	Series 2	OS.01
Phoenix Horse Shoe Advertisements, Undated	Series 2	OS.01
Phoenix Horse Shoe Aerial Photograph	Series 3	OS.01

