

**REGISTER OF THE
PRATT, READ CORPORATION RECORDS,
1838 - 1990**

by Craig A. Orr

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my appreciation to Harwood B. Comstock, President of the Pratt-Read Corporation, for his donation of these records to the National Museum of American History. His generosity has ensured that this fascinating part of the American story will be preserved for future generations. Thanks are due also to Peter H. Comstock, who had the wisdom and foresight to set these materials aside many years ago. Special thanks are due to Edith DeForest, for her stalwart custodianship of the records at Pratt-Read, for her efforts to organize and preserve the collection, for her review of this text, and for all her continuing support in her role as Curator of the Deep River Historical Society. I also am indebted to Hanford Johnson, Hugo Nickse, and Henry Z. Steinway for their individual donations of Pratt, Read material in their possession, and to Jack L. Spangler, who photocopied the West Factory time book for us. Brenda Milkofsky of the Connecticut River Museum deserves special thanks for her cooperation and for her comments on the text of this guide.

My thanks go as well to David Shayt for his "discovery" of the collection, for his companionship on our trips to Ivoryton, and for his continuing interest in the collection. Barbara Humphrys prepared the fine description of the glider films found in the Appendix. Finally, I especially thank John Fleckner and Robert Harding for their support and suggestions in processing this collection.

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NMAH
320**

PRATT-READ CORPORATION RECORDS, 1839 - 1990
[84 cubic feet]
[67 DB, 7 (.5)DB, 4 ShB, 26 F/O, 28 O/S Folders]

SUMMARY:

Pratt, Read & Company, located in the Essex area of Connecticut, was once the world's largest producer of ivory products. Beginning with the manufacture of combs, collar buttons, and toothpicks, the company moved on to the production of piano and organ key veneers, and soon dominated the field. Eventually, it began to produce complete piano and organ keyboards and actions, becoming the major supplier to the American piano industry. The records in this collection document Pratt, Read & Company; its early competitor and later partner, Comstock, Cheney & Company; and a number of predecessor, subsidiary, and related companies. Other topics of interest dealt with in this collection include the late-nineteenth century African ivory trade and Pratt, Read's production of troop-carrying gliders during World War II.

HISTORY:

PRATT, READ & COMPANY. Pratt, Read & Company is one of the oldest companies in the state of Connecticut. The firm traces its origins to 1798, when an Essex goldsmith and clockmaker named Phineas Pratt invented a circular saw to cut the teeth on ivory combs. In 1809, George Read and his brother-in-law, Phineas Pratt II, dammed the Deep River in the nearby town of Deep River and constructed a waterwheel to power ivory-cutting machinery. Read left the partnership in 1816, and Phineas Pratt II joined with Alfred Worthington to manufacture ivory combs under the name of Pratt Worthington & Company. When Worthington died in 1830, two of Phineas Pratt II's sons, Ulysses and Alexis, took over the business, operating as U & A Pratt. The name was changed in 1844 to Pratt Spencer & Company, when a new partner was added, and changed again in 1850, to Pratt Brothers & Company. In 1856 the company erected a much larger factory in Deep River.

In the meantime, Julius Pratt, another of Phineas Pratt I's sons, had joined with Thomas Howard to set up an ivory comb factory in the town of

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Meriden. This firm was known as Howard, Pratt & Company. After Howard's death in 1822, it became Julius Pratt & Company. In 1854, the firm began to produce wooden piano keyboards, which then were fitted with keys of ivory. One half interest in this firm was owned by George Read.

When Read left his original partnership with Phineas Pratt II in 1816, he joined with Essex comb-maker Ezra Williams to set up a new ivory-working factory in Deep River. This new firm was known as Ezra Williams & Company. In 1829, Read became the senior partner and the company's name was changed to George Read & Company. This company later secured

a very important contract to supply ivory keys for the first American manufacturer of pianos, Chickering & Sons of Boston.

In 1863, the firms of George Read & Company, Julius Pratt & Company, and Pratt Brothers & Company, were merged to form Pratt, Read & Company. The new company further enlarged its factory in Deep River in 1866. In 1871, the old Julius Pratt & Company factory in Meriden was closed and its operations moved to Deep River. Though this factory was destroyed by fire in 1881, a larger factory was quickly rebuilt and the company was back in business early in 1882.

With the election of George L. Cheney as president in 1892, Pratt, Read & Company began a period of continued expansion. In December of that year the company joined with another Connecticut piano component manufacturer, Comstock, Cheney & Company, to organize a midwestern manufacturing branch, under the name of the Piano & Organ Supply Company. This firm was to serve the territory west of Toledo, Ohio, operating in competition with its parent companies. In 1929 Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney combined to buy out the Piano & Organ Supply Company and it was dissolved.

In 1910 Pratt, Read & Company decided to begin the manufacture of piano actions. An independent manufacturer of piano actions, New York-based Wasle & Company, and its subsidiary, the Wasle Unique Player Action Company, were acquired that same year. In 1914, Pratt, Read built a second factory solely for the production of player piano actions in Deep River. Wasle & Company was dissolved in 1919 and its production was continued under the Pratt, Read name. The company soon acquired two additional keyboard and action manufacturers: the Sylvester Tower Company of Cambridge, Mass., was purchased, dissolved, and all its equipment was moved to Deep River in 1924; and Strauch Bros. Company of New York was purchased in 1926. The Deep River player action plant operated until 1928, when business declined and production of player piano actions was discontinued in favor of manufacturing small motorboats. This line of business also soon declined and the project was abandoned by 1932.

COMSTOCK, CHENEY & COMPANY. Meanwhile, other manufacturers of ivory products had been at work in the Essex area. Chief among these was the firm of Comstock, Cheney & Company of Ivoryton. The dominant figure in this company was Samuel M. Comstock. He had learned the ivory-cutting trade while working in his older brother's Saybrook-area ivory-cutting shop, known as Joseph A. Comstock & Company. By 1838, Samuel had left his brother's shop and

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joined with Edwin Griswold to set up Comstock & Griswold Company further west up the Falls River in Centerbrook. In 1848, the company moved its operations to a new factory in the Ivoryton area, where combs, toothpicks, and other ivory products were made. At the same time, the firm's name was changed to S. M. Comstock & Company, reflecting Samuel's sole ownership.

In 1860, Samuel Comstock allied his firm with George A. Cheney to form Comstock, Cheney & Company. Cheney had invested in Comstock's firm and was one of the principals in the important New York-based ivory importing firm of Arnold, Cheney & Company. The new firm began production of thin slices of ivory for mounting on wooden piano keys. It also had its own agents buying ivory in Africa, most of which went toward production of piano keys. The company was formally incorporated in 1872 and in 1873 it opened an even larger factory in Ivoryton.

1936 MERGER. On December 31, 1936, Pratt, Read & Company of Deep River was consolidated and merged with Comstock, Cheney & Company of Ivoryton. The resulting corporation was titled Pratt, Read & Company, Inc. By 1938, all manufacturing operations had been consolidated in Ivoryton and the Deep River factory closed. During World War II, both the Deep River factory and the Ivoryton factory were used to produce CG-4A "Waco" troop-carrying gliders for the U.S. Army Air Forces, along with LNE-1 training gliders and the GLOMB experimental plane for the U.S. Navy. Production of piano keyboards and actions was sharply curtailed for the duration of the war, and was slow to resume afterward. In 1946 the Deep River factory was sold.

From 1948 to 1957, the Ivoryton factory was enlarged and modernized on a large scale. During the Korean War, the company contracted to make helicopter blades for the Kaman Corporation of Bloomfield, Conn., and this partnership lasted for fourteen years. In 1958, Pratt, Read transferred all of its piano action manufacturing operations to a newly-built plant in Central, S.C. This move was made primarily in order to modernize production facilities at a lower cost than would have been possible through continued renovation of the Ivoryton plant.

With the election of Peter H. Comstock (a great-grandson of one of the founders of Comstock, Cheney & Company) as President in 1954, the firm began an ambitious plan of diversification. The Cornwall & Patterson Company of Bridgeport, Conn., manufacturer of piano hardware, was purchased in 1957. In 1959, Pratt, Read joined with six British Commonwealth firms to acquire British Piano Actions, Ltd., of Wales. Keyboards, Inc., a Chicago-based producer of keyboards for electronic organs, was acquired in 1960. The Tech-Art Plastics Company of Morristown, N.J., a custom molder of plastics materials especially for the piano industry, was acquired in 1961. The F. Kelly Company of Derby, Conn., which specialized in the production of small metal parts, was acquired in 1964, and operated as a division of Cornwall & Patterson. In 1966, Pratt, Read purchased the Allen-Rogers Corporation of Laconia, N.H., which produced wooden furniture and piano components.

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MERGER WITH VOCALINE COMPANY. In February 1968, Pratt, Read & Company, Inc., was merged into the Vocaline Company of America, Inc., of Old Saybrook, Conn. Peter H. Comstock became chairman and chief executive officer of Vocaline Corporation, while remaining president of Pratt, Read. Vocaline was then organized into two major divisions--the Vocaline Division and the Pratt, Read Division. The Pratt, Read Division

concentrated on the production of piano keys and actions. It operated three subdivisions: the Ivoryton Division (keyboards, wooden and plastic moldings, and unfinished furniture); the Action Division (piano actions); and the Lund Division, formerly Keyboards, Inc., (electronic organ components). Both of the latter divisions operated out of the Central, S.C., plant. The Lund Division was known as the Electronics Division by 1970.

The Vocaline Division produced and sold electric motors, timing devices, and other small electromechanical mechanisms through its Electronics Section and its Bristol Motor and Timer Section. Another subsidiary of the Vocaline Division--Altron, Inc., based in Westerly, R.I.--produced wire coils. Through its Research and Development Center in Waldboro, Maine, Vocaline conducted antisubmarine warfare research for the U.S. Navy. By 1970, the Vocaline Division had been streamlined into four divisions: the Allen-Rogers Corporation (small shaped wood products); Altron, Inc. (wire coils); the Bristol Division, later known as the Bristol Saybrook Company (electric motors and timers); and the Cornwall & Patterson Company (piano hardware and small tools). In addition, research for the Navy had been expanded and combined with other oceanographic research under the control of a subsidiary company, VAST, Inc., with operations in both Maine and the Caribbean.

PRATT-READ CORPORATION. In October 1970, the Vocaline Corporation changed its name to the Pratt-Read Corporation. This was done partly to increase identity with its oldest traditions and partly to reflect a shift away from the early emphasis on the Vocaline side of the corporation. The new corporation continued to refine its interests under the direction of Peter H. Comstock, who became company president in February 1970. The Tech-Arts Plastic Company was sold off in May 1972, although it remained a source of supply for custom molded parts. In 1974 Pratt-Read purchased the Atlas Plywood Company of Morrisville, Vt., in order to use its mill and kilns in the preparation of lumber for the Ivoryton factory, whose own facilities were overburdened. This company was operated as a subsidiary of Pratt-Read.

By 1976, the Pratt-Read Corporation was organized into five operating divisions. The Allen-Rogers Corporation produced toys, golf tees, spools, knobs, and other turned and shaped wood products. Altron, Inc., produced bobbins and coils of copper wire. The Bristol Saybrook Company produced small electric motors and timers. The Cornwall & Patterson Company produced piano hardware parts, screwdriver blades, and other small hand tools. Pratt, Read & Company produced wooden components for pianos and other musical instruments. The company's ownership of VAST, Inc., was sold off in March 1976. Later that year, the company acquired Sight-Line Corporation, a Freehold, N.J., manufacturer of golf clubs. This subsidiary, operated as the Sounder Sports Division, was sold in May 1979.

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In October of 1979, James H. Tucker replaced Peter H. Comstock as president of Pratt-Read; Comstock remained chairman of the board and chief executive officer. His nephew, Harwood B. Comstock, became the next president in October 1982. In June 1982, the Ivoryton factory was severely damaged by flooding after two dams burst upstream during a torrential rainstorm. Although the administrative offices were destroyed and the plant filled with several

feet of mud and debris, the facility was back in production within two weeks. In August 1982, Pratt Read acquired the Sohmer Piano Company, a 111-year-old Long Island-based manufacturer of pianos, and in December 1982 Sohmer's production facilities were moved into the Ivoryton factory. By July 1983 Sohmer was producing about six upright pianos a day in its new location.

By the early 1980s, the American piano industry had entered a period of decline and even Peter Comstock's diversification efforts could not keep it out of trouble. A major blow came in 1984 with the loss of a large contract to manufacture keyboards for Mattel Electronics's Intellivision home video system. This was exacerbated by a slump in the piano industry in mid-year. The increased import of Japanese and Korean pianos further undercut the American industry, resulting in slowdowns and profit losses for Pratt-Read. Attempting to compete on the same basis with this foreign competition, Pratt-Read joined with the Baldwin Piano and Organ Company in May 1985 to establish the Pratt-Win Corporation. This joint venture resulted in the closing of Pratt-Read's Central, S.C., piano action manufacturing plant and the transfer of its operations to a new Baldwin plant in Juarez, Mexico. Pratt-Read sold its interest in Pratt-Win to Baldwin in October 1986.

Piano sales continued to decline, however, and Pratt-Read continued to suffer losses. In March 1986, the company was acquired by Crescent & Company, a corporation controlled by Harwood B. Comstock, president of Pratt, Read & Company. It became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Crescent & Company, but retained the name Pratt-Read Corporation. In April 1986, the company sold its Sohmer piano subsidiary together with the Ivoryton factory where it was housed; Sohmer & Company continued to produce upright pianos under independent ownership in Ivoryton until December 1988. In December 1986 the Bristol Saybrook Company was sold off. By 1990, the company had sold off all remaining assets except for a sawmill in Vermont and the Cornwall & Patterson Company in Bridgeport, Conn., where the remaining corporate staff relocated.

For additional historical information, see: Series 3: Pratt, Read & Company, Inc., section N: "Historical & Background Material."

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The History of the Pratt-Read Corporation." [Unpublished history in the collection.]

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Pratt-Read Corporation. Annual Reports.

Vocaline Corporation. Annual Report, 1970.

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SCOPE & CONTENT NOTE:

SERIES 1: PREDECESSOR AND MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES, 1839 - 1870s

This series is composed primarily of early-19th-century records from several of the ivory-working companies that directly preceded the formation of Comstock, Cheney & Company. The records include a cash book, dated 1847, from **S. M. Comstock & Company**, an 1860 agreement between **Julius Pratt & Company** and Pratt, Read for the joint sale of ivory combs, and tintype negatives of some of **George Read & Company's** early ivory cutting machines. Other early records of importance include the minute book of **Pratt, Spencer & Company**, 1844-1848, and the minute book of the **Deep River Ivory Comb Company**, 1860-1864.

The series also contains box labels--or photoprints of labels--from several manufacturers of ivory combs who were active in the same area of Connecticut in the early nineteenth century. Although largely unrelated to Pratt, Read, these labels were part of the collection as received by the Archives Center.

SERIES 2: COMSTOCK, CHENEY & COMPANY, 1863 - 1936

The records in this series, comprising approximately six cubic feet, relate to Comstock, Cheney & Company. They date from 1863 to the company's merger with Pratt, Read & Company in 1936. The series is divided into twelve subseries: Executive Records, Correspondence, Stock Records, Legal Records, Financial Records, Sales Records, Personnel Records, Real Estate Records, Machinery Records, Manufacturing Records, Photoprints, and Photonegatives. The **EXECUTIVE RECORDS** consist of organization papers from 1872 and the complete set of corporate minute books from the company's incorporation in 1872 through its merger with Pratt, Read & Company in 1936.

The incoming **CORRESPONDENCE** dates from 1875-1877. The **general correspondence** primarily concerns problems with orders for the ivory goods--combs, billiard balls, and piano keys--produced by the company, such as delays in shipping, the return of defective merchandise, and changes in the number and type of goods ordered. Letters from many piano and organ manufacturers, such as Knabe, H. Hardman, Vose & Sons, the Burdett Organ Company, the Shoninger Organ Company, and the Mason & Hamlin Piano Company, are included. The actual **sales orders** for 1876 have been placed among the **Sales Records**, thus maintaining the company's original separation of these two similar groups of records. Other general correspondence concerns Comstock, Cheney & Company's orders for goods needed in its manufacturing processes, from special woods to hardware components and labels for its boxes. Monthly statements from the company's banks in New York City and Essex, Conn., are also included.

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The correspondence from **McLean, Morris & Company**, Comstock, Cheney's London ivory broker, contains a wealth of information about the London ivory market. The letters discuss sales trends, speculation about prices to be paid and information about prices actually realized, and provide statistics on the quantity and quality of ivory from various sources in Africa. This correspondence is complemented by the quarterly circulars published by **Westendarp & Buch**, which are printed reports on the latest ivory sales in London. These circulars, sent to Comstock, Cheney by McLean, Morris & Company, set forth the current values of all types and classes of ivory in tables and charts.

The **STOCK RECORDS** consist of a 1906 list of stockholders and two stock certificates, while the **LEGAL RECORDS** consist of the company's original license to operate, dated September 1, 1863.

FINANCIAL RECORDS date from 1876 and 1925-1936. They consist primarily of bills presented to the company for services and goods supplied, receipts, and account books. Except for a trial balance for the year 1876, all of the account books date from 1925-1936.

The **SALES RECORDS**, 1875-1936, in this collection include sales orders, sales account statements, labels from the company's boxes of ivory combs, and a few price lists and trade cards. Complete **sales orders** for the year 1876 are arranged in chronological order. They provide information on the types of ivory goods that Comstock, Cheney produced and the quantity and grades in which they were available. These orders complement the **general correspondence** since orders from the same piano and organ manufacturing firms are included. Additional customers of interest include Sohmer & Company, piano makers, and Brunswick Brothers, Decker & Company, and George E. Phelan, billiard ball manufacturers.

The **sales account statements** are interesting because they provide information on the way in which many of the company's smaller ivory goods were marketed. Comstock, Cheney sold its combs, tablets, toothpicks, and folders on a consignment basis through several companies in New York City. These monthly statements, 1875-1876, show the type and number of goods sold and their prices. The **price lists** include two for stationer's ivory goods, one for billiard balls, and one for repairs and repair materials for piano keys, actions, and hammers.

The **PERSONNEL RECORDS**, 1874-1936, consist of two volumes. The payroll ledger, 1874-1879, details wages paid to individual employees. The pay record book for clerical employees, 1913-1936, consists of miscellaneous notes, mainly about increases in the clerks' pay over the years; these are arranged by employee name. The **REAL ESTATE RECORDS**, 1867-1905, consist of several maps of the company's property in Ivoryton. Included are a map from the 1867 edition of Beer's Atlas, two insurance maps drawn up by the Barlow Company prior to 1880, and a 1905 map of the keyboard factory.

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MACHINERY RECORDS, 1910-1920, consist of mechanical drawings of machines used in piano keyboard production. There is a series of drawings for each machine. Most of the drawings are of very specialized machines designed for working with ivory, such as junking saws, planers, and laying machines (see p. 17).

The **MANUFACTURING RECORDS**, 1874-1936, document both the materials needed for keyboard production and that production. The ivory purchase journal, for example, provides information on the date, source, number of tusks, weight, price per pound, and total price paid for ivory, 1916-1936. The register of lumber received provides similar information on the many types of wood used in the period 1926-1936. The piano and keyboard component order book is an alphabetical listing of parts--such as locks, pins, and hinges--ordered from various supply houses. Production figures are provided by the sharp production record book, 1874-1880, and the key production record book, 1916-1930. These records also include several schematic drawings of piano actions and information on the damp-proofing of actions.

The **PHOTOPRINTS**, ca. 1870-1989, document Comstock, Cheney's factory sites, ivory working, employees, and the town of Ivoryton. While the majority of these photoprints are the originals assembled for Pratt-Read's Ivory Museum, several are reproductions made from original

photographs and negatives, which were made available to the Archives Center by citizens of Ivoryton. A few of the photoprints were taken in 1988-1989, during the acquisition of this collection.

The photoprints are arranged according to topic into six groups: the original factory site, the keyboard factory site, ivory working, employees, Ivoryton, and miscellaneous images. They are arranged chronologically within each group. Each photoprint has been assigned an individual number based upon the collection number, the series, and the order of the photoprint within that series (i.e., 320/2/1, etc.). A complete caption for almost all the photoprints is provided in this finding aid. If a negative for a photoprint is on file with the Smithsonian's Office of Printing and Photographic Services, that negative number is provided along with the caption.

Photoprints of both the **original factory site** and the **keyboard factory site** up the road show external views of the factory buildings. Many of them include posed groups of employees and several show the bleach houses where ivory was bleached for piano keys. **Ivory** activities depicted include wagons and trucks filled with tusks and the unloading of tusks into the company's ivory vault. **Employees** are shown in posed groups; many of them are identified. **Ivoryton's** role as a company town is revealed in those photoprints that show workers' housing, the company's boarding house, the library, the company-built theater, stores, the local bicycle club, the R. H. Comstock Drum Corps, and the company's semipro baseball team. **Miscellaneous** photoprints show rail and streetcar service to the factory. The **PHOTONEGATIVES**, 1924, are for five of the photoprints showing truckloads of ivory tusks.

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**SERIES 3: PRATT, READ & COMPANY, PRATT, READ & COMPANY, INC.
and PRATT-READ CORPORATION, 1863 - 1990**

The records in this series document the company from 1863-1990, during which time it was known as Pratt, Read & Company (from 1863-1936), Pratt, Read & Company, Inc. (from 1936-1970), and then as Pratt-Read Corporation (from 1970 to the present day). These records, which form the bulk of the collection, are arranged into fifteen series: Executive Records, Stock Records, Financial Records, Publicity and Advertising Scrapbooks, Advertising Records, Sales Records, Personnel Records, Real Estate Records, Machinery Records, Manufacturing and Design Records, Engineering Department Records, Photoprints, Photonegatives, Historical and Background Information, and Publications.

The **EXECUTIVE RECORDS**, 1863-1988, include the corporate minute books for the period 1863-1980. Unfortunately, the minute book for the period from November 1863 to August 1902 is missing from the collection. Other records include copies of the company's bylaws and articles of association, board papers from 1936-1985, annual and quarterly reports from 1936-1985, and several miscellaneous items. The **STOCK RECORDS** include three stock certificates; a stock transfer book, 1938-1956; a stock analysis done by Salomon Brothers in 1986; and notices to stockholders, 1956-1986.

FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1864-1985, include annual financial statements from 1864-1923 and 1971-1985; two journals, 1933-1942; and general ledgers, 1926-1964. The audit report of accounts, 1913-1941, provides financial data for both Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney. A two-year financial planning program for the company covers the period 1978-1980. Also of interest is a May 1982 report on the possible acquisition of Sohmer & Company; Pratt-Read acquired the Long Island-based piano manufacturer later that year.

The collection contains many **ADVERTISING RECORDS**. These materials document the company's efforts to keep its name and products prominently before its customers in the piano industry. The majority of these advertisements appeared in trade journals such as the Music Trade Review, Music Trades, the Piano Technician's Journal, and the Piano Trade Magazine. In addition to clipped-out copies of Pratt, Read's advertisements, the **PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING SCRAPBOOKS**, 1902-1988, contain news clippings about competing firms, developments in piano technology, articles about prominent individuals in the trade, and the activities of various organizations and associations, such as the Piano Tuners' Guild. Other clippings provide details on Pratt, Read's latest technological innovations and the company's efforts to promote the use of pianos in school music programs. The majority of these scrapbooks date from 1934-1935 and 1953-1988; they are arranged chronologically from the back of the book forward. Another scrapbook, dating from 1902-1985, contains miscellaneous news clippings and advertisements. Also included in this subseries are two publicity scrapbooks, 1952-1974, which contain news releases put out by Pratt, Read.

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ADVERTISING RECORDS, 1958-1977, consist of the actual materials which were created during the development of the company's advertisements. Again, these advertisements were developed primarily for piano trade magazines. These records include artwork, mechanicals, proofsheets, photoprints, photonegatives, transparencies, and preliminary sketches.

They represent about 95 percent of Pratt, Read's advertising campaigns between 1958 and 1977 and include advertisements that were never used. Pratt, Read contracted with a number of different advertising agencies during this period, including C. A. Smith & Co. (Westport, Conn.), Shailer/Davidoff, Inc. (Fairfield, Conn.), Dexter Associates (Madison, Conn.), and McNamara Associates, Inc. (Detroit, Mich.). However, the bulk of the records in this subseries was generated by the firm of **Marc Dorian, Inc.** (Mamaroneck, N.Y.), between 1970 and 1977. Cleverly utilizing animated piano keys, hammers, and other piano action elements, Marc Dorian created several series of advertisements. While most emphasized Pratt, Read's long history and tradition of quality, others adopted a slightly risqué theme or were built around quotations from Shakespeare. Some of these advertisements were translated and used in German piano trade journals. The materials in this subseries have been arranged by advertisement, in chronological order by date of their first recorded use.

Information concerning the sale and marketing of Pratt, Read's piano keyboards and actions can be found in the **SALES RECORDS**, 1860-1979. These include an 1860 agreement with the firm of Julius Pratt & Company for the joint sale of ivory combs; price lists for ivory combs, 1864-1865 and 1920; labels for boxes of ivory combs; and blank sales receipts from the company's London office, n.d. The monthly sales figures, 1914-1931, show total sales income by month and by year, while the monthly sales statistics, 1917-1936, detail sales according to type and value of goods sold (e.g., sharps, ivory, hammers, etc.). The record of sharp sales is a day-by-day accounting which lists customer name and type of sharps ordered. The scrap orders journal is a daily record of orders for small ivory items, such as collar buttons, billiard cue tips, and beads, as well as scrap ivory. Information on sales for the period 1952-1969 can be found in two charts, one showing the total number of complete keyboards shipped and the other showing average key and action prices.

PERSONNEL RECORDS, 1890-1983, primarily date from the mid-1940s to the late 1970s. Notable exceptions, however, include a photocopy of the West Factory time book from 1890-1900, a company payroll from February 1894, and three piece-rate books from the period 1926-1939. The piece-rate books, arranged by factory department, show employee name and amount earned per piece completed. Many of the records in this subseries set forth personnel practices and policy, through instructions, memoranda, and employee handbooks. Details of Pratt, Read's organization and structure can be found in various organization manuals, charts, and evaluation program records. The company's dealings with the local chapter of the United Furniture Workers of America union are represented by correspondence, 1945-1946; agreements, 1947-1982; a union publicity scrapbook, 1948-1952; and three scrapbooks of news clippings about strikes in 1947 and 1974. This subseries also includes a complete run of Harmony Magazine, the employee newsmagazine, from 1953-1981.

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The **REAL ESTATE RECORDS**, 1867-1978, consist of maps, plans, architects' drawings, and specifications detailing the various buildings at Pratt, Read's two factory sites. The **Deep River site** is depicted on two maps taken from the 1867 edition of the Beers & Company Atlas of New York and Vicinity. Site-specific insurance maps provide detailed

information about factory layout, building construction, and manufacturing processes for the period pre-1880 and 1915-1937. Most of the plans for the Deep River site date from the period after the great fire of 1881. They include the main keyboard factory, the player action factory, bleach houses, an ivory storage vault, various storehouses, and other utilitarian buildings. The **Ivoryton site** is represented by plans for the expansion of the keyboard factory in the post-World War II period. Also of interest are plans and architects' drawings for apartment buildings and houses for company employees, a housing plat of Deep River, and a real estate record book that shows receipts from tenants in company-owned housing for the period 1932-1945.

While some of the **MACHINERY RECORDS**, 1903-1954, relate to the engines and boilers used to keep the factory running, most deal with the machines used to turn out finished ivory keys, piano keyboards, and piano actions. These take the form of a series of oversize blueprint drawings on each machine. The drawings are arranged according to their original order of placement in several different folios of drawings. Thus, drawings for the same machine are sometimes found in different folders within this subseries--usually indicating later modifications to the machine. These drawings were selected by a historian knowledgeable about machinery and manufacturing processes during the initial visit to the Pratt, Read site. They were chosen for their emphasis on the specialized processes involved in working with ivory and the production of pianos. Drawings for more general-purpose machines were not selected for this collection. The drawings of specialized machines, dating from 1903-1934, are located in ten oversized folders in two map case drawers.

MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN RECORDS, 1892-1968, document the raw materials used in the manufacturing process, the output of goods produced, and the design and specification of keyboards and action components. The oldest item in this subseries is a private inventory book written by George L. Cheney shortly after he became president of the firm in 1892. It records on-hand stocks of ivory, combs, piano keys, ebony and other woods, and real estate property. The register of lumber received, 1936-1947--a continuation of the record begun by Comstock, Cheney & Company in 1926--is an accounting of the various types of wood ordered for use in this industry.

Ivory usage is documented in a number of records. Two ivory purchase journals, 1936-1955, record the weight and prices of ivory tusks purchased, by lot number. The tusk ivory receiving reports, 1946-1955 (also arranged by lot number) record the number assigned to each tusk, its quality grade, characteristics, and any defects. The tusk ivory inventory record book, 1950-1953, provides the invoice number and weight of each lot of tusks. Handwritten notes of ivory work done by Grace Schmelke describe one

employee's daily piece-rate work in the years 1955-1958. The ivory bleaching record is a spiral-bound notebook which records the movement of individual tusks into and out of the bleach houses. Other records show the percent of wastage per lot of ivory and the number of keys produced. The file titled "Production Procedures for Ivory and Lumber" contains a number of descriptive narratives concerning the qualities of ivory and wood used in pianos, the procedures

involved in bleaching ivory and in processing ivory keyboards, and a step-by-step description of the ivory shop routine. Also of interest are copies of the formulas used in dyeing piano sharps.

Piano production and design records include correspondence and news clippings from 1942-1946 that provide information on the curtailment of piano production during World War II by both Pratt, Read and the piano industry in general. Under regulations imposed by the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration, raw materials essential to the war effort were not available for piano production and piano prices escalated to levels that discouraged sales. Despite these restrictions, Pratt, Read attempted to maintain a research and development program, examining the possibilities of producing other parts of the piano, such as backs, boards, ribs, and cases. This effort is documented in the correspondence files of Peter Comstock, 1943-1945, which also contain information about the whole piano industry's attempts to cope with wartime restrictions. Peter Calamari's files document a postwar cooperative effort with the Aeolian American Piano Company to produce a player piano. They include correspondence, drawings, specifications, and photoprints.

Action specification books were kept by type of piano--regular, upright, and grand. The books, dating from 1927-1968, are arranged alphabetically by customer name. Information is provided on the style, size, specifications, and price of keys, sharps, actions, and other components sold to each company. Oversize blueprint **drawings of piano actions** dating from 1924 to 1957 are also found in this subseries. Other drawings include artists' views for several pianos designed by Benjamin J. Beck, 1944; designs for a folding keyboard, 1946; and designs for the K-4 piano assembly, 1947.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT RECORDS, 1964, consist of customer files, interoffice correspondence, vendor files, and miscellaneous files. They are a complete one-year sample, chosen at random, of the Engineering Department records from a period of Pratt, Read's high postwar productivity. The **customer files** are arranged alphabetically by name of company or individual to whom Pratt, Read supplied actions, keyboards, or components. Several major piano and organ companies are included, such as Aeolian American, Janssen, Kimball, Lowrey, and Sohmer & Company. The files consist of specifications, drawings, memos, and schedules for production. The **interoffice correspondence** is that sent or received by A. W. Nordquist, Chief of the Manufacturing Engineering Section. This correspondence deals with personnel questions, changes in specifications, customers' orders, and other routine matters. The **vendor files** are correspondence, catalogues, price quotations, and other

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information sent to A. W. Nordquist from various supply houses. Nordquist's **miscellaneous files** cover a variety of topics, including inventories of shipments made to the company's Central, S. C., plant; plans for plastic spray-on key coverings; personnel notices; the safety program; plastic key production schedules; and other engineering issues. Also of interest is a file of drawings supplied to British Piano Actions, Ltd.

The **PHOTOPRINTS**, ca. 1880-1989, document Pratt, Read's factory sites, its

connection with the African ivory trade, its employees, and its manufacturing procedures. While the majority of these photoprints are the originals assembled for Pratt-Read's Ivory Museum, several are reproductions made from original photographs and negatives made available to the Archives Center by citizens of Ivoryton. A few of the photoprints were taken in 1988-1989, during the acquisition of the collection.

The photoprints are arranged by topic into fifteen groups: the Deep River factory site; the Ivoryton factory site; factory tours; bleach houses; Africa/ivory; ivory working; keyboard and action production; New Key Cap Program; piano actions; employee housing; company activities and events; employees; Charles Frederick Stein (technical consultant); exhibits; and miscellaneous. They are arranged chronologically within each group. Each photoprint has been assigned an individual number based upon the collection number, the series, and the order of the photoprint within that series (i.e., 320/3/1, etc.). A complete caption for most of the photoprints is provided in this finding aid. If a negative for a photoprint is on file with the Smithsonian's Office of Printing and Photographic Services, that negative number is provided along with the caption.

Photoprints of both the **Deep River** and **Ivoryton factory sites** show external and aerial views of the various factory buildings between 1881 and 1989. They document the changing size and shape of the Ivoryton factory especially well, as old buildings were torn down and new ones took their place. Photoprints of **factory tours** and "Open Houses" provide interior views of the factory buildings and show workers explaining various stages of the manufacturing process. **Bleach house** photoprints show the extent and number of bleach houses used by the company and show how the ivory was arranged for bleaching in the sun. Pratt, Read's connection with the **African ivory trade** is shown in several photoprints from 1904-1911 of and by Ernst D. Moore, an ivory buyer for Arnold, Cheney & Company, which supplied Pratt, Read with most of its ivory.

Manufacturing processes are shown in several groups of photoprints. **Ivory** activities include people posing with tusks, wagons, and trucks full of tusks; the ivory vault in the Ivoryton factory; the cutting and "junking" of tusks; the bleaching and matching of key "heads" and "tails"; and the laying of keys on piano keyboards. Similiar photoprints of **keyboard and action production** show workers in all stages of production, from cutting wood to polishing the finished product. Although six of these photoprints date from 1896, most date

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from 1947-1955. A series of photoprints shows the plastic keys introduced in the **New Key Cap Program** of 1965, while several photo albums document the company's innovative **piano-action** designs.

Two of the many **houses** the company built for its employees in Deep River are shown in several photoprints taken during the archivist's 1989 site visit. **Company activities and events** include annual banquets and Christmas parties for workers' children, picnics, and award

ceremonies for longtime employees. A large number of photoprints show **employees**, most of whom are unidentified. There are also photoprints of **Charles Frederick Stein**, Pratt, Read's noted technical consultant. The group of **exhibits** photoprints includes a copy of the company's sign from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, and views of exhibits at various post-World War II functions in Connecticut. Finally, the **miscellaneous** group includes copies of two cartoons by Clarence D. Batchelor that satirize changes in American society, using a piano metaphor. The **PHOTONEGATIVES** are of piano action models constructed for patent purposes, 1944-1945.

HISTORICAL & BACKGROUND MATERIAL, 1881-1989, consists primarily of news clippings and miscellaneous information about the history of Pratt, Read, the African ivory trade, the piano trade, Pratt Read's involvement in music education, and the Ivoryton area. Especially interesting are an unpublished "History of the Pratt-Read Corporation" written by Curtiss S. Johnson, A History of Pratt, Read & Company of Deep River published by the Deep River Historical Society, and news clippings about the company from 1881-1882 and 1935-1986. The ivory trade is documented in news clippings from 1921-1989 and in two personal accounts of life in Zanzibar, one by Harriet Cheney Downing from 1942 and the other by Carlotta Welles from 1980. News clippings about the piano trade, the adoption of plastic for keys, and other developments are also found in this subseries. A reprinted 1899 Souvenir of Essex, Connecticut contains valuable information about the factory buildings, stores, the employees' bicycle club, and the company's central role in the community. Other news clippings cover the Ivoryton Inn, the Ivoryton Theatre, and the Ivory Museum established by the company in 1977.

PUBLICATIONS, 1930-1981, primarily comprise company catalogues dealing with plastics, felt-making, organ supplies, and a publicity booklet from Ichabod T. Williams & Sons, importers of foreign and domestic woods. Also included are pamphlets about Pratt, Read's facilities and its relationship to the Vocaline Company of America.

SERIES 4: GOULD AERONAUTICAL DIVISION, 1941 - 1977

The records in this series relate to the Gould Aeronautical Division, set up by Pratt, Read in 1942 to manufacture gliders for the U.S. armed forces during World War II. Pratt, Read's long experience with woodworking made this a logical course of action, since the gliders at the time were constructed

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primarily of wood. Pratt, Read produced three types of gliders during the war. These were the CG-4A "WACO" troop transport glider, the LNE-1 (or PRG-1) training glider, and an experimental bomb-carrying plane, the GLOMB. Both of the latter were made for the U.S. Navy, while the CG-4A was made for the U.S. Army Air Forces.

This series is composed of eleven subseries. **FINANCIAL RECORDS** include ledgers for the glider manufacturing operations. **PERSONNEL RECORDS**, 1941-1945, include a listing of employees and their nationalities drawn up in December 1941, notices regarding work rules and practices, position descriptions for salaried employees, and copies of the employee newsmagazine, The Leading Edge. Especially interesting are a number of motivational posters done by Pratt, Read employees during the war, which were hung throughout the factory facilities. These posters stress quality workmanship, productivity, safety, and the contributions of the workers to the war effort. Negatives of these posters, and others, are included among the **Photonegatives**.

MANUFACTURING RECORDS, 1944-1945, consist primarily of various aircraft specifications published by the Army during the war. The **REAL ESTATE RECORDS**, 1942-1944, consist of photographs showing the construction of a plant for CG-4A glider assembly and floorplans of the main factory in Deep River, which show how the plant was arranged for glider production.

The **PHOTOPRINTS**, 1942-1945, are arranged according to type of glider. They document, in detail, all stages of production, assembly, flight testing, and shipment of the gliders, especially the CG-4As. Some of the photographs were taken at one of the other factories that produced CG-4A gliders, while others, supplied by the Army, show CG-4As, CG-3As, and CG-13s in service. Several photographs of paintings done by a local artist show the Pratt, Read factory and the CG-4A assembly line in action; the originals of these paintings remain in the possession of the Pratt-Read Corporation. Of additional interest are several photographs relating to the first transatlantic glider crossing, which took place in July 1943.

The **PHOTONEGATIVES**, 1942-1945, show many of the same subjects as the **photoprints**. However, since most of them were created in the course of photo assignments for The Leading Edge, they focus more on the employees and typical factory scenes. The negatives showing the various departments, for example, usually consist of group photos of the workers in that department, rather than scenes showing them at work. Factory scenes include the assembly line, change of shifts, a bond rally, visits of servicemen and women, the 1943 Christmas celebration, and production award ceremonies. Many of the **photoprints** and **photonegatives** show the factory grounds covered with CG-4A gliders in various stages of assembly. Others document the packaging and shipping of the finished gliders, and the accidents that took place in

transit. The archivist has grouped several sets of related negatives together by topic, since they lacked an overall original arrangement.

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Six 16mm training **FILMS** (produced for the U.S. Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency in 1944) document the various assembly procedures involved in the construction of a CG-4A glider. A more detailed description of these films can be found in the Appendix to this finding aid. The **NEWS CLIPPINGS**, from 1943-1944, mainly concern the use of gliders in the war, including their service in Normandy, the Netherlands, and Burma. They also include information on the production and flight testing of gliders in the United States.

The **PUBLICATIONS**, 1942-1944, include manuals for constructing and flying the LNE-1 Glider; a government publication titled Wood Aircraft Inspection and Fabrication; two wartime employee newsmagazines from the Waco Aircraft Company and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company; and a publication highlighting Connecticut's role in the war effort. **MISCELLANEOUS** records, 1942-1979, include a history of Pratt, Read's wartime activities written in 1945, a 1944 annual report for the Gould Aeronautical Division, and some correspondence. Of special interest in this subseries are materials relating to the first transatlantic glider flight of 1943; these include recollections of one of the crew members (taped in 1977), two pieces of the original tow rope used in that flight, and a certificate signed by all the airmen who participated. **RELATED MATERIAL**, 1944-1983, gathered mainly by Peter Comstock in the postwar years, includes information about two veteran's organizations--the National World War II Glider Pilots Association and the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, A.A.F.--along with news clippings about former glider personnel and published information about gliders in World War II.

SERIES 5: SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED COMPANIES, 1859 - 1980

The records in Series 5 relate to subsidiary companies owned or operated by Pratt, Read; the divisions of Pratt, Read that were operated independently; companies with which Pratt, Read did business; and the Vocaline Company of America and its subsidiaries. The series consists primarily of advertising records: artwork, mechanicals, proof sheets, photonegatives, and contact sheets. Most of the photoprints in this series probably resulted from photographers' visits to the various factory sites to take pictures for use in advertisements. The bulk of the records in this series date from 1955-1980. The series is arranged alphabetically by company name.

The photoprints for the **ALLEN-ROGERS CORPORATION**, ca. 1972-1980, contain contact sheets showing interior scenes of their factory. The photoprints for **ALTRON, INC.**, ca. 1979, show factory scenes and displays of their products arranged for use in advertisements. All of the photoprints for the **BRISTOL MOTORS CO./BRISTOL SAYBROOK CO.**, ca. 1979, show interior scenes of factory production, while the minute book provides information on the company's operations in 1947-1949. The records of **BRITISH PIANO ACTIONS, LTD.**,

1955-1956, contain correspondence from Pratt, Read president James A. Gould regarding acquisition of the company and its reorganization. The photoprints thoroughly document the layout and operations of the company's factory.

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The records on Pratt, Read's **CENTRAL, SOUTH CAROLINA, PLANT**, 1958-1979, consist of news clippings, employee handbooks, and notes about the union's attempt to organize the plant. The records for the **CORNWALL & PATTERSON CO.** include minute books, 1957-1973; an interesting report on the company's screwdriver business, 1976; and an expansion proposal from 1978-1979. In addition, photoprints, n.d., show both interior and exterior views of their factory and the range of their products. The records of the **IVORYTON REALTY COMPANY** consist primarily of correspondence regarding the company's stock, dividends, and valuation of its property, as well as a 1946 audit report. The records regarding the **KAMAN HELICOPTER CORPORATION**, 1953-1965, for which Pratt, Read produced helicopter blades, consist of a 1954 purchase order and a few photoprints showing blade production. The **PRATT READ PLAYER ACTION COMPANY** records consist of a single 1915 news clipping and an undated catalogue, while those of **PRATT, READ, WEBB & COMPANY** comprise an 1879 payroll list and an entry from a New York City directory for 1859-1860.

Two of the company's later attempts at diversification are represented by the records of its **PRECISION PRODUCTS DIVISION**, ca. 1966-1968, and those of its **SOUNDER SPORTS DIVISION**. The latter include board correspondence regarding the venture and a three-year plan for its development. Earlier diversification is shown by nineteenth-century engraved views of the factories of **STRAUCH BROTHERS COMPANY** in New York and **SYLVESTER TOWERS COMPANY** in Cambridge, Mass. **TECH-ART PLASTICS COMPANY** records, ca. 1962-1969, include advertising artwork, photoprints, mechanicals, and agreements with the union. The records of **VAST, INC.**, ca. 1972-1973, include a copy of the employee newsletter for October 1973, brochures on some of the systems they produced, and photoprints showing the company's research vessels and airplanes and research operations. There is an interesting publicity brochure in the records of the **VOCALINE COMPANY OF AMERICA**, ca. 1967-1970, which, along with the company's minute books, provides documentation of the company's relationship with Pratt, Read.

SERIES 6: INFORMATION ON RELATED COLLECTIONS, 1977 - 1992

Records relating to Pratt, Read and to Comstock, Cheney can be found in a number of other collections, both within the Archives Center and in other repositories. The Wood & Brooks Company Records (Archives Center coll. #457) contain significant information on Pratt, Read's operations and an important record of production statistics gathered by George Wood while he was factory superintendent--and taken with him when he set up a rival firm in Buffalo. While the Ernst Moore Collection (Archives Center coll. #321) primarily documents the

purchase of ivory in Africa (much of which was ultimately used by Pratt, Read), it also includes a history of Pratt, Read written by Moore while he was employed by them. The Sohmer & Company Records (Archives Center coll. #349) document the piano manufacturing firm that Pratt-Read acquired in 1982.

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Series 6 contains information on collections related to the Pratt-Read Corporation Records. Some of this information was included in the collection when it was acquired by the Archives Center and some was assembled by the archivist while processing the collection. These collections are located in the Archives Center, in other branches of the Smithsonian Institution, and in other repositories. Arranged by repository, each folder typically contains finding aids for the appropriate collection, brochures or newsletters describing the repository, and correspondence with the repository.

The Pratt-Read Corporation also donated a number of objects to the National Museum of American History at the same time as their 1988 donation of archival records. Included were combs and letter openers and other examples of products made from ivory; piano components, such as gauge boards, key actions, and keys; and such diverse items as tools used in the factory, World War II employee I.D. badges, and a uniform from the company-sponsored basketball team. These objects joined the collections of twelve different divisions of the Museum. Access to the objects can be obtained by contacting the appropriate division or the NMAH Collections Services Department.

PROVENANCE:

Most of these records were housed in the Pratt-Read Corporation's Ivory Museum, located at corporate headquarters in their factory in Ivoryton, Conn. The museum material was assembled by Peter H. Comstock, beginning in 1977, and had been looked after with loving care by Edith M. DeForest since 1982. The remaining records were stored elsewhere in the Ivoryton factory. The bulk of the records were donated directly to the Archives Center by the Pratt-Read Corporation on January 6, 1989. The corporation made a second, very generous donation to the Archives Center on June 25, 1992, consisting primarily of minute books and ledgers.

Several individuals also contributed Pratt, Read material to the Archives Center. Hugo Nickse, pharmacist in Ivoryton, donated a number of photographs of the town, the factory, and the company's facilities, in September 1990. Henry Z. Steinway, who served as one of the company's directors in the 1970s and 1980s, donated financial statements, board papers, and reports from that period in August 1992. Hanford Johnson, Postmaster of Ivoryton, donated two letters dating from 1890 in August 1992. Jack Spangler of Deep River provided a photocopy of the company's "West Factory" time book, which is on loan to him from the Deep River Historical Society.

Additional news clippings and information on related collections were gathered by the archivist while processing the collection.

Craig A. Orr
February 9, 1993

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Container List

PRATT READ CORPORATION RECORDS, 1839 - 1989
[84 Cubic Feet]
[67 DB, 7 (.5) DB, 4 ShB, 26 F/O, 28 O/S Fldrs.]

Box Folder

SERIES 1: PREDECESSOR AND MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES, 1839-1870s

OS-1	1	American Ivory Comb Company Label for Box of Ivory Combs, n.d. (Photoprint) [SI Neg. 89-14194]
		Center Brook Ivory Company
1	1	Label for Box of Ivory Combs, n.d.
OS-1	1	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (7 items)
1	2	S. M. Comstock & Company Cash Book, September - November, 1847 Engraving of Original Factory Building, 1854
1	3	Comstock & Dickinson Ivory Company (Centre Brook, Conn.) Blank Checks, 1870s (5 items) [SI Neg. 91-6780] Property Insurance Policy, n.d.
OS-1	1	Connecticut Valley Ivory Comb Company Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (2 items)
		Deep River Ivory Comb Company
1	4	Minute Book, 1860 - 1864
	4	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (2 items)
OS-1	1	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (9 items)

OS-1	1	Essex Ivory Comb Company Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (3 items)
		Silas Hurlburt's [Company]
1	1	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (2 items)
OS-1	1	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (2 items)
		National Ivory Comb Company (Deep River, Conn.) Label for Box of Ivory Combs, n.d.

Box Folder

1	1	Julius Pratt & Company Articles of Association, 1859 (photocopy) Agreement with George Read & Company for Joint Sale of Ivory Combs, February 16, 1860 Catalogue, n.d. (cover only)
1	5	Pratt, Spencer & Company Minute Book, 1844 - 1848
1	1	George Read & Company Agreement with Julius Pratt & Company for Joint Sale of Ivory Combs, February 16, 1860 [filed with Pratt, Read & Company records]
1	6	Correspondence: Letter, December 1862. (photocopy) Sales Records: Receipts, 1839 - 1862. (photocopies of four items) Photographs: Drawing for Box Label for Ivory Combs Ivory-Cutting Machines, from an old tintype [SI Neg. 89-4239] Glass Plate Negative of Ivory-Cutting Machines Tintype Negatives of Ivory-Cutting Machines (2 items)
OS-1	1	Saybrook Ivory Comb Company Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (2 photoprints) [SI Negs. 89-14193 and 89-14197]
OS-1	1	Washington Ivory Comb Company (Deep River, Conn.) Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (2 items)

SERIES 2: COMSTOCK, CHENEY & COMPANY, 1863 - 1936

A. EXECUTIVE RECORDS:

1	7	Organization Papers, July 1872
	8	Minute Book, 1872 - 1917
2	1-2	Minute Books, 1917 - 1936 (2 volumes)

B. CORRESPONDENCE:

		Incoming: General
3	1-8	January - April, 1876
4	1-7	May-August, 1876
5	1-8	September-December, 1876
		Incoming: From McLean Morris & Co., London
6	1	January - June, 1875
	2	July - December, 1875
	3	January - December, 1876

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Box Folder

6	4	Westendarp & Buch's Ivory Circulars, August 1873 - February 1877
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C. STOCK RECORDS:

OS-24		Stock Certificate Book, 1872 - 1921
6	5	Stock Certificates, 1872 - 1936
6	6	Misc. Stock Transfer Papers, 1932
6	7	List of Stockholders, December 1906
	7	Certificates of Reduction of Capital Stock, 1932

D. LEGAL RECORDS:

6	8	License to Operate, September 1, 1863
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E. FINANCIAL RECORDS:

7	1	Trial Balances, January - December, 1876
	2	Annual Financial Statement, 1889
	2	Audit Report and Balance Sheets for 1913 - 1936
	2	Balance Sheets for 1913 - 1936
OS-24		Audit Report of Accounts for both Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney for 1913 - 1941
7	2	Audit Report, 1917
OS-2		Journal "C," 1925 - 1936
OS-3		Ledger No. 7, 1931 - 1936
OS-4		Expense Ledger, 1933 - 1936
OS-3		Statements of Indirect Expense Distribution, 1931 - 1936
7	3-10	Bills, January - August, 1876
8	1-4	Bills, September - December, 1876
8	5	Receipts, November - December, 1876
7	1	Blank Check, post-1880

F. SALES RECORDS:

8	6-9	Orders, January - April, 1876
9	1-7	Orders, May - December, 1876
		Sales Account Statements:
10	1	Howard & Sanger Company, N.Y., October - December, 1876
	2	Noyes, White & Company, N.Y., July - December, 1875
	3	Noyes & Smith, N.Y., January - December, 1876
	4	Storrs Brothers, N.Y., January - December, 1876
	5	Price Lists, ca. 1876 - 1936 (4 items)
	5	Trade Cards, pre-1880 (3 items)
	5	Example of Elephant Symbol used on Business Stationery and Box Labels, n.d.
	5	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, pre-1880 (14 items)
OS-1	1	Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, pre-1880 (10 items)

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Box Folder

G. PERSONNEL RECORDS:

10	6	Payroll Ledger, 1874 - 1879 [In same volume with Sharp Production Record Book, 1874 - 1880.]
	6	Pay Record for Clerical Employees, 1913 - 1936

H. REAL ESTATE RECORDS:

FOLDER 1	Ivoryton, Conn. Factory Site: Map of Ivory Works and East Part of Centre Brook [renamed Ivoryton in 1880], 1867 (From Beers & Co. Atlas of New York and Vicinity) Barlow's Insurance Map of Piano Key Factory, pre-1880 Barlow's Insurance Map of Ivory Factory, pre-1880 Plat Map of Keyboard Factory Property, 1905
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I. MACHINERY RECORDS:

Machine Drawings:

FOLDER 2	Tail and Head Jointer for Ivory, 1920 Keyboard Ivory Polishing Machine, 1912 - 1913
3	Repair Key Sander, 1913 Ivory Laying Steam Press, 1911 - 1919
4	Ivory Sawing Machine, 1911 - 1912
5	Ivory Vise, 1920 Tail Jointer, 1913 Sharp Key Blackening Machine, 1910 Ivory Rounding Machine, 1920

For more information contact the Archives Center at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270

J. MANUFACTURING RECORDS:

OS-3		Ivory Purchase Journal, 1916 - 1936
10	7	Register of Lumber Received, 1926 - 1936
11	1	Piano and Keyboard Component Order Book, 1877 - 1879
10	6	Sharp Production Record Book, 1874 - 1880 [In same volume with Payroll Ledger, 1874 - 1879]
11	2	Key Production Record Book, 1916 - 1930
	3	Piano Action Drawings, ca. 1906 (2 items)
		Piano Action Drawings, 1936 (7 items)
		Information on Damp-Proofing of Piano Actions, 1925 - 1933

K. PHOTOPRINTS:

Original Factory Site, Ivoryton, Conn.:

11	4	320/2/1 Factory, ca. 1870. In front left-hand window, S. M. Comstock. In NE corner window, George Cheney. Young man in middle of doorway, George Comstock. [SI Neg. 89-1432]
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Box Folder

11	4	320/2/2 View of bleach houses from Ivoryton Heights (now Comstock Avenue), ca. 1880. [SI Neg. 89-1448]
OS-1	2	320/2/3 Factory and bleach houses, looking towards Ivoryton Heights (now Comstock Avenue), ca. 1880-1887. [SI Neg. 89-1425]
11	4	320/2/4 Original factory, ca. 1888. [SI Neg. 89-1423]
		320/2/5 Employees sitting on front steps of original factory, ca. 1888. [SI Neg. 89-1422]
		320/2/6 Employees posed in front of original factory, late 1800s. [SI Neg. 89-15624]
		320/2/7 Bleach houses, 1890. [SI Neg. 89-1450]
		320/2/8 Bracket shop with employees, early 1900s. [SI Neg. 89-15617]

- 320/2/35** Keyboard factory with new chimney under construction, 1900. (Cyanotype)
- 320/2/36** Keyboard factory and machine shop, ca. 1905. (Cyanotype)
- 320/2/37** Keyboard factory viewed from lumber yard across street, ca. 1900
- 320/2/38** Keyboard factory, ca. 1905-1906. Main building (1873); 2nd addition (1875); 3rd addition (1890); 4th addition (1892); bicycle sheds (1895); 1st office building (1896); electricity (1898); new chimney (1900); fence and fire wall (1905). [SI Neg. 89-1451]
- 320/2/39** Keyboard factory, n.d. [SI Neg. 89-15084]
- 320/2/40** View of keyboard factory, looking East, ca. 1905. [SI Neg. 89-15631]
- OS-1 2 **320/2/41** Rear of keyboard factory, March 1906. Machine shop on left, built 1898; 5-story brick building, 1902; 3-story brick building, 1905. [SI Neg. 89-1429]
- 11 6 **320/2/42** Rear of keyboard factory, showing "Ivory Lake," n.d. [SI Neg. 89-1444]
- FOLDER 1 **320/2/43** Aerial View of Factory, 1911 (Lithograph from The Music Trade Review)
- 11 6 **320/2/44** Power plant at keyboard factory, 1925.
- 320/2/45** Interior of power plant at keyboard factory, showing switch panel, 1925.
- 320/2/46** Interior of power plant at keyboard factory, showing steam gauges, 1925.
- 320/2/47** Interior of power plant at keyboard factory, showing Terry turbines, 1925.

Box Folder

11 6 **320/2/48** Keyboard factory at time of merger with Pratt, Read & Co., 1936. (Postcard mounted as Christmas card)

Ivory Working:

11 7 **320/2/49**, Offloading shipment of tusks, 1890. Lower shops
320/2/49A shown behind original factory building. [Close-up view, SI Neg. 90-9208]

320/2/50 Will Shailer posing with ivory tusk in front of ivory vault, 1890. [SI Neg. 89-1439]

320/2/51 Ivory tusks outside of ivory vault, n.d. [SI Neg. 89-1463 and 89-15087]

320/2/52 Truck used to transport tusks, 1914.

320/2/53 Frank Santi shown with load of tusks in the company's truck, ca. 1914.

320/2/54 Frank Santi with truckload of ivory, 1915.

320/2/55 Company truck carrying load of tusks through the streets of Ivoryton, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-1437]

320/2/56 Company truck carrying load of tusks past the home of R. H. Comstock in Ivoryton, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-1438]

320/2/57 Transferring ivory from company truck to ivory vault, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-2476]

320/2/58 Transferring ivory from company truck to ivory vault, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-2477]

320/2/59 Transferring ivory from company truck to ivory vault, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-2478]

320/2/60 Truck loaded with tusks parked at ivory factory, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-2479]

320/2/61 Unloading ivory from company trucks, 1924. [SI Neg. 89-2480]

Box Folder

Employees:

- 11 8 **320/2/62** Employees, September 9, 1897. Charlie Sizer's gang from the Lathe Room.
- 320/2/63** Employees in winter clothes, n.d.
- 320/2/64** Employees, n.d. Horse Shed gang.
- 320/2/65** Group of women employed as matchers, butters, and packers in ivory factory, September 1905.
[SI Neg. 89-1447]
- 320/2/66** Group of women employed in Matching Room, August 1907. Back row (L-R): Alfreda Palm, Kata Canessa, Mrs. Ray Readon, Sarah Haskell, Margaret Cavanaugh, Beda Anderson. Front row (L-R): Elizabeth Dahlstrom, Freda Zweibel, Emma Zweibel, Tessa Canessa, Lottie Peck, Beda Dahlstrom.
[SI Neg. 89-1446]
- 320/2/67** Group of ivory cutters posed outside the ivory factory, ca. 1915. [SI Neg. 89-1441]

Ivoryton, Conn.:

- 11 9 **320/2/68**, Historical marker in Ivoryton, Conn., August 1989.
320/2/69 [SI Negs. 89-16370-5 and 89-16370-3]
- 320/2/70** Hotel d'Ivory, 1899. Operated as a boarding house for male employees of Comstock, Cheney & Company.
[SI Neg. 89-15086]
- 320/2/71** Hotel d'Ivory, 1910. [SI Neg. 89-15636]
- 320/2/72** Winthrop Institute for Young Ladies, Essex, Conn., 1860. In 1910 the building on the right was moved to Ivoryton and added to the Hotel d'Ivory.
[SI Neg. 89-15632]
- 320/2/73** "Our Boarding House," anonymous poem, n.d.
A satirical ode to the management of the Hotel

d'Ivory. [SI Neg. 89-15623]

320/2/74 Ivoryton Inn, December 1988. Formerly the Hotel d'Ivory. [SI Neg. 89-4166-20]

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Box Folder

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|----|----|--|
| 11 | 9 | <p>320/2/75 Comstock-Cheney Hall, Ivoryton, Conn., ca. 1908. Built in 1908 by Comstock, Cheney & Company for the use of their employees. [SI Neg. 89-14132]</p> <p>320/2/76 Poster advertising a "Grand Old Fashioned Ball" given by the Ivoryton Wheel Club at the Comstock-Cheney Hall on Friday, March 3, 1916. [SI Neg. 89-16371-14]</p> <p>320/2/77, Details of poster. [SI Negs. 89-16371-16,
320/2/78, 89-16371-19, and 89-16371-18]
320/2/79</p> |
| 11 | 10 | <p>320/2/80 Ivoryton Wheel Club, Ivoryton, Conn., 1899. Built by Comstock, Cheney & Company for the use of their employees around 1893. [SI Neg. 89-15082]</p> <p>320/2/81 Ivoryton Wheel Club, post-1900. [SI Neg. 89-14133]</p> <p>320/2/82 Rose Brothers' Store, Ivoryton, Conn., pre-1889. Store was built sometime prior to the Roses' acquisition of the business in 1878. [SI Neg. 89-15083]</p> <p>320/2/83 Main Street, Ivoryton, showing Rose Brothers' Store on left, library at center left, and school on right, post-1900. [SI Neg. 89-14130]</p> <p>320/2/84 Ivoryton Store, formerly Rose Brothers' Store, December 1988. [SI Neg. 89-4166-21]</p> <p>320/2/85 Ivoryton Library, 1889. (Postcard)</p> <p>320/2/86 Ivoryton Library, ca. 1889-1900. [SI Neg. 89-15085]</p> |

- 320/2/87** R. H. Comstock Drum Corps building, 1910. It was located on Falls River Drive in Ivoryton. [SI Neg. 89-15638]
- 320/2/88** R. H. Comstock Drum Corps, late 1800s. Named for Robert H. Comstock, president of Comstock, Cheney & Company, its sponsor, the group participated in many celebrations and parades. [SI Neg. 89-15629]
- 320/2/89** Comstock, Cheney & Company semi-pro Baseball Team, state champions, 1917. [SI Neg. 89-15628]

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Box Folder

- 11 10 **320/2/90** Blake Street, Ivoryton, Conn., December 1988. View of housing built by Comstock, Cheney & Company for their employees. [SI Neg. 89-4166-17]
- 320/2/91** Company-built housing on Blake Street, Ivoryton, Conn., December 1988. [SI Neg. 89-4166-15]

Misc.:

- 11 10 **320/2/92** Electric railway car at keyboard factory, n.d.
- 320/2/93** Electric railway car in front of keyboard factory, n.d. [SI Neg. 89-15635]
- 320/2/94** Electric railway car service to keyboard factory, n.d. Passengers boarding car of the Shore Line Electric Railway Company.
- 320/2/95** Rail service to keyboard factory, n.d. Boxcar of New York Central Lines.
- 320/2/96** Rail service to keyboard factory, n.d.

L. PHOTONEGATIVES:

- 11 11 Negatives for Photographs 320/2/57 through 320/2/61 -- Unloading of Ivory, 1924.

**SERIES 3: PRATT, READ & COMPANY, PRATT, READ & COMPANY, INC.,
and PRATT-READ CORPORATION, 1860 - 1990**

A. EXECUTIVE RECORDS:

12	1	Articles of Association, 1863, and related photocopies
	1	Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation, 1959
	1	Bylaws, October 6, 1863 (photocopy)
	1	Bylaws, with Amendments, 1870 - 1961
		Minute Books, 1863 - 1980 (14 vols.):
	2	1863 - 1881
	3-4	1902 - 1938
13	1-3	1938 - 1955
14	1	1955 - 1959
15	1-2	1959 - 1968

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Box Folder

		Minute Books, cont':
15	3	(Vocaline Corp.), 1968 [for additional Vocaline
16	1	(Vocaline Corp.), 1968 - 1970 records, see Series 5]
	2	1970 - 1973
17	1-2	1973 - 1980
18	1	Board of Directors' Papers, September 1941 - August 1945
	2	Papers re 1936 Merger with Comstock, Cheney & Company
	3	Memorandum re: Proposed Merger with Vocaline Corporation, Feb. 1968
	4	Report on Potential Acquisition of Sohmer & Company, 1982
	4	Correspondence re Acquisition of Sohmer & Company, 1982 (2 items)
	5	Proposal for Joint Venture between Pratt-Read and Baldwin Piano & Organ Company, ca. 1985
	6	Notices of Annual Meetings, 1982 - 1985
	7	Annual Reports, 1936, 1938, 1942 - 1944
	8	Annual Reports, 1976 - 1985
	9	Quarterly Reports, 1972 - 1984
	10	Annual Report to Securities and Exchange Commission, 1977
	11	Letterhead Stationery and Envelopes, 1936 - 1988
	11	Company Christmas Card, ca. 1967

B. STOCK RECORDS:

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- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 19 | 1 | Stock Certificates, n.d. (3 items) |
| | 2 | Stock Transfer Book, 1938 - 1956 |
| | 3 | Stock Dividends Paid, 1941 |
| | 4 | Notices to Stockholders, 1956 - 1986 |
| | 5 | Study of the Purchase of Pratt-Read Common Stock as Treasury Stock, 1980 |
| | 6 | Stock Analysis done by Salomon Brothers, 1986 |

C. FINANCIAL RECORDS:

- | | | |
|-------|------|---|
| 20 | 1 | Annual and Semi-Annual Financial Statements, 1864 - 1923 |
| | 2-16 | Annual Financial Statements, 1971 - 1985 |
| OS-24 | | Audit Report of Accounts for both Pratt, Read and Comstock, Cheney, for 1913 - 1941 |
| OS-5 | | Journal No. 21, 1933 - 1939 |
| OS-6 | | Journal No. 22, 1939 - 1942 |
| OS-7 | | General Accounts Ledger, 1926 - 1932 |
| | | Ledgers, 1937 - 1964 (23 vols.): |
| 21 | 1 | 1937 - 1939 |
| 22 | 1 | Piano Division, 1940 - 1942 |
| 23 | 1 | Piano Division, 1943 - 1944 |
| 24 | 1 | Piano and Gould Aeronautical Divisions, 1945 |
| 25 | 1 | Piano and Gould Aeronautical Divisions, 1946 |
| 26 | 1-2 | 1947 - 1948 |

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Box Folder

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|----|-----|---|
| | | Ledgers: |
| 27 | 1-2 | 1949 - 1950 |
| 28 | 1-2 | 1951 - 1952 |
| 29 | 1-2 | 1953 - 1954 |
| 30 | 1-2 | 1955 - 1956 |
| 31 | 1-2 | 1957 - 1958 |
| 32 | 1-2 | 1959 - 1960 |
| 33 | 1-2 | 1961 - 1962 |
| 34 | 1-2 | 1963 - 1964 |
| 20 | 17 | Two-Year Financial Program, July 1978 - June 1980 |
| | 18 | Meeting Agenda, March 8, 1967 |
| | 18 | Chart of Accounts, March 16, 1979 |
| | 18 | Blank Checks, n.d. (1 item) |

D. PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING SCRAPBOOKS:

Advertising and Publicity Scrapbooks:

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OS-1	3	Scrapbook, June 1934 - October 1935
35	1-6	September 1943 - August 1953
36	1-5	September 1953 - August 1959
37	1-5	September 1959 - 1964
38	1-6	1965 - 1970
39	1-7	1971 - 1976
40	1-3	1977 - 1988
	4	Misc. Advertising and Publicity Scrapbook, 1902 - 1985
	5	Publicity (News Releases) Scrapbook, 1952 - 1959
	6	Publicity (News Releases) Scrapbook, 1959 - 1974
	7	Misc. News Clippings, n.d.

E. ADVERTISING RECORDS:

40	8	Marc Dorian Advertising Campaign: Background, 1960 - 1977 Artwork, Mechanicals, Proofs, etc.:
OS-8	1-3	October 1958 - October 1965
OS-9	1-4	February 1966 - November 1968
OS-10	1-3	January 1969 - January 1971
OS-11	1-3	February 1971 - September 1972
OS-12	1-3	October 1972 - July 1973
OS-13	1-3	August 1973 - December 1974
OS-14	1-3	January - December 1975
OS-15	1-3	January 1976 - February 1977
OS-16	1	March - October 1977
	2	Proofs for Ads in German Music Trade Magazines, 1975 - 1976
	3	Mechanicals for 8 "Round Motif" Ads by Marc Dorian, Inc., mid-1970s (never used)
	4	Misc. Mechanicals (mainly logos) by Marc Dorian, Inc., mid-1970s
OS-17	1	Misc. Unidentified Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.

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Box Folder

F. SALES RECORDS:

41	1	Blank Sales Receipts, London Office, n.d. (2 items)
	2	Monthly Sales Figures, 1914 - 1931
	2	Monthly Sales Statistics, 1917 - 1936
	3	Record of Sharp Sales, 1924 - 1926
FOLDER	6	Chart of Average Key and Action Prices, 1954 - 1969
FOLDER	6	Chart of Total Number of Piano Keyboards Shipped, 1952 - 1969
41	4	Scrap Orders Journal, 1915 - 1922
	5	Price Lists -- Ivory Combs, ca. 1864 - 1865 and 1920

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- (3 items)
- 5 Price Lists -- Repair Work and Keys and Actions, 1927 - 1979
(15 items)
- OS-1 1 Labels for Boxes of Ivory Goods, n.d. (5 items)
- 41 5 Labels for Boxes of Ivory Combs, n.d. (3 photoprints)
[SI Negs. 89-14192, 89-14195, and 89-14196]
Decals for Boxes of Piano Action Components, n.d. (3 items)

G. PERSONNEL RECORDS:

- 41 6 Payroll, February 1894
- 42 1 West Factory Time Book, 1890 - 1900 [photocopy]
- 2 Piece Rate Book, 1935 - 1944
- 3 Piece Rate Books, ca. 1937 - 1939
- 4 Piece Rates, Misc., 1926 and 1939
- 5 Employee Salary Figures, 1941
- OS-1 1 Manufacturers Employers Liability Insurance Policy,
October 26, 1905
- 42 6-7 Instructions and Memoranda re Personnel Practices,
1942 - 1954
- 8 Anthrax Investigation at Plant, 1947 - 1949
- 9 Disciplinary Procedure Policy, ca. 1983
- 10 Employee Handbooks, 1947 - ca. 1965
- 11 Employee Benefits Handbooks, 1954 - 1978
- 12 Correspondence with Union, 1945 - 1946
- 43 1 Agreements with Union, 1947 - 1982
Scrapbooks:
- 2 Strike Publicity, June - August 1947 (no. 1)
- 3 Strike Publicity, June - August 1947 (no. 2)
- 4 Union Publicity, 1948 - 1952
- 5 Strike Publicity, 1974
- 44 1 Organization Survey, March 1946
Organization Manual, May 1946
- 2 Organization Notes, 1947
- 3 Organization Notes, 1949
- 4 Organization Manual Review, November 1951 and Notes, 1951

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Box Folder

- 44 5 Organization Manual, February 1952 and Notes, 1952
- 6 Proposal for the Reorganization of the Engineering Division,
May 1953 and Notes, 1953
- 7 Staff Evaluation Program, November 1953
- 8 Staff Description Manual, September 1961

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Box Folder

- FOLDER 10 Plans of Employee Houses, 1914, 1923, and n.d.
Plans and Architect's Drawings of Employee Apartment House, ca. 1915 - 1924
- FOLDER 11 Plans of Fireproof Pattern Building, n.d.
Plans of Office, n.d.
Plans of Barn, n.d.
Plans of Boiler Room, 1885
Plans of Store House, 1888
Plans of Storehouse, n.d.; Assorting House, 1905; and New Matching and Storehouse, 1912
Plans for Ivory Vault, 1908
Plans and Structural Steel List for Machine Shop Addition, 1909
Plan of Power House, 1923
Plans of Oil Storage Building, 1924
Plans for Auto Truck Scale, n.d.
Misc. Plans and Drawings, 1905 - 1924

Ivoryton, Conn., Factory Site:

- FOLDER 12 Floor Plans -- Main Building, Building E, and Building F, ca. 1948
- FOLDER 13 Maps, Floor Plans, Aerial Views, and Production Flow Charts for Proposed Factory Layout, 1949 - 1952
Factory Insurance Association Maps of Factory, 1953
Plat Maps of Proposed Factory Layout, 1954

I. MACHINERY RECORDS:

- 49 4 Information on Engines and Boilers, 1928 - 1953
5 Deep River Power Plant "B," 1927 - 1953
6 Boilers and Stokers, 1923 - 1952
7 Boilers and Accessories, 1925 - 1953
8 Oil and Electric Data, 1924 - 1950
- 50 1 Parts Received for Machinery, 1925 - 1954
2 Ames Corliss Engine Turbines, 1923 - 1952
3 Record of Machine Shop Labor on Engines and Machinery, 1923 - 1930 (2 vols.)
Machine Drawings:
- FOLDER 14 Ivory Laying Steam Press, 1912 - 1913
Patent Celluloid Sharp Hot and Cold Press, 1919 and 1920
Ivory Key Rounder, 1905 - 1913
- FOLDER 15 Board Bushing Machine, 1903 - 1925
Button Bushing Machine, 1914 - 1926
Piano Board Mortiser, 1910 - 1921
Sand Whirl, 1909 - 1912

Box Folder

- FOLDER 16 Grand Board Stamp, 1917 - 1925
 Small Tools and Machine Parts, 1909 - 1921
 Celluloid Front Press, 1904 - 1927
 Ivory Planer, 1910 - 1916
 Misc., 1909 - 1927
- FOLDER 17 Board Painting Machine, 1911 - 1917
 Ivory Layer, 1906 - 1921
 Glueing Device; Tenoning Machine; Frame Planer; etc.,
 1905 - 1915
 Grand Board Stamp, 1906 - 1925
 Button Strip Planer and Saw; Cooper Hewitt Lamp; etc.,
 1906 - 1913
- FOLDER 18 Automatic Ivory Parting Saw, 1912 - 1915
 Ivory Planer Attachment; Ivory Grinder; Ivory Block
 Marker, 1912 - 1914
 Automatic Saw Filing Machine, 1910
- FOLDER 19 Ivory Sawing Attachments, 1908 - 1922
 Ivory Marking Gauges and Vises, 1905 - 1915
 Ivory Junking Saw, 1905 - 1912
 Rail Mortiser, 1915 - 1920
- FOLDER 20 Sharp Planers, 1914 - 1917
 Automatic Sharp Snubbing Saw, 1922
 Ivory Tothing Machine, 1915
 Misc. Grinding and Saw Attachments, 1915 - 1919
- FOLDER 21 Sharp Corner Rounder, 1923 - 1924
 Grand Hammer Shank Knuckle Fixtures, n.d.
 Sand Crack Miller, 1916
 Grand Repetition Hook Screw Driver, 1928
 Pneumatic Champhering and Drilling Machine, 1919 - 1920
- FOLDER 22 Ivory Block Squareing Machine, 1917 - 1918
 Ivory Stacker for Matching Room, 1916
 Steam Button Busher, 1923
 Button Mortiser, 1920 - 1926
 Button Strip Groover; etc., 1917 - 1921
- FOLDER 23 Flange Felt Trimmer, 1920
 Celluloid Sharp Molds; Celluloid Sharp Press, 1905 - 1912
 Misc. Machinery, 1921 - 1927
 Misc. Machinery, 1908 - 1934
 Misc. Machinery, 1909 - 1921

J. MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN RECORDS:

50 4 Private Inventory Book of George L. Cheney, 1892

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10	7	Register of Lumber Received, 1936 - 1947
50	5	Lumber Inventory - Notes, 1935 - 1945
	6	Ivory Purchase Journal, 1936 - 1949
	7	Ivory Purchase Journal, 1949 - 1955

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Box Folder

51	1	Tusk Ivory Receiving Reports, 1946 - 1955
	2	Tusk Ivory Inventory Record, 1950 - 1953
	3	Record of Work Done on Ivory by Grace Schmelke, 1955 - 1958
	4	Ivory Bleaching Record, 1953 - 1956
	5	Misc. Notes on Ivory Work, 1932 - 1935
	6	Monthly Key and Action Production Statistics, 1938 - 1942
OS-18	1	Table of Ivory Shipped to Key Factory and Sold to Customers, 1932 - 1933
51	7	Letter with Information on Comb Production, pre-1936
	7	Production Procedures for Ivory and Ebony, n.d.
	8	Formulas, n.d.
		Wartime Production of Pianos:
55	3	Correspondence with Office of Price Administration, 1944 - 1946
	4	Correspondence with War Production Board, 1942 - 1945
	5	News Clippings, 1944 - 1945
		Piano Production and Design:
51	9	Correspondence Files of Vice President Peter Comstock, November 1943 - August 1944
	10	Correspondence Files of Vice President Peter Comstock, June - October 1945
52	1	Aeolian Player Piano Action Project -- Files of Peter Calamari, 1948 - 1949
OS-23	1	Aeolian Player Piano Action Project -- Drawings from Peter Calamari's Files, 1948 - 1949
52	2-4	Action Specification Books: Regular Pianos, 1927 - 1934 (3 vols.)
53	1	Regular Pianos, 1936 - 1946 (2 vols.)
	2-3	Inactive Action Specification Book: Regular and Upright Pianos, 1935 - 1968
		Action Specification Books:
OS-18		Upright and Grand Pianos, 1934 - 1937
54	1	Upright and Grand Pianos, 1935 - 1947
53	4	Upright and Grand Pianos, 1941 - 1944
55	1	Upright and Grand Pianos, 1945
	2	Special Action Specification Book, 1937 - 1938

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OS-18	1	Action Assembly Drawings, n.d.
		Drawings and Schematics:
FOLDER	12	K-4 Piano Assembly, 1947
OS-23	2	Action Brackets, 1924 - 1947
	3	Pianos Designed by Benjamin J. Beck, 1944
	4	Plans for Folding Keyboard, 1946
FOLDER	24	Plans for Folding Keyboard, 1946 (Oversize)
OS-23	5	Inactive and Obsolete "Z" Drawings, 1955 - 1957 (Actions)
	6	Misc. Action Drawings, n.d. and 1945 - 1947
	7	Misc. Action Drawings, 1949

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FOLDER	24	Misc. Action Drawings, 1925 - 1954 (Oversize)
FOLDER	29	Misc. Action Drawings, 1945 and 1949 (Oversize)

K. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT RECORDS:

56		Customer Files, 1964: A - F
57		Customer Files, 1964: G - K
58		Customer Files, 1964: L - Sta
59		Customer Files, 1964: Ste - W
		Interoffice Correspondence, 1964
		Vendor Files, 1964
60		Miscellaneous Files, 1964

L. PHOTOPRINTS:

Deep River, Conn., Factory Site:

61	1	320/3/1 Pratt, Read & Company factory in Deep River, ca. 1882. Rebuilt after 1881 fire. Note bleach house in distance. [SI Neg. 90-3704]
		320/3/1A Deep River factory, ca. 1890s. [SI Neg. 89-1453]
		320/3/2 Steam engine in Deep River factory, ca. 1890
OS-1	2	320/3/3 Dry Kiln for wood at keyboard factory, n.d. [SI Neg. 89-1428]
61	1	320/3/4 Deep River factory, 1944. Office on right end.

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Ivoryton, late 1950s.

- OS-1 2 **320/3/25** Aerial view of expanded Ivoryton factory, ca. 1950 - 1952. [SI Neg. 89-14302]
- 61 1 **320/3/26** Demolition of wood-bending building on grounds of Ivoryton factory, late 1950s. [SI Neg. 15620]
- 320/3/27 - 320/3/27C** Bicycle shed on grounds of Ivoryton factory, destroyed in storm, January 1959. [3 views; SI Neg. 89-15626 shows all three]
- 320/3/28 - 320/3/30** Demolition of office building and wooden factory buildings of keyboard factory, 1959. [SI Negs. 89-15622, 89-15633, and 89-15627]
- 320/3/31 - 320/3/33** Kupfermuhle VUIN machine (\$30,879), October 5, 1970.
- 320/3/34 - 320/3/36** Installation to top of Building "I" (\$18,666), January 1970.

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Box Folder

Factory Tours:

- 61 2 **320/3/37** Factory tour by Schoolchildren, June 1958.
- 320/3/38** Factory tour by Boston Division, American Society of Piano Technicians, October 6, 1950.
- 320/3/39** Factory tour by Essex Brownie Troop, March 1952.
- 320/3/40** Factory tour by Essex Cub Scouts Troop, February 1953.
- 320/3/41 - 320/3/45** Factory Open House, May 1953.
- 61 2 **320/3/46** Factory Open House, May 1958.
- 320/3/47 - 320/3/48** Factory tour for Hartford Industrial

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Management Club, June 4, 1962.

320/3/49 - 320/3/57 Factory tour for Morgan School Economics Class, Spring 1964.

320/3/58 - 320/3/62 Factory tour for New England Dry Kiln Association, April 1964.

Bleach Houses:

- 61 3 **320/3/63** Bleach houses, n.d. [SI Neg. 89-1435]
- 320/3/64** Bleach house, n.d. Rack for piano "heads" and "tails." [SI Neg. 89-1440]
- 320/3/65, 320/3/65A** Movement of bleach houses to make room for expansion of Ivoryton factory, ca. 1950, before and after. [SI Neg. 89-15625 shows both photos]
- 320/3/66** Last bleach house on grounds of the Ivoryton factory, ca. 1956. [SI Neg. 89-15621]
- 320/3/67** Ivory bleaching house, 1974. Drawing made from existing bleach house in rear of lumberyard in Ivoryton. [SI Neg. 89-1427]
- 320/3/68** Last surviving bleach house, near Deep River, December 1988. [SI Neg. 89-4166-33]

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Box Folder

Africa/Ivory:

- 61 4 **320/3/69** W. B. Arnold and E. D. Vialle, ivory buyers for Arnold, Cheney & Company in Mombasa, British East Africa, April 25, 1904. [SI Neg. 89-4242]
- 320/3/70** W. B. Arnold and E. D. Vialle, ivory buyers for Arnold, Cheney & Company, in Mombasa, British East Africa, April 29, 1904. [SI Neg. 89-4245]
- 320/3/71** Ivory tusks piled up in Mombasa, British East Africa,

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ca. 1907-1911. [SI Neg. 89-4249]

320/3/72 One of the two largest tusks ever recorded -- the so-called Kilimanjaro tusks, ca. December 1908. The pair was purchased at Zanzibar for Arnold, Cheney & Company. [SI Neg. 89-4246]

4 **320/3/73 - 320/3/74** The great "Kilimanjaro" tusks, one of the largest pairs ever recorded. Photographed outside Arnold, Cheney & Company's Ivory House in Zanzibar by Ernst D. Moore, December 22, 1908. [SI Negs. 89-4247 and 89-4248]

320/3/75 - 320/3/76 Ernst D. Moore, ivory buyer for Arnold, Cheney & Co. Shown here atop a pile of tusks and surrounded by godown [warehouse] workers in Zanzibar, ca. 1910-1911. [SI Negs. 89-4243 and 89-4244]

320/3/77 Ernst D. Moore photographed in front of the Arnold, Cheney & Company compound in Aden, ca. 1907-1910. [SI Neg. 89-12358]

Ivory Working:

61 5 **320/3/78** Ivory-sawing machine, formerly used by George, Read & Company. Reproduced from an old tintype. [SI Neg. 89-1768]

320/3/79 - 320/3/80A Mr. Harris, Superintendent of the Ivory Department at the Deep River West factory, posing with tusks, n.d.

320/3/81 Tusks in ivory vault at Deep River factory, ca. 1890. [SI Neg. 89-1452]

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Box Folder

61 5 **320/3/82** Ivory laying, Deep River factory, 1896.

320/3/83 Thirty-two ivory tusks, worth \$9,000, loaded on a Pratt, Read & Company wagon, 1908. (Postcard)

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- 320/3/84** Steve Beal, Pratt, Read & Company's driver, standing between two tusks valued at \$1,500, ca. 1908.
(Postcard)
- 320/3/85** Truckload of tusks, valued at \$15,750, passing by the Pratt, Read & Company office adjacent to the Deep River factory, ca. 1913-1914. (Postcard)
- 6 **320/3/86** Photo showing the transition from horse-drawn wagon, driven by Steve Beal, to truck, for ivory transportation, ca. 1913-1914.
- 320/3/87** Cross-section of piece of ivory ready for "parting." The rough markings designate the piano key coverings that will later be sent out from the factory. Note that each block faces the center. Photocopied from the Hartford Daily Courant, July 13, 1930. [SI Neg. 89-1775]
- 320/3/88** Tusks in the ivory vault at Ivoryton, April 1950.
- 320/3/89** Tusks in the ivory vault at Ivoryton, April 1950. Imported from Portugese East Africa. [SI Neg. 89-1436]
- 320/3/90** Tusks in the ivory vault at Ivoryton, April 1950.
- 320/3/91** Bleaching of ivory keys, ca. 1952. Oscar Lynne placing key-filled racks in bleach house. [SI Neg. 89-1459]
- 320/3/92** Helmer Johnson at work in the laying room, March 28, 1953. [SI Neg. 89-1442]
- 320/3/93** Ivory Matching Department, ca. November 1954. Foreman George Drennan, with Eunice Sizer and Ida Samuelson, showing sorting and matching of heads and tails for keyboards. [SI Neg. 89-1767]
- 320/3/94** Weighing tusks, ca. 1955. Louie E. Pratt (right) and Oscar Lynne. [SI Neg. 89-1771]

Box Folder

- 61 6 **320/3/95** Ivory Laying Department, ca. 1955. After ivory is matched into sets, it goes to the Laying Department. There it is laid on keyboards, as done here by Otto Hoffman. [SI Neg. 89-1433]
- 320/3/96** Louie E. Pratt with eight tusks in ivory dry boxes, April 1, 1955. [SI Neg. 89-1773]
- 320/3/97** Anthony M. Steib grailing (planing) ivory heads, ca. 1955. The heads are set upright in a press and a saw is run across the top to ensure evenness. [SI Neg. 89-1774]
- 320/3/98** Ivory Cutting Department. Louie E. Pratt slitting heads and tails for keys, n.d. [SI Neg. 89-1765]
- 320/3/99** Ivory Matching Department, ca. 1955. Foreman George Drennan matching ivory for heads and tails on the keyboard. [SI Neg. 89-1766]
- 320/3/100** Ivory Cutting Department, ca. 1955. Theodore Brainard at work, cutting ivory. [SI Neg. 89-1769]
- 320/3/101** Ivory Cutting Department, ca. 1955. Louie E. Pratt at work, marking a 4" junked piece of ivory for cutting. [SI Neg. 89-1770]
- 6 **320/3/102** Group of retired ivory workers posing with tusks, 1952. Front: Henry Grieder and Frank Schwarz. Back: Frank Wooster, Eric Carlberg, James A. Gould, Burdette Parmelee, and Fred Comstock.
- 320/3/103** Posed photo of (L-R) F. Kelso Davis, Stan Renehan, and Peter Comstock, unloading tusks from back of truck, 1954.

Keyboard and Action Production:

- 61 7 **320/3/104** Sawing lumber, mill room, Deep River factory, 1896. Left to right: Jimmie Slyne, Frank Hurd, Tony Monti, George Dickinson.
- 320/3/105** Band-sawing of keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896.

320/3/106 Scraping and polishing of keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896. [SI Neg. 93-12593]

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- 61 7 **320/3/107** Framing Department of Deep River factory, showing keys, frames, and boards, 1896.
- 320/3/108** Regulating of keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896. [SI Neg. 91-3730]
- 320/3/109** Marking scale on keyboards, Deep River factory, 1896.
- 8 **320/3/110 - 320/3/152** Photos of employees engaged in various stages of keyboard and action production, ca. 1947 - 1955.
- 9 **320/3/153 - 320/3/177** Photos of employees engaged in various stages of keyboard and action production, ca. 1947 - 1955.

New Key Cap Program, 1965:

- 61 10 **320/3/178 - 320/3/198** Photos of production machinery and finished plastic key caps, 1965.

Piano Actions:

- 62 1 **320/3/199 - 320/3/201** Photos (and letter) of new piano action designed by Charles F. Stein, 1959.
- 2-3 Photo albums of regular piano actions, 1928 - 1954. Includes information on designer and patent number. (2 albums)
- 4 Photo album of drop model piano actions, 1939 - 1951. Includes information on designer and patent number.

Employee Housing:

- 63 1 **320/3/202 - 320/3/204** Views of two houses built by Pratt, Read for their employees according to 1914 building

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plans. Bridge Street, Deep River, Conn.,
August 1989.

Company Activities and Events:

- 63 2 **320/3/205 - 320/3/291** Photos of annual company banquets, annual Christmas parties for employees' children, picnics, and award ceremonies for longtime employees, 1950 - 1971.

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Employees:

- OS-1 2 **320/3/292** Group of Player Action Department employees in front of Deep River factory, 1923.
- OS-1 2 **320/3/293 - 320/3/294** Peter H. Comstock, n.d.
- 63 3 **320/3/295 - 320/3/334** Miscellaneous photographs of employees in the workplace and portrait photos of managers, 1950s - 1960s.
- OS-1 2 **320/3/335** Plaque showing names of Pratt, Read employees with 25 years' service, 1970.

Charles Frederick Stein, Technical Consultant:

- 63 4 **320/3/336 - 320/3/344** Photos of Stein teaching various classes about piano construction and design, 1950s.
- OS-1 2 **320/3/345** Charles Frederick Stein at work, 1952.

Exhibits:

- 63 5 **320/3/346** Sign from Pratt, Read & Company's exhibit at Centennial Exposition, 1876. Now on display at Deep River Historical Society. [SI Neg. 89-4166-30]

320/3/347 - 320/3/350 Valley Industrial Exhibit, 1952.

320/3/351 - 320/3/352 Exhibit, n.d.

320/3/353 Exhibit in Deep River Town Hall, 1953.

320/3/354 First exhibit in Frankfort, West Germany, 1978.

Misc.:

- 63 5 **320/3/355 - 320/3/356C** Ivory combs, n.d.
- 320/3/357 - 320/3/358** Cartoons by Clarence D. Batchelor, September 25, 1930, satirizing changes in society, using a piano metaphor. [SI Negs. 89-4240 and 89-4241]

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- OS-1 2 **320/2/359** Piano Tuners Association of Illinois, 6th Annual Banquet, Chicago, June 28, 1939. Group portrait, showing Peter H. Comstock.
- 63 5 **320/3/360** The "K" practice piano manufactured by Pratt, Read, ca. 1947.
- 320/3/361** Small piano, n.d.
- OS-1 2 **320/3/362** Piano, n.d.
- 63 5 **320/3/363** Prefabricated modular home built by Pratt, Read [?], 1964.

M. PHOTONEGATIVES:

- 71 1 Piano Actions -- Models for Patents, ca. 1944 - 1945

N. HISTORICAL & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

History:

- 63 6 Unpublished "History of the Pratt-Read Corporation," by Curtiss S. Johnson, n.d.
- 7 A History of Pratt Read & Company of Deep River, Conn.
(Deep River Historical Society, 1973)

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	7	Histories of Pratt, Read & Company
	8	News Clippings, 1881 - 1882, 1935 - 1986
OS-1	4	News Clippings, 1893 - 1986
63	9	Ivory Industry in Essex, Conn., Area

Africa/Ivory:

63	10	Ivory Industry
	11	Ivory Trade, 1921 - 1989
OS-1	5	Ivory Trade, 1930 - 1988
	5	Photographs of Ivory Cutting in Ivory Factory in Canton, China, 1983 (6 items)
63	12	News Clipping re: Comstock Family's Return from Africa, 1911
		"Tales of Zanzibar," Written Recollections of Harriet Cheney Downing, 1942
		"Recollections of Life in Zanzibar," Written and Recorded Recollections of Carlotta Welles, 1980
64	1	Recorded Interviews with A. Guadenzi and R. K. Comstock, Retired Employees, 1990 (2 cassette tapes)

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Piano Trade and Music Education:

64	2	Miscellaneous, 1937 - 1977
OS-1	6	News Clippings, 1935 - 1977
64	3	Adoption of Plastics for Keys, 1946 - 1989
	4	Keyboards and Action Components
	5	Service Manual for Aeolian Pianola (key-board player)
	6	Music Education, 1936 - 1979
	7	Deep River Festival of Music, 1935: Performance by Miss Lotta Van Buren -- Correspondence
	8	Performance by Miss Lotta Van Buren -- News Clippings, Programs, Photoprints
OS-1	6	Home Keyboard Practice Kit Developed by the National Piano Manufacturers Association, 1958

Ivoryton:

OS-1	7	Supplement to <u>The Music Trade Review</u> , January 7, 1893 <u>1899 Souvenir of Essex, Connecticut</u> , rpt. for the 90th Anniversary of the Ivoryton Public Library, 1979 Supplement to the <u>Deep River New Era</u> , August 25, 1899
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Ivory Museum:

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64	9	News Clippings, ca. 1977 - 1988
OS-1	8	News Clippings, 1978 - 1987
64	10	Ivoryton Inn: ca. 1954 - 1990
64	11	Ivoryton Theatre: ca. 1946 - 1990

O. PUBLICATIONS:

64	12	<u>Facilities of Pratt, Read & Company</u> , 1950 <u>Pratt, Read--A Division of Vocaline Company of America</u> , ca. 1968 - 1970 <u>Pratt, Read Products: Facilities, Specifications and Quotation Forms</u> , ca. 1981 Brochure, ca. 1982
OS-1	9	"Tin Pan Alley Begins Here--Pratt, Read & Co., Inc., Ivoryton, Conn.," rpt. from <u>Industrial Woodworking</u> , June 1960

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SERIES 4: GOULD AERONAUTICAL DIVISION, 1941 - 1977

A. FINANCIAL RECORDS:

64	Ledger, 1942
65	Ledger, 1943 - 1944
24-25	Ledgers, 1945 - 1946 [since these 2 volumes cover both the Piano Division and the Gould Aeronautical Division, they are shelved with the main run of company ledgers]

B. PERSONNEL RECORDS:

67	1	Salary and Nationality List, December 1941
	2	Personnel Notices, 1944 - 1945
	3	History and Description of Salary Positions, 1942 - 1945
	4	Agreement with Union, 1944
	5	Factory Inspection Personnel
	6	War Ration Books, etc.
	7-9	<u>The Leading Edge</u> , 1942 - 1944 (Employee Newsletter)

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OS-19	1	Design for Masthead of <u>The Leading Edge</u> , 1942 Posters, 1942 - 1944:
67	10	Information about Posters; Misc. Small Posters
FOLDER	25	Safety Series
FOLDER	26	Misc. Safety; Production; Special Notices; <u>Leading Edge</u>
FOLDER	27	Patriotic Appeals; Car-Sharing; War Bonds

C. MANUFACTURING RECORDS:

68	1-2	Aircraft Specifications, 1944 - 1945
	3	Disposition of CG-4A Material, 1944
	4	Packing Slip for CG-4A Nose Section, 1944

D. REAL ESTATE RECORDS:

68	5	Photo Scrapbook of Construction of Deep River Plant D, 1942
FOLDER	28	Floor Plans of Deep River Plant A, 1944

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E. PHOTOPRINTS:

CG-4A Gliders:

68	6	320/4/1 - 320/4/28 Assembly.
	7	320/4/29 - 320/4/34 Paintings of Assembly Line.
	8	320/4/35 - 320/4/43 Shipping.
	9	320/4/44 - 320/4/59 Non-Pratt, Read Glider Plants.
	10	320/4/60 - 320/4/65 CG-4A Gliders.
OS-12		320/4/66 - 320/4/67 CG-4A Gliders.
68	10	320/4/68 - 320/4/74 CG-4A Gliders.
69	1	320/4/75 - 320/4/76 First Transatlantic Glider Flight, July 1943.
	2	320/4/77 - 320/4/86 Misc.

LNE-1 [PR-G1] Training Gliders:

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	5	Factory Scenes and Activities
	6	Purchasing Department
	7	Engineering Department
	8	Materials Testing
	9	Tool Design Department
	10	Machine Shops
	11	Mill Room
	12	Inspection Department
	13	Rib Department
	14	Wing Department, Ivoryton
	15	Wing Covering Department
72	1	Department 13
	2	Assembly Department
	3	CG-4A Assembly--Plant D, Deep River
	4	CG-4A Assembly
	5	CG-4A Gliders in Yard
	6	Machinery
	7	Storage
	8	Crating and Shipping Facilities at City Lumber Co.
	9	Crating and Shipping
73	1	Shipping Facilities at Dauntless Shipyard
	2	Accidents
	3	Inspection Failures
	4	CG-4A Test Flights
	5	CG-4A Gliders--Photos Supplied by Army Air Force
	6	Transatlantic Glider Flight
	7	LNE-1 Glider
	8	Experimental Plane
	9	Posters
	10	Paintings

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74	1	ID Badge Photos
	2	Photos of Individuals
	3	Award Ceremonies
	4	Christmas 1943
	5	Bond Rally, January 1944
	6	Labor Day Celebration, September 1943
	7	Labor-Management Mural
	8	<u>The Leading Edge</u> Office
	9	Old-Time Photos for <u>The Leading Edge</u>
	10	Photos for Specific Issues of <u>The Leading Edge</u>

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- 11 Photos for The Leading Edge--Miscellaneous
 12 Miscellaneous

G. FILMS [For a more detailed description, see Appendix]:

Aircraft Work: Wood Fabrication, 1944:

- Reel 1 "Building a wooden rib"
 Reel 2 "Building a box beam spar"
 Reel 3 "Laying out and forming plywood"
 Reel 4 "Wing assembly--the nose section"
 Reel 5 "Wing assembly--the inboard panel"
 Reel 6 "Wing assembly--the bow tip"

H. NEWS CLIPPINGS:

- OS-19 2 News Clippings, March 1943 - January 1944
 3 News Clippings, December 1943 - March 1944
 4 News Clippings, February - March 1944

I. PUBLICATIONS:

- 75 1 Aeronautical Board. ANC Bulletin: Wood Aircraft Inspection and Fabrication. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1944.
 OS-20 1 Manufacturers' Association of Connecticut. Industry's Story Rolls Off the Press. Hartford, 1944.
 75 2 Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. Pittsburgh People, June 1944.
Soaring, March-April 1942.
 U.S. Navy. Erection and Maintenance Instructions for Model LNE-1 Glider. Deep River, Conn.: Pratt Read & Company, 1943.
 U.S. Navy. Pilot's Handbook, Glider Model LNE-1. Deep River, Conn.: Pratt Read & Company, 1943.
 Waco Aircraft Company. The Waco Word, September 1944.

J. MISCELLANEOUS:

- 75 3 Plant History, 1945
 Annual Report, 1944
 Misc. Correspondence, 1943 - 1945

Box Folder

- 75 3 Certificate for Completion of Course in "Inspection of Aircraft Woods," 1942
 Metal Serial Number Plate from a CG-4A Glider

		Fabric Salvaged from a CG-4A in March 1979 [2 items]
	4	Copper Printing Plates for CG-4A Glider Photos [2 items]
		First Trans-Atlantic Glider Flight, July 1943:
	5	"By Glider to Blighty," Taped Recollections of Wing Commander F. M. Gobeil, October 1977
OS-21	1	Pieces of Tow Rope Used [boxed set]
FOLDER	28	Certificate of Authenticity for Tow Rope Pieces, Signed by all Crew Members, July 1943

K. RELATED MATERIAL:

75	6	Specifications, etc., for LNE-1 Glider Photocopy from Unknown Book on "The United States Glider Programme" in World War II "Silent Squadrons: The Airborne Soldier and the Glider," <u>American History Illustrated</u> , June 1983 Newsclippings, 1976 - 1982
	7	National World War II Glider Pilots Association: Misc. Correspondence, 1978 <u>Silent Wings</u> , September 1978; March, June, and September 1979 Misc. News Clippings, etc.
	8	62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, A.A.F., Veterans' Organization: Unit History, June 1944 Newsletter, 1973 - 1983

SERIES 5: SUBSIDIARY AND RELATED COMPANIES, 1859 - 1980

A. ALLEN-ROGERS CORPORATION:

OS-1	10	News Clippings, 1972 - 1980 Advertising Records, n.d.:
OS-17	2-3	Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals
76	1	Photoprints
	2	Photonegatives
	3	Employee Benefits Handbook, 1966 Employees' Handbook, 1973 Flyer, n.d.

B. ALTRON, INC.:

76	4	News Clipping, 1979 Photoprints, n.d.
	5	Financial Statements, 1964 - 1969
OS-20	2	Oversize Photoprints, n.d. (2 items)

Box Folder

C. BRISTOL MOTORS COMPANY/BRISTOL SAYBROOK COMPANY:

77	1	Minute Book, 1947 - 1949
OS-1	10	News Clippings, 1979 Advertising Records:
OS-20	1-2	Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.
FOLDER	P-4	Misc. Oversize Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.
77	2	Photoprints, n.d.
OS-20	3	Oversize Photoprints, n.d. (4 items)

D. BRITISH PIANO ACTIONS, LTD.:

77	3-4	Correspondence of James Gould, June 1955 - February 1956
	5	Newsclipping, 1959 Photoprints of Factory, 1955

E. CENTRAL, SOUTH CAROLINA, PLANT:

OS-1	10	News Clippings, 1958 - 1979
78	1	Organization Manual, September 1959
	2	Employee Handbook, ca. 1958 Employee Benefits Handbooks, 1958 and 1972
	3	Union Attempts to Organize Plant, 1961

F. CORNWALL & PATTERSON COMPANY:

78	4-5	Minute Books, 1957 - 1973 (2 vols.)
	6	Report on the Cornwall & Patterson Screwdriver Business, 1976
	6	Expansion Proposal, 1978 - 1979
OS-22	3	Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.
78	7	Photoprints, n.d.
OS-20	4	Oversize Photoprints, n.d.

G. IVORYTON REALTY COMPANY:

79	1	Transfer Deed, Dec. 26, 1936
	2	Correspondence of George P. Bonnell & Company, Tax Consultants, 1936 - 1937
	3	Stock and Land Appraisal, 1944 - 1946
	4	Stock Papers, 1944 - 1946
	5	Correspondence re: Value of Stock at Time of Death of Stockholder, 1944 - 1948
	6	Audit Report, June 1946

H. KAMAN HELICOPTER CORPORATION:

79	7	Photoprints, 1953 - 1965 Purchase Order, 1954
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Box Folder

I. PIANO & ORGAN SUPPLY COMPANY:

- 79 8 Correspondence re: H. C. Bay Company, 1927 - 1928
Financial Statements, 1928
Photoprint, 1906
Engraved View of Factory, ca. 1929

J. PRATT READ PLAYER ACTION COMPANY:

- 79 9 News Clipping, 1915
Catalog, n.d.

K. PRATT, READ, WEBB & COMPANY:

- 79 10 Payroll, April 29, 1879
Page from Wilson's Business Directory of New York City,
1859 - 1860

L. PRECISION PRODUCTS DIVISION:

- OS-22 4 Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.
79 11 Photoprint, ca. 1966 - 1968

M. SOUNDER SPORTS:

- 79 12 Correspondence re: Golf Club Line, 1975 - 1976
Sounder Sports Three-Year Plan, 1978
Photoprints, 1951 (2 items)

N. STRAUCH BROTHERS:

- 79 13 Stock Certificates, ca. 1927
Catalogue, n.d.
Catalogue, 1891
Photocopy of Engraved View of Factory, n.d.

O. SYLVESTER TOWER:

- 79 14 Photocopy of Engraved View of Factory, 19th cent.

P. TECH-ART PLASTICS COMPANY:

- OS-22 5 Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.
79 15 Agreements with Union, 1962, 1966 - 1969
Photoprints, 1965 (2 items)

Q. VAST, INC.:

- 79 16 Study of Stock Conversion, 1974

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Quarterly Report, October 1972
 Brochure, Air and Maritime Services Division, n.d.
 Flyer, Deep Ocean Acoustic Measurement System, n.d.
Quarterly Review [Employee Newsletter], October 1973
 News Clipping, 1973
 Photoprints, n.d.

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Box Folder

R. VOCALINE COMPANY OF AMERICA:

80	1-2	Minute Books, 1952 - 1960 (2 vols.)
81	1-2	Minute Books, 1961 - 1968 (2 vols.)
81	3	Annual Report, June 1970 Publicity Brochure, ca. 1970 Photoprint, n.d.
OS-22	6	Advertising Records: Misc. Artwork and Mechanicals, n.d.
OS-1	10	News Clippings, 1967

SERIES 6: INFORMATION ON RELATED COLLECTIONS, 1977 - 1992

82	1	A. Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
	2	B. Connecticut River Museum, Essex, Conn.
	3	C. Deep River Historical Society, Deep River, Conn.
	4	D. Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.
	5	E. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Witteman Collection
	6	F. Museum of the American Piano, New York City
	7	G. National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution
	8	H. National Museum of African Art, Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives, Smithsonian Institution
	9	I. National Soaring Museum, Elmira, N.Y.

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- 10 J. Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.
- 11 K. Wethersfield Historical Society, Wethersfield, Conn.

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Appendix

SERIES 4: GOULD AERONAUTICAL DIVISION

FILMS

(6 reels, 16mm motion picture films)

Scope & Content Note:

All six reels are in the training film series Aircraft Work: Wood Fabrication, which was produced by the Bray Studios (copyright 1944) for the U.S. Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency. Running about 20 minutes each, they depict in detail the construction of a glider wing from wood.

A diagram and narration at the beginning of each film explains the overall organization of the glider wing and how each part fits into the whole. The wing is divided into panels: inboard and outboard. The inboard panel is divided into sections: trailing, nose, and center. The sections are built separately and assembled in a special jig.

A number of different, apparently experienced woodworkers--both men and women--are used throughout the series. There is no information regarding their employers, the filming location, or any connection to Pratt, Read. There are no personal production credits on the films, other than the names of the federal agency's administrators.

Overall series description:

Aircraft work: Wood fabrication./A Bray Studios Production. Produced by the Division of Visual Aids, U.S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency--(c) 1944. 6 reels (4330'): sd.; b&w ; 16mm positive. Copyright notice on films: Bray Studios; 1944.

All data given are taken from the films; no additional research has been attempted. All are in generally good condition, showing remarkably little wear for their age. Most are slightly warped at their ends.

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Individual Film Descriptions:

RF 320.1 No. 1, Building a wooden rib. (683')

Summary: A woman and a man assemble wooden ribs to form the nose section of a glider wing.

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RF 320.2 No. 2, Building a box beam spar. (734')

Summary: Opens with scenes of a glider landing, with the narration, "Some gliders are capable of carrying a load greater than their own weight. Nearly all this load is supported by the wings." Two men build a spar (inboard section), piece by piece, in jigs.

RF 320.3 No. 3, Laying out and forming plywood. (731')

Summary: A man and woman lay out, cut, form, and finish the rectangular plywood skins for the inboard section of a glider wing.

RF 320.4 No. 4, Wing assembly--the nose section. (710')

Summary: Four men and a woman use a jig to assemble and finish spars, install electrical wiring, and attach plywood skin to the nose section of a glider wing.

RF 320.5 No. 5, Wing assembly--the inboard panel. (653')

Summary: Five men assemble the nose section, trailing section, and ribs; apply plywood skins and reinforcements; and do the final sanding and varnishing. A supervisor inspects and approves this glider wing (serial number 855AL; part number 28066 on tag). The inboard panel is now ready for fabric covering.

RF 320.6 No. 6, Wing assembly--the bow tip. (819')

Summary: There are special problems in building the curved end of the wing, requiring advanced woodworking skills. A man and a woman add bow

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end to already assembled inboard panel, install ribs,
hand saw), and do final finishing. The
and ready for fabric covering.

mortise in the edge (with
glider wing is now completely assembled

B. Humphrys
rev'd. 12/3/90