

Inventory of the

**Rockford Chair and Furniture
Company**
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 42

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Harry West of Rockford, Illinois, donated the records of the Rockford Chair and Furniture Company to the Regional History Center on October 24, 1978. Mr. Stanley Kjellgren supplemented the collection by donating the minute books and stockholders register on May 3, 1979.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 23
Number of containers: 19 boxes + 50 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 42

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Rockford Chair and Furniture Company Collection partially documents the activities of a major manufacturing corporation in Rockford, Illinois during the period 1882 to 1973.

The records of the Rockford Chair and Furniture Company are arranged in three series. The first contains the statement of incorporation minutes from meetings, letterbooks, correspondence, agreements, and reports dating from 1882 through 1973. Series two contains labor records and printed materials including wage and hourly rate schedules, furniture manuals, and supply catalogs dating 1931 to 1941. Also included in this series are photographs of company records. The third series contains financial records: business journals, ledgers, daybooks, order books, time books, cash books, payroll books, and a draft register, 1882 to 1973. Researchers using the collection may also find supplementary material in the Center's other Rockford business collections: Rockford Mitten and Hosiery (RC 38), National Chair Company (RC 58), and the Rockford Small Business Collection (RC 57).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Rockford Chair and Furniture, an Illinois corporation organized in 1882, engaged in the manufacture of furniture until 1950. From that time until its properties were sold to Rockford Standard Furniture in 1972, Rockford Chair and Furniture was engaged entirely in the rental business. Its rental properties consisted of six buildings, the largest of which was completely destroyed by fire in 1960. The original organizers of Rockford Chair and Furniture Company were P.A. Peterson, Alexander Johnson, and Aug Peterson. When the founders of Rockford Furniture died, ownership remained in the families for the most part: little stock was sold to outsiders. Rockford Chair was one of the largest and oldest of the city's furniture manufacturers—a major industry in Rockford from the Civil War to mid-twentieth century. It was also one of the last to cease operations in 1973.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Furniture Industry
 Rockford
 Rockford Chair and Furniture Company

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Rockford Chair and Furniture Company, Statement of Incorporation, 1882
	2	Incorporation Charter, 1907
	3	List of Stockholders, 1935, 1953-1971
	4	Minute Book, 1892-1896
	5-9	Minutes of Shareholder's meetings, 1948-1972
	10	Special meeting of Shareholders, December 1972
	11	Certificates of Stock, 1916-1959
	12-13	Certificates of Stock and Letters of Transmittal, 1961-1973
	14	Salary Schedule for Office, 1931-1946
	15	Unaudited Financial Statements, 1966-1967
	16	Appraisal of Buildings and Equipment, 1946
	17	Internal Revenue Service, 1959-1960
	18	Policies of Insurance, 1963-1971
	19	Legal Documents, 1934-1973
	20	Survey Plat of Woodruff's Second Addition, 1972
	2 volume	Letter Book, Mar. 1892 - Jun. 1892
2	6 volumes	Letter Books, 1890, (Jan. 1893 - Jun. 1895)
3	6 volumes	Letter Books, (Jun. 1895 - Oct. 1897)
4	6 volumes	Letter Books, (Nov. 1897 - Aug 1905)
5	5 volumes	Letter Books, (Apr. 1906- Mar. 1907); No Date (2)
6	1-9	Correspondence: incoming, alphabetical; outgoing, chronological, 1940-1950
	10	Correspondence, loan requests, 1965-1973
	11	Bills of Lading, 1947-1949, 1964-65
	12	Cash receipts, 1949
	13	Commission Statements, 1947-1948
	14	Cost summary papers, 1946

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	3	
6	15	Department of Labor, 1948-1952		
	16	Freight Bills, 1948		
	17	Salesmen Commissions, 1948-1949		
	18	Union Dues, 1946-1950		
	19	United Furniture Worker's Agreement, 1938-1939, 1942		
	20	United Furniture Worker's Insurance Fund, 1944-1949		
	21	Bank Check Records, 1963-1977		
	10 volumes	Furniture Manuals, (1931-1943)		
	7	1-13	Furniture Photographs by Product Number [most with Retail Price noted], n.d.	
		14-20	Duplicates of above photographs	
8-16		Wage and Hour Rate Cards, 1938-1941, 1964-1968		
17-18	18 volumes	Business Journals, 1886-1934, 1943-1963		
19	5 volumes	Daybooks, 1883-1903		
Oversize	14 volumes	Business Journals, 1888-1903		
	1 volume	Daybook, 1883-1886		
	7 volumes	Ledger Books, 1882-1913		
	11 volumes	Index to Order Books, 3 volumes, 1887-1892; 8 volumes, n.d.		
	4 volumes	Balance Books, 1889-1895		
	1 volume	Balance Book, 1921-1958 (unbound)		
	4 volumes	Time Books, 1889-1900		
	2 volumes	Cash Books, 1882-1897		
	4 volumes	Payroll books, 1901-1919		
	1 volume	Draft Register, 1891-1893		
	1 volume	Cash Receipt Record Book, 1907-1973		