

Emile Berliner Collection

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Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound
Division, Library of Congress

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Collection Summary

Title: Emile Berliner collection

Inclusive Dates: 1871-1965

Bulk Dates: 1871-1930

Creator: Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929

Extent (Textual Materials): 41 boxes (approximately 1,000 items)

Extent (Photographic Prints): 232 photographic prints : black and white, 1 color ; 10 x 13 inches and smaller

Extent (Photographic Negatives): 29 negatives : black and white ; 8 x 10 inches and smaller

Extent (Sound Recordings): over 400 sound discs, including zinc, copper, celluloid, rubber, shellac, and vinyl pressings and masters, in various speeds, and in sizes ranging from 5 to 12 inches in diameter

Extent (Motion Pictures): 1 film reel of 1 (12 feet) ; : silent, black-and-white ; ; 16 mm. nitrate

Extent (Artifacts): over 100 items, chiefly telephone, gramophone, and laboratory equipment, with 7 acoustic insulating panels and material samples, all made of various materials and in various sizes

Language: Collection materials are in English, with some items in German publication titles.

Location: Recorded Sound Reference Center, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Unpublished and published textual materials, photographs, sound recordings, scrapbooks, artifacts, and a motion picture documenting the life and work of the German-born immigrant to America who invented the gramophone, the flat disc recording, the radio microphone, acoustic tile, and an early version of the helicopter. Included are unpublished and experimental gramophone records dating from the 1890s, some of them featuring the voices of Berliner and various family members, as well as recordings published by Berliner's gramophone companies in the U.S., Canada, and Germany.

Location of Textual and Graphic Materials: RPA 00832-00855 (boxes 1-2, 4-17, 31-38); RPB 00097-00109 (boxes 18-30); RPC 00082 (box OS 2); RPD 00035-00037 (boxes OS 1, OS 3-OS 4)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Allen, Roy Morris, 1882- --Correspondence.

Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922.

Berliner family.

Berliner, Cora A., 1862-1942--Photographs.

Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929--Archives.

Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929--Correspondence.

Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929--Photographs.

Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929--Trials. litigation, etc.

Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929.

Berliner, Emile, 1851-1929. Muddy Jim, and other rhymes.

Berliner, Jacob, 1849-1918--Correspondence.

Hyatt, John W. (John Wesley), 1837-1920--Correspondence.

Richards, W. L. (William L.)--Correspondence.

Sanders, Joseph, 1877-1960.

Organizations

American Bell Telephone Company.

American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Berliner (Record company)

Subjects

Acoustical engineering--United States.
Acoustical materials.
Architectural acoustics.
German Americans--Washington (D.C.)--Archives.
Ghost dance.
Health education--United States.
Immigrants--Washington (D.C.)--Archives.
Inventions.
Jews--Washington (D.C.)--Archives.
Microphone.
Milk--Pasteurization.
Patent suits--United States.
Patents--Germany.
Patents--United States.
Phonograph--United States.
Popular music--United States--To 1901.
Public health--United States.
Sound recordings--United States.
Sound recordings.
Sound--Experiments.
Sound--Recording and reproducing--Equipment and supplies.
Sound--Recording and reproducing--United States.
Sound--Recording and reproducing.
Telephone--Experiments.
Telephone--United States.
Zionism--United States.

Form/Genre

Acoustic equipment.
Awards.
Books.
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Correspondence.
Diaries.
Journals (Accounts)
Memorandums.
Pamphlets.
Patents.
Phonograph records.
Photographs.
Portrait photographs.
Research notes.
Scrapbooks.
Sound recordings.
Speeches.
Test pressings (Sound recordings)
Trade catalogs.

Occupations

Health reformers--United States.
Inventors--United States.

Administrative Information

Collection Acquisition

Several of Emile Berliner's descendants, including Robert Sanders, Mrs. Robert (Emily) Sanders, Robert Frank, and Joseph Sanders, have donated materials to the collection, or in some cases, loaned materials to the Library of Congress for duplication, from 1979 through 1992. Additional items have been added through Library purchases.

Additions

No further additions to the collection are expected.

Processing Information

The textual and graphic materials, along with the artifacts in the collection, were processed by Karen Lund, Laura Gottesman, and Marco Samayoa in 2000 as part of the overall preparation for the Library's online American Memory presentation, "Emile Berliner and the Birth of the Recording Industry." Many of the published sound recordings were individually cataloged prior to 2000, but the unpublished recordings have not been individually cataloged.

Use Restrictions

Restrictions exist on copying, quoting, or publishing materials included in the collection. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Access Restrictions

The Emile Berliner Collection is open for research. Advance notice may be required; contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Reference Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

The artifacts and early unpublished sound discs that are included in the collection are not yet available to researchers. After processing and preservation has been completed, the materials will be accessible through a revised version of this finding aid and the [Library of Congress Online Catalog](#).

Online Content

Selected sound recordings, photographs, textual materials (such as articles, speeches, notes, and scrapbooks), artifacts, and a film from the collection are available in digital form on the Library of Congress website under the title: "Emile Berliner and the Birth of the Recording Industry" at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/berlhtml/berlhome.html> Links to the digitized items are also provided in the [container list](#) of this finding aid.

Related Material

Additional Emile Berliner papers are located in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number, eg., Box 3], Emile Berliner Collection, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

Emile Berliner (1851-1929) was a prominent inventor living at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. Overlooked by today's historians, Berliner's creative genius rivaled that of his better-known contemporaries Thomas Alva Edison and Alexander Graham Bell, and, like the works of these two inventors, Berliner's innovations helped shape the modern American way of life. Although Berliner did not invent recorded sound technology, his innovations led to its mass distribution. His flat-disc recordings eventually replaced the more fragile and unwieldy Edison cylinders as consumers' sound technology of choice.

Emile (originally Emil) Berliner was born in Hanover, Germany, on May 20, 1851. He was one of thirteen children born to Samuel and Sarah Fridman Berliner, two of whom died in infancy. His father was a merchant and a Talmudic scholar, and his mother was an amateur musician.

Following a few years of school in Hanover, Berliner was sent to nearby Wolfenbüttel to attend the Samsonschule from which he graduated in 1865 at the age of fourteen. This marked the end of his formal schooling and Berliner then spent several years at odd jobs in Hanover helping to support the large Berliner family. Enticed by the offer of a clerkship in a store partly owned by a man named Behrend, a Hanoverian who had emigrated to the United States some time earlier, and perhaps by a desire to escape the military duty that faced most young men in the year of the Franco-Prussian War, Berliner persuaded his parents to allow him to accept the job offer and to emigrate to America. In late March 1870 he left Hanover.

The dry-goods store was located in Washington, D.C. For three years Berliner clerked for Gotthelf, Behrend and Co. until in 1873 he decided a better opportunity awaited him in New York City. There Berliner again took up onerous jobs during the day while trying to improve himself by studying privately at night at the Cooper Institute. After a brief career as a "drummer" (traveling salesman) for a "gents' furnishings" (men's clothing and accessories) establishment in Milwaukee, Berliner again went back to New York where this time he was most fortunate in obtaining a position as general cleanup man in the laboratory of Constantine Fahlberg, the discoverer of saccharine. This experience in a research laboratory fired Berliner's ambition, and he decided that science, research, and invention were to be his destiny.

In 1876 Berliner returned to what was now Behrend and Co. in Washington and resumed his clerkship. That was the year of the American centennial celebrations, and among the outstanding events that took place in Washington was a demonstration of the new telephone of Alexander Graham Bell. Berliner saw the instrument for the first time and was filled with enthusiasm. He commenced to study the telephone. To his inquiring mind one of the instrument's weaknesses was its transmitter. Working alone in his rooming house he fashioned a new type of transmitter which he called a "loose-contact" transmitter, a type of microphone, which increased the volume of the transmitted voice. When the members of the newly-formed American Bell Telephone Company were advised that a young and entirely unknown man in Washington had submitted a caveat (Berliner wrote it himself without the aid of a patent attorney) to the Patent Office covering a new transmitter, they could hardly believe it. Thomas Watson, the Mr. Watson of telephone fame, was sent to Washington to make inquiries. He returned such a glowing report of the transmitter and of Berliner himself that the company offered to buy the rights to the invention and to hire Berliner as a research assistant. For the next seven years, Berliner was employed by the ABT Co., first in New York City and then in Boston. During those years Berliner worked on numerous problems associated with the fledgling telephone industry and developed into a first-class theoretical electrician.

While working in Boston in 1881, Berliner became an American citizen and in the same year married a young woman of German descent named Cora Adler. In 1884 Berliner decided to set himself up as a private researcher and inventor, his cherished dream. He resigned from the American Bell Telephone Company and he and Cora left Boston and set up housekeeping in

Washington, D.C. The Berliners had six children, Edgar, Herbert, Henry, Louise, Hannah and Alice.

In Washington, Berliner began working on additional improvements to Bell's telephone, selling the rights to his patents to the telephone company. Then in 1886 he began working on the invention that was to prove his most important contribution to the world. This was the development of the gramophone, the recording and reproduction of sound by means of disc records. Among his other inventions were:

Floor Covering

As early as 1883, while still working for the telephone company, Berliner obtained Patent 284,268 for a new type of floor covering which he termed Parquet Carpet. From time to time he returned to this work and he obtained additional Patents 621,316 in 1899 and 656,162 in 1900.

Acoustic Tile

As one who frequently attended orchestral concerts, operas, and other musical events, as well as lectures, plays, and sermons, Berliner was well aware of the poor acoustics of many halls, theaters, churches, and synagogues. Having studied acoustics for many years, he decided to do something about the situation. He soon came up with a new type of tile that could be affixed to the existing walls of rooms. Acoustic tiles were, in the inventor's words, ". . . composed of porous cement, are as hard as stone, and yet have the resonance of wood when vibrated by a tuning fork."

In 1926 he obtained Patent 1,573,475 for these tiles. They were eminently successful in the days before public address systems. Among the buildings that added these tiles were the auditorium of Drexel University in Philadelphia, Stanley Theater in Jersey City, the Church of the Messiah in Montreal, Leicester Theatre in London, Uptown Theater in Philadelphia, the Second Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, and the board room of the Karachi Port Trust in what is now Pakistan.

The Helicopter and the Lightweight Internal Combustion Engine

In 1906 or 1907 Emile Berliner became fascinated with the possibilities of the flying machine. This led to his involvement in the development of the helicopter which, as he himself said, was one of the earliest forms of heavier-than-air machines conceived, going back at least as far as the time of Leonardo da Vinci. Berliner designed and patented a new type of lightweight internal combustion engine to power the rotors. By 1909 he had constructed a working model that was capable of lifting the weight of two adult men, however the helicopter was tethered to the ground and no free flight was attempted. Although Berliner had to relinquish his work on the helicopter, his son Henry continued it.

Emile Berliner for many years took an active role in community and social causes, particularly in the public health field. In 1909 he donated funds for an infirmary building at the Starmont Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Washington Grove, Maryland, dedicated to the memory of his father. Berliner was president of the Washington Tuberculosis Association for some years. In 1924, he inaugurated the Bureau of Health Education to promote public hygiene and health education for mothers and children.

The subject of children's health was close to his heart. In 1900 his youngest daughter, Alice, became desperately ill, very likely from bacteria picked up from some food or drink. Because of this illness Berliner campaigned against the high mortality rate of babies and young children. He became a fervent advocate of clean milk and by all means at his disposal he preached to mothers to "scald the milk" before serving it. He also became disgusted by what he perceived to be the neglect of cleanliness in children. In 1919 he and some of his associates wrote and published a book of colored drawings with accompanying rhymes illustrating what happens to children who neglect cleanliness. Entitled Muddy Jim, the book was given to schools in the Washington area and elsewhere. All the rhymes were written by Emile Berliner. The book was soon translated into French, possibly for distribution in the Canadian province of Quebec.

Zionism was another cause that involved Emile Berliner deeply. Between 1913 and 1918, Berliner wrote four articles on the subject: "The Social Status of the Jews," "Zionism and the American Spirit," "Americanism and Zionism," and "Thoughts on Zionism." In 1919 Berliner was named chairman of the Committee on Arrangements for a reception for the celebrated rabbi Stephen S. Wise. During the same year he wrote a letter to the editors of both the *Washington Star* and the *Washington Post* concerning the second commemoration of the 1917 declaration by British statesman Arthur Balfour that "His Majesty's Government favors establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine." In 1919, Berliner wrote another article on "A Study Towards the Solution of Industrial Problems in the New Zionist Commonwealth."

Berliner inherited a great fondness for music from his mother and was an avid concert-goer. That he could play the piano is attested by one of his assistants in the gramophone laboratory who said that Berliner was the pianist on some of the very early recordings. In 1897 he wrote a song entitled "Columbian Anthem" in honor of the nation's capital, the District of Columbia. It was arranged for male quartet and was recorded in 1897 on Berliner record 4288 and seems to have been re-recorded several times before June 1900.

In addition to his contributions to the progress of recorded sound, Emile Berliner worked tirelessly in many other endeavors both business-related and philanthropic. His development of microphone and recorded sound technology remains, however, the greater part of his legacy. His work on microphones was so successful that it replaced the earlier microphone used by Alexander Graham Bell for his telephone systems. It is still the basic design used in most microphones manufactured today. His flat-disc design for the gramophone has become the standard for mass-produced commercial sound recordings and was the precursor of today's digital compact discs.

Emile Berliner died on August 3, 1929, in his seventy-ninth year.

Scope and Content Note

The Emile Berliner Collection includes disc recordings, textual materials, photographs, artifacts, and a film. The textual materials consist of more than 1,000 items including correspondence, notes and papers, books, addresses, newspaper and magazine articles, catalogs, diaries and journals, pamphlets, patents, and scrapbooks dealing with Berliner's work and personal life, as well as his philanthropic endeavors. The photographs are both studio portraits and informal snapshots of Berliner, his family, his associates, and his inventions. Artifacts include telephone, gramophone, and laboratory equipment, along with several acoustic panel pieces and material samples.

The recorded sound component of the Berliner Collection consists of unpublished zinc records, some of them experimental (1892-1898); unpublished discs made of various materials for both experimental and private uses; and published celluloid, rubber, and shellac Berliner Gramophone Company pressings made in the United States (pre-1900), Canada, and Germany (pre- and post-1900). The published records represent one of the first successful attempts to mass-market and commercially distribute popular sound recordings. Some of the unpublished discs in the collection feature the voices of Berliner and various family members. Also available are post-1900 Victor records; 78 rpm records published by other companies; and several vinyl LP recordings.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 17 series:

- Series 1: Addresses, 1888-1929, undated
- Series 2: Journal Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1883, 1900, 1922, 1927-1929, 1955

- Series 3: Artifacts, undated
- Series 4: Books, 1879-1928
- Series 5: Catalogs, 1895-1896
- Series 6: Correspondence, 1871-1926, 1946, 1955
- Series 7: Journals and Diaries, 1889-1907
- Series 8: Miscellaneous Materials, 1897-1929
- Series 9: Notes and Papers, 1877-1928
- Series 10: Pamphlets, 1890-1929, 1951, undated
- Series 11: Patents, 1879-1909
- Series 12: Photographs, 1871-1965, undated
- Series 13: Sound Recordings, circa 1890-1950s
- Series 14: Scrapbooks, 1885-1930
- Series 15: Joseph Sanders Materials, 1896-1927, 1953-1955
- Series 16: Acoustic Tile, 1899, 1925-1929
- Series 17: Film, 1904

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series 1. Addresses, circa 1888-1929

Series 1 contains copies of speeches and addresses by Emile Berliner on a variety of subjects. Examples include a 1888 speech delivered to the Franklin Institute on the gramophone, a 1925 paper prepared for the D.C. chapter of the American Institute of Architects on acoustic tiles, and three addresses on transmitters and the development of the talking machine. It also includes an address by Berliner from 1913 for the National Farm School on the social status of the Jews.

BOX-FOLDER 1/1

1888-1929

Series 2. Journal Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1883, 1900, 1922, 1927-1929, 1955

Series 2 consists of journal articles and newspaper clippings which chronicle Berliners life, interests and inventions, the bulk of which are obituaries from 1929. Some early articles focus on Berliner's inventions of the gramophone, microphone, and acoustic improvements. Later articles highlight his efforts on health care and curing infant mortality. Journals include *Young Israel*, the *American Hebrew*, and *Journal of Outdoor Life*. Newspapers include the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Herald*, the *Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger*, the *Evening Post*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, among others.

Series 3. Artifacts, undated

This series holds actual parts from machines. They include talking machine needles and washers.

Series 4. Books, 1879-1928

This series consists of 23 books and includes court proceedings, arguments, briefs, and affidavits for Berliner's court cases (*U.S. v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner*, bound issues of the serial *Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review*, v. VIII, and many copies of *Muddy Jim and Other Rhymes*, a book written by Berliner on children's health issues. This series also includes the supplement to *Muddy Jim* written by Dr. George M. Kober, professor of hygiene at Georgetown University, and a copy of *A bas les maladies!* published by the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis of Washington, D.C.

Series 5. Catalogs, 1895-1896

Series 5 consists of catalogs from 1895 and 1896. Included is an advance list of new records from May 1895, a supplementary list of records from June 1895, a handwritten list of band music and recitations from July 1895, and a supplemental list of new gramophone records from June 1896.

Series 6. Correspondence, 1871-1926, 1946-1955

This series includes some personal correspondence from Emile Berliner to Jacob Berliner, but the majority of correspondence pertains to business letters and copies of letters between Berliner and J.W. Hyatt, William P.

Richards (D.C. Surveyor's Office), Alfred C. Clark, James Rush Marshall, and others. This series is arranged in chronological order.

Series 7. Journals and Diaries, 1889-1907

Series 7 includes copies of Cora Berliner's journal of her family's trip to Germany in 1889 and Joseph Sander's diaries from 1906 and 1907.

Series 8. Miscellaneous Materials, 1897-1929

This series contains a variety of materials, including a 1927 report on the activities of the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis of the District of Columbia; copies of sheet music for the "Columbian Anthem," which was written by Berliner; invitations; award certificates; and programs.

Series 9. Notes and Papers, 1977-1928

Series 9 contains notes made by Emile Berliner on many of the inventions and experiments he was working on during his lifetime. These include the electric telescope, organophone, batteries, broken-point microphone, a siphoning gas jet, and producing a tremolo (tremolo on a violin). The series also contains copies of a tribute to Berliner on his birthday from the board of directors of the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, essays, speeches, and legal documents. Researchers will find a handwritten statement by Berliner describing his preferred funeral arrangements.

Series 10. Pamphlets, 1890-1929, 1951, undated

This series contains copies of pamphlets describing the operating directions for the motor gramophone, the history of the gramophone, promotional pamphlets for the gramophone and acoustical tile, reports on installing acoustic tile at Drexel Institute, the microphone, and promotion of the Berliner biography by Frederic William Wile.

Series 11. Patents, 1879-1909

Copies of patents in this series include improvements in electrical contact telephones, designs for carpeting, improvements to telephone transmitters, gramophone improvements, floor coverings, apparatus for producing sound records, and Joseph Berliner's improvements in connection with vulcanizers and other apparatus. Researchers will find copies of patents held by other inventors, such as Fay Oscar Farwell, Sumner Tainter, Gavin Chapman, Byron Goldsmith, Charles Francis Jenkins, as well as many others.

Series 12. Photographs, 1871-1965, undated

This series includes copies of formal portraits, Berliner working in his laboratory, family scenes with Cora Berliner and other family members, the staff of U.S. Gramophone Co., and others. There are also photographs of gramophones; Berliner's factory in Hanover, Germany; microphones; acoustic tiles; the Technical Institute (Technische Hochschule in Hanover); the auditorium in the Oyster School, Washington, D.C.; the Berliner House at 1458 Columbia Road; and many others. Included is a photograph album, circa 1918-1923, of 56 photographs. Photographs are black and white; sizes are 10 x 13 inches and smaller.

Series 13. Recordings, circa 1890-1950s

The recorded sound component of the Berliner Collection consists of over four hundred discs. These include records produced by the Berliner Gramophone Company from the mid-1890s to 1900, unpublished and experimental records, some metal discs that may be stampers or mothers, a number of recordings made for private use, a selection of electronically recorded Victor 78 rpm records, and a number of other commercially released 78s and LPs. The published Berliner records represent one of the first successful attempts to mass-market and commercially distribute popular sound recordings.

A description of many of the sound recordings, along with other Berliner recordings acquired separately from this collection, can be found in the [Library of Congress Online Catalog](#).

The online Library of Congress presentation of Emile Berliner materials, entitled Emile Berliner and the Birth of the Recording Industry, features more than 100 sound recordings (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/berlhtml/berlreco.html>) that have been converted to Broadcast WAVE and Real Audio streaming digital files. Most of the digitized discs date from the 1870s to the early 1930s, although there are a few items from as late as 1956.

Series 14. Scrapbooks, 1885-1930

Series 14 consists of twelve scrapbooks that contain newspaper clippings, letters, articles, pamphlets, and advertisements. Topics documented in the scrapbooks include Berliner's inventions -- particularly the phonograph, acoustic tile, and microphone improvements -- as well as issues of importance to him, such as Palestine, Zionism, and milk pasteurization. One scrapbook contains jokes, poetry, and health poems Berliner wrote for newspaper publications.

Series 15. Joseph Sanders materials, 1896-1927, 1953-1955

The Joseph Sanders materials were donated to the Library of Congress by his son, Robert Sanders.

Joseph Sanders, a nephew of Emile Berliner, was for many years Berliner's laboratory assistant, concentrating on matrix making and the development of record materials. The Joseph Sanders material includes patents, correspondence, booklets, tax forms, brochures and newspaper clippings, telephonic equipment, gramophones, laboratory apparatus, and acoustic paneling. Diaries from the Sanders donation are housed in [series 7, Journals and Diaries](#), and sound recordings are documented in [series 13, Recordings](#).

Series 16. Acoustic Tile, 1899, 1925-1929

No online presentation of the items in Series 16 is available.

This series contains correspondence and other materials regarding Berliner's invention of acoustic tile.

The series is arranged in alphabetical order with unidentified letters filed at the end. Folders of news clippings from 1927 regarding the invention follow the correspondence.

Correspondence

Clippings, 1927 and undated

Series 17. Berliner Family Home Movie, 1903 or 1904

Due to the non-standard frame size of the original nitrate material, the footage was "passed through" the printer four times in order to print all segments of the picture to a 16 mm. viewing print. For the online Berliner exhibit, the 16mm print was transferred to Betacam SP videotape to produce the master for digitization. Short jumps in continuity in the digital version indicate that small parts of the original film are missing.

Like many other motion pictures of the time, the original film was probably shot with a variable speed camera. Therefore, in the video mastering process, the playback speed was adjusted to present the appearance of natural motion to the greatest degree possible.

Container List

Container *Contents*

Series 1. Addresses, circa 1888-1929

.5 linear feet

RPA 00832 (box 1)

[Items available online.](#)

Series 1 contains copies of speeches and addresses by Emile Berliner on a variety of subjects. Examples include a 1888 speech delivered to the Franklin Institute on the gramophone, a 1925 paper prepared for the D.C. chapter of the American Institute of Architects on acoustic tiles, and three addresses on transmitters and the development of the talking machine. It also includes an address by Berliner from 1913 for the National Farm School on the social status of the Jews.

BOX-FOLDER 1/1	1888-1929
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	1888-1929
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	1888-1929
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	1913
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	circa 1925
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	1929

Series 2. Journal Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1883, 1900, 1922, 1927-1929, 1955

1 linear foot

RPA 00833 (box 2); RPD 00035 (box OS 1)

[Items available online.](#)

Series 2 consists of journal articles and newspaper clippings which chronicle Berliners life, interests and inventions, the bulk of which are obituaries from 1929. Some early articles focus on Berliner's inventions of the gramophone, microphone, and acoustic improvements. Later articles highlight his efforts on health care and curing infant mortality. Journals include *Young Israel*, the *American Hebrew*, and *Journal of Outdoor Life*. Newspapers include the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Herald*, the *Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger*, the *Evening Post*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, among others.

BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Articles on the gramophone, 1922-1955
BOX-FOLDER OS1/1	Articles on the gramophone, 1900, 1952
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Articles on the telephone, microphone, 1922-1955
BOX-FOLDER OS1/2	Articles on the telephone, microphone, 1883
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Articles and clippings on health, 1922-1955
BOX-FOLDER OS1/3	Newspaper clippings on health, 1928-1929
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Articles on acoustic tile, 1922-1955
BOX-FOLDER OS1/4	Newspaper clippings on acoustic tile, 1928
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Biographical and miscellaneous articles, 1922-1955
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Newspaper clippings on Berliner's death, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Newspaper clippings on Berliner's death, 1929

Series 2. Journal Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1883, 1900, 1922, 1927-1929, 1955

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Newspaper clippings on Berliner's death, 1929
BOX-FOLDER OS1/5	Newspaper clippings on Berliner's death, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Newspaper clippings on Berliner's death and other topics, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	Miscellaneous articles, 1922-1955
BOX-FOLDER OS1/6	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, undated

Series 3. Artifacts, undated

.5 linear feet

RPA 00834 (box 4)

[Items available online.](#)

This series holds actual parts from machines. They include talking machine needles and washers.

BOX-FOLDER 4/1	Sprechmaschinen-nadeln [Talking machine needles], undated
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	Washer samples, undated

Series 4. Books, 1879-1928

3.5 linear feet

RPA 00835-00841 (boxes 5-11); RPB 00108-00109 (boxes 29-30)

[Items available online.](#)

This series consists of 23 books and includes court proceedings, arguments, briefs, and affidavits for Berliner's court cases (*U.S. v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner*, bound issues of the serial *Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review*, v. VIII, and many copies of *Muddy Jim and Other Rhymes*, a book written by Berliner on children's health issues. This series also includes the supplement to *Muddy Jim* written by Dr. George M. Kober, professor of hygiene at Georgetown University, and a copy of *A bas les maladies!* published by the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis of Washington, D.C.

BOX-FOLDER 5/1-3	<i>A Bas les Maladies!</i> 1919
BOX-FOLDER 5/5	<i>Annual Report of the Smithsonian Board of Regents</i> , 1908
BOX-FOLDER 5/6	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , brief for defendants, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 6/1	<i>History of the Telephone Transmitter</i> , 1894
BOX-FOLDER 6/2	<i>Gedenklätter 150 Stiftungstag des Wohltätigkeitsverins der Synagogengemeinde Hannover</i> (Pages of testimony in memory of the Foundation Day charities for the synagogue community in Hanover, Germany), 1912 Annotation on front cover notes the page number of the account of Berliner's 42 years of service in Jewish charity work.
BOX-FOLDER 6/3-4	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , brief for defendants, 1894 Two copies.
BOX-FOLDER 7/1	<i>Jubiläumsschrift der Telephon-Fabrik Actiengesellschaft</i> (25th Jubilee Book of the J. Berliner Telephone Factory), 1881-1906
BOX-FOLDER 7/2	<i>Muddy Jim and Other Rhymes</i> , 1919
BOX-FOLDER 7/3	<i>Muddy Jim: Supplement: 12 Chapters in Hygiene</i> , circa 1919
BOX-FOLDER 7/4	<i>Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review</i> : v. 7, January-December, 1879
BOX-FOLDER 7/5	<i>Twelve Years of the Telephone Pioneers of America</i> , 1923

Series 4. Books, 1879-1928

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX-FOLDER 7/6	<i>Various Aspects of Birth Control</i> , 1928
BOX-FOLDER 7/7	<i>Washington Health Rules</i> , 1915
BOX-FOLDER 8/1	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , argument of J. J. Storrow, Esq. for defendants, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 8/2	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , argument of J. J. Storrow, Esq. for defendants, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 8/3	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , summary brief for defendants, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 8/4	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , argument of Frederick P. Fish, for defendants, 1893
BOX-FOLDER 8/5	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , v. I, pleadings and evidence, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 9/1	<i>United States of America v. American Bell Telephone Co. and Emile Berliner</i> , v. II, exhibits, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 9/2	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. et al, v. the United States of America</i> , memorandum of points made and references noted in oral argument by counsel for complainant, 1894
BOX-FOLDER 9/3	<i>American Bell Telephone Co., Emile Berliner v. the United States of America</i> , brief for appellants; Appellants reply to appellee's memorandum; Summary of proceedings, 1895
BOX-FOLDER 10/1	<i>American Bell Telephone Co., v. the Overland Telephone Company of New Jersey</i> , 1884
BOX-FOLDER 10/2	<i>American Bell Telephone Co., v. the People's Telephone Company et al</i> , 1884
BOX-FOLDER 10/3	Dept. of Interior, <i>United States v. American Bell Telephone</i> , 1887; <i>United States v. American Bell Telephone</i> , 1885, 1887-1888
BOX-FOLDER 10/4	<i>United States v. American Bell Telephone Co.</i> , oral argument for Mr. Storrow for the Bell Company on its demurrer, June, 1887, and oral argument of Mr. Dickerson for the Bell Company, 1888
BOX-FOLDER 10/5	<i>The Telephone Appeals</i> , oral argument of Mr. Dickerson, January 24 to February 8, 1887
BOX-FOLDER 10/6	<i>The Telephone Appeals</i> , oral argument of Mr. Storrow on the Drawbaugh defence, January 24 to February 8, 1887
BOX-FOLDER 10/7	<i>History of the telephone</i> , James Storrow before the Supreme Court, 1886
BOX-FOLDER 10/8	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. v. Sylvanus D. Cushman et al</i> , 1893
BOX-FOLDER 11/1	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. v. National Telephone Manufacturing Co., v. Century Telephone Co. et al.</i> , argument of Frederic H. Betts, 1899
BOX-FOLDER 11/2	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. v. National Telephone Manufacturing Co. v. Century Telephone Co. et al.</i> , brief for complainant, 1899
BOX-FOLDER 11/3	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. v. National Telephone Co. Manufacturing Co. et al</i> , argument at the hearing in support of the defense, by R.S. Taylor, 1899
BOX-FOLDER 11/4	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. v. National Telephone Co. Manufacturing Co. et al</i> , brief for defendants, 1895
BOX-FOLDER 11/5	<i>American Bell Telephone Co. v. National Telephone Co. Manufacturing Co. et al</i> , brief for complainant upon appeal, 1902
BOX-FOLDER 11/6	<i>Gramophone Litigation</i> , [1905?]
BOX 29	<i>The Electrician, Weekly Journal</i> , v. 4, November 22, 1879, to May 15, 1880

Series 4. Books, 1879-1928

Container

Contents

BOX 30

Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review, v. 8, January–December, 1880

Series 5. Catalogs, 1895-1896

6 folders

RPA 00842 (box 12)

[Items available online.](#)

Series 5 consists of catalogs from 1895 and 1896. Included is an advance list of new records from May 1895, a supplementary list of records from June 1895, a handwritten list of band music and recitations from July 1895, and a supplemental list of new gramophone records from June 1896.

BOX-FOLDER 12/1

Berliner Gramophone Co. complete catalogue,

BOX-FOLDER 12/2

List of plates, January, 1895

BOX-FOLDER 12/2

E. Berliner's gramophone, 1895

BOX-FOLDER 12/2

Advance list of new records, 1895

BOX-FOLDER 12/2

Supplementary list of records, 1895

BOX-FOLDER 12/2

Supplement list of new gramophone records, 1896

Series 6. Correspondence, 1871-1926, 1946-1955

.5 linear feet

RPA 00842 (box 12)

[Items available online.](#)

This series includes some personal correspondence from Emile Berliner to Jacob Berliner, but the majority of correspondence pertains to business letters and copies of letters between Berliner and J.W. Hyatt, William P. Richards (D.C. Surveyor's Office), Alfred C. Clark, James Rush Marshall, and others. This series is arranged in chronological order.

BOX-FOLDER 12/3

1870-1871

BOX-FOLDER 12/4

1881-1887

BOX-FOLDER 12/5

1888-1889

BOX-FOLDER 12/6

1890-1896

BOX-FOLDER 12/7

1905-May, 1922

BOX-FOLDER 12/8

July 1922-1928

BOX-FOLDER 12/9

October 1926-November 6, 1926, undated

BOX-FOLDER 12/10

November 7, 1926-November 24, 1926, undated

BOX-FOLDER 12/11

1946, 1955, undated

BOX-FOLDER 12/12

Louise Berliner Frank King's family tree research

Series 7. Journals and Diaries, 1889-1907

.5 linear feet

RPA 00843 (box 13)

[Items available online.](#)

Series 7 includes copies of Cora Berliner's journal of her family's trip to Germany in 1889 and Joseph Sander's diaries from 1906 and 1907.

BOX-FOLDER 13/1

Journal of Cora A. Berliner, 1889-1890

Includes copies.

Series 7. Journals and Diaries, 1889-1907

Container

Contents

BOX-FOLDER 13/2	Joseph Sanders's diary, 1906
BOX-FOLDER 13/3	Joseph Sanders's diary, 1907
BOX-FOLDER 13/4	Unidentified diary, undated

Series 8. Miscellaneous Materials, 1897-1929

.5 linear feet

RPA 00843 (box 13)

[Items available online.](#)

This series contains a variety of materials, including a 1927 report on the activities of the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis of the District of Columbia; copies of sheet music for the "Columbian Anthem," which was written by Berliner; invitations; award certificates; and programs.

BOX-FOLDER 13/5	Report, Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis of the District of Columbia, 1927-1929
BOX-FOLDER 13/5	Sheet music, invitations, award certificates, programs, 1896-1930
BOX-FOLDER 13/6	Promotional materials for the Celotex Company, 1925

Series 9. Notes and Papers, 1977-1928

.5 linear feet

RPA 00843 (box 13)

[Items available online.](#)

Series 9 contains notes made by Emile Berliner on many of the inventions and experiments he was working on during his lifetime. These include the electric telescope, organophone, batteries, broken-point microphone, a siphoning gas jet, and producing a tremolo (tremolo on a violin). The series also contains copies of a tribute to Berliner on his birthday from the board of directors of the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, essays, speeches, and legal documents. Researchers will find a handwritten statement by Berliner describing his preferred funeral arrangements.

BOX-FOLDER 13/7	Notes on experiments, including electric telescope, broken-point microphone, gas jet, battery, and violin, 1877-1884
BOX-FOLDER 13/8	Experiment log and notes on experiments, including batteries, candle, light through electrolyte and magnetic field, and final development of the Blake transmitter, 1884-1923
BOX-FOLDER 13/9	Birthday tribute to Emile Berliner on his 75th birthday, publicity for Berliner's acoustic cement cells, and Berliner's funeral preferences, 1926-1928
BOX-FOLDER 13/10	Agreement between Joseph and Jacob Berliner, the Bell-Berliner system since 1879, a poem in German, an essay on the magnetic receiver, and a eulogy for Berliner
BOX-FOLDER 13/11	"Wonders," an essay describing the wonders found in everyday occurrences of scientific principles, 1897
BOX-FOLDER 13/12	Legal documents and notes in German, 1887-1891

Series 10. Pamphlets, 1890-1929, 1951, undated

.5 linear feet

RPA 00844 (box 14)

Series 10. Pamphlets, 1890-1929, 1951, undated

Container

Contents

[Items available online.](#)

This series contains copies of pamphlets describing the operating directions for the motor gramophone, the history of the gramophone, promotional pamphlets for the gramophone and acoustical tile, reports on installing acoustic tile at Drexel Institute, the microphone, and promotion of the Berliner biography by Frederic William Wile.

BOX-FOLDER 14/1	Gramophone
BOX-FOLDER 14/2	Acoustics
BOX-FOLDER 14/3	Microphone
BOX-FOLDER 14/4	Telephone almanac, 1951

Series 11. Patents, 1879-1909

.5 linear feet

RPA 00844 (box 14)

[Items available online.](#)

Copies of patents in this series include improvements in electrical contact telephones, designs for carpeting, improvements to telephone transmitters, gramophone improvements, floor coverings, apparatus for producing sound records, and Joseph Berliner's improvements in connection with vulcanizers and other apparatus. Researchers will find copies of patents held by other inventors, such as Fay Oscar Farwell, Sumner Tainter, Gavin Chapman, Byron Goldsmith, Charles Francis Jenkins, as well as many others.

BOX-FOLDER 14/5	1879-1900
BOX-FOLDER 14/6	1900-1909
BOX-FOLDER 14/7	Gramophone, 1887-1898
BOX-FOLDER 14/8	Other patent holders, A-F
BOX-FOLDER 14/9	Other patent holders, G-Z

Series 12. Photographs, 1871-1965, undated

2 linear feet

RPA 00845-00847 (boxes 15-17); RPC 00082 (box OS 2)

[Items available online.](#)

This series includes copies of formal portraits, Berliner working in his laboratory, family scenes with Cora Berliner and other family members, the staff of U.S. Gramophone Co., and others. There are also photographs of gramophones; Berliner's factory in Hanover, Germany; microphones; acoustic tiles; the Technical Institute (Technische Hochschule in Hanover); the auditorium in the Oyster School, Washington, D.C.; the Berliner House at 1458 Columbia Road; and many others. Included is a photograph album, circa 1918-1923, of 56 photographs. Photographs are black and white; sizes are 10 x 13 inches and smaller.

BOX-FOLDER 15/1	1872-1926
BOX-FOLDER 15/2	1872-1926
BOX-FOLDER 15/3	1881-1926
BOX-FOLDER 15/4	undated
BOX-FOLDER 15/5	1875, 1895, undated

Series 12. Photographs, 1871-1965, undated

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX-FOLDER 15/6	1875-1907, undated
BOX-FOLDER 15/7	1927, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/1	Photograph album, circa 1918-1923
BOX-FOLDER 16/2	1912-1932, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/3	1912, 1915, 1924, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/4	1910-1927, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/5	1900-1950, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/6	1920, 1932, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/7	1915-1924, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/8	1910-1965, undated
BOX-FOLDER 16/9	1910-1932, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/1	1876, 1894, 1920, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/2	1888, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/3	1914, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/4	1914, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/5	1877, 1926, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/6	undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/7	undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/8	1890-1900, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/9	1898, 1924-1929, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/10	1927, undated
BOX-FOLDER 17/11	1920, 1926, undated
BOX-FOLDER OS 2/1	Emile Berliner on porch
BOX-FOLDER OS 2/1	Milton King on horseback
BOX-FOLDER OS 2/1	Portrait of Louise Berliner
BOX-FOLDER OS 2/2	Portraits of Robert Berliner Frank
BOX-FOLDER OS 2/2	Portrait of Cora Berliner
BOX-FOLDER OS 2/3	Matrix plant of the Berliner Gramophone Co.

Series 13. Recordings, circa 1890-1950s

over 400 sound discs, including zinc, copper, celluloid, rubber, shellac, and vinyl pressings and masters, in various speeds, and in sizes ranging from 5 to 12 inches in diameter

[Items available online.](#)

The recorded sound component of the Berliner Collection consists of over four hundred discs. These include records produced by the Berliner Gramophone Company from the mid-1890s to 1900, unpublished and experimental records, some metal discs that may be stampers or mothers, a number of recordings made for private use, a selection of electronically recorded Victor 78 rpm records, and a number of other commercially released 78s and LPs. The published Berliner records represent one of the first successful attempts to mass-market and commercially distribute popular sound recordings.

A description of many of the sound recordings, along with other Berliner recordings acquired separately from this collection, can be found in the [Library of Congress Online Catalog](#).

The online Library of Congress presentation of Emile Berliner materials, entitled Emile Berliner and the Birth of the Recording Industry, features more than 100 sound recordings (<http://memory.loc.gov/>)

Series 14. Scrapbooks, 1885-1930

Container

Contents

[ammem/berlhtml/berlreco.html](#)) that have been converted to Broadcast WAVE and Real Audio streaming digital files. Most of the digitized discs date from the 1870s to the early 1930s, although there are a few items from as late as 1956.

Series 14. Scrapbooks, 1885-1930

5.5 linear feet

RPB 00097-00107 (boxes 18-28); RPD 00036-00037 (boxes OS 3-OS 4)

[Items available online.](#)

Series 14 consists of twelve scrapbooks that contain newspaper clippings, letters, articles, pamphlets, and advertisements. Topics documented in the scrapbooks include Berliner's inventions -- particularly the phonograph, acoustic tile, and microphone improvements -- as well as issues of importance to him, such as Palestine, Zionism, and milk pasteurization. One scrapbook contains jokes, poetry, and health poems Berliner wrote for newspaper publications.

- BOX 18 1926-1928
Includes clippings and letters referring to a Berliner biography written by William Wile, Berliner's proof on microphonic air-gap theory, and public health work.
- BOX 19 1917-1928
Articles on the phonograph, gramophone, microphone, and telephone. Also poetry, jokes, and health poems.
- BOX 20 Acoustic tiles, 1930
Letters of recommendation, articles, and ads on the Berliner acoustic tile system.
- BOX 21 1926-1928
Articles and letters on public health work and on the invention of the microphone and acoustic tiles, as well as a biography by William Wile.
- BOX 22 Partially filled scrapbook, 1885-1894
Empty except for three pages relating to the U.S. Gramophone Co. Included are invitations to stockholders' meetings, gramophone drawings, and an article on cloud telegraphy.
- BOX 23 Palestine and Zionism ["p & z"], 1918-1919
Articles, pamphlets, and letters on Palestine and Zionism.
- BOX 24 Milk pasteurization and health ["m & h"], 1917-1925
Letters, pamphlets, and clippings related to milk pasteurization and health issues.
- BOX 25 Lawsuit letters and records, 1877-1878
Letters concerning Berliner's testimony in telephone transmitter lawsuits.
- BOX 26 Milk, 1910
Letters and clippings on the health risks of drinking unpasteurized milk.
- BOX 27 Acoustics, 1925-1928
Handwritten notes, letters, pamphlets, and photographs relating to acoustic tiles. Includes a patent for acoustic tiles.
- BOX 28 Berliner-Edison controversy, 1928
Articles and letters on the Edison congressional medal controversy.

Series 14. Scrapbooks, 1885-1930

Container

Contents

- BOX OS 3-OS 4 Historical accounts of the invention of the telephone, phonograph, graphophone, and gramophone
Two scrapbooks containing pamphlets, brochures, clippings, letters, and photographs.

Series 15. Joseph Sanders materials, 1896-1927, 1953-1955

2 linear feet

RPA 00848-00851 (boxes 31-34)

[Items available online.](#)

The Joseph Sanders materials were donated to the Library of Congress by his son, Robert Sanders.

Joseph Sanders, a nephew of Emile Berliner, was for many years Berliner's laboratory assistant, concentrating on matrix making and the development of record materials. The Joseph Sanders material includes patents, correspondence, booklets, tax forms, brochures and newspaper clippings, telephonic equipment, gramophones, laboratory apparatus, and acoustic paneling. Diaries from the Sanders donation are housed in [series 7, Journals and Diaries](#), and sound recordings are documented in [series 13, Recordings](#).

- BOX-FOLDER 31/1-2 Emile Berliner tax forms, 1917-1927
- BOX-FOLDER 31/3 Joseph Sanders fax forms, 1917-1927
- BOX-FOLDER 31/4 Cora Berliner tax forms, 1917-1927
- BOX-FOLDER 31/5 Telephon-Fabrik catalog, J. Berliner, 1896-1897
- BOX-FOLDER 31/6 Patent booklets on copyright infringement cases involving Joseph Sanders, 1919-1910
- BOX-FOLDER 31/7 Patent booklets on copyright infringement cases involving Joseph Sanders and Louise Berliner, 1905, 1909
- BOX-FOLDER 32/8 Multiplexgrammophon patents, 1905-1910
- BOX-FOLDER 32/9 European patents, 1904-1913
- BOX-FOLDER 32/10 Austria no. 24624, gramophone record patents,
- BOX-FOLDER 32/11-12 Floor covering patents, 1902
- BOX-FOLDER 32/13 Composition of matter patents, 1903-1905
- BOX-FOLDER 32/14 Gramophone patents, 1904-1907
- BOX-FOLDER 32/15 Patents for gramophone record tablets, 1904-1905
- BOX-FOLDER 32/16 Arguments submitted to German patent office overcoming opposition to S. 19988 and S. 20853, 1906-1911
- BOX-FOLDER 32/17 Gramophone improvement patents, 1904-1906
Relates to the yoke supported neck.
- BOX-FOLDER 33/18 Patents and correspondence relating to improvement in sound, 1908-1916
- BOX-FOLDER 33/19 Sound record tablet patent applications #204, #024, 1904-1910
- BOX-FOLDER 33/20-22 German patent S. 20855, Improvement in sound record tablets, 1905-1912
- BOX-FOLDER 33/23 J. Sanders patents, 1905-1916
- BOX-FOLDER 33/24 Miscellaneous papers, 1904, 1910, 1915, undated
- BOX-FOLDER 33/25A- Miscellaneous papers, undated
B
- BOX-FOLDER 34/26 Interference #24,849, *Sanders v. Schumacher*, sound record tablet, 1905

Series 15. Joseph Sanders materials, 1896-1927, 1953-1955

Container

Contents

- BOX-FOLDER 34/27 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1953-1955
Original folder was marked "G."
- BOX-FOLDER 34/28 Correspondence between Joseph Sanders and B.L. Aldridge, 1953-1956
- BOX-FOLDER 34/29 Interference #27784, *A. Smith and Wicks v. Emerson v. Sanders*,
gramophone record tablet, 1904-1911
- BOX-FOLDER 34/30 Correspondence relating to *J. Sanders v. Edgar*, 1908-1909
- BOX-FOLDER 34/31 Correspondence of Lyons & Bissing, attorneys, 1903-1908
- BOX-FOLDER 34/32 Correspondence relating to Austria and Russia, A1344-05/A161909,
Improvements in sound record tablets/paper coated facing

Series 16. Acoustic Tile, 1899, 1925-1929

2.5 linear feet

RPA 00852-00855 (boxes 35-38)

No online presentation of the items in Series 16 is available.

This series contains correspondence and other materials regarding
Berliner's invention of acoustic tile.

The series is arranged in alphabetical order with unidentified letters filed
at the end. Folders of news clippings from 1927 regarding the invention
follow the correspondence.

Correspondence

- BOX-FOLDER 35/1 American Piano Supply Co., 1926
- BOX-FOLDER 35/2 American Wire Fabrics Corp., 1926-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 35/3 Miscellaneous A, 1925-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 35/4 Ballou, Frank M., 1927, 1929
- BOX-FOLDER 35/5 Bates Valve Bag Co., 1927-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 35/6 Bell Telephone Laboratories, 1925, 1927
- BOX-FOLDER 35/7 Berliner, Joseph, 1927-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 35/8 Berry, F. E., Jr., 1925, 1927
- BOX-FOLDER 35/9 Miscellaneous B, 1926-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 35/10 Casein Manufacturing Group, 1926, 1928-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 35/11 Cohn, Milton, 1928
- BOX-FOLDER 35/12 Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1925, 1927
- BOX-FOLDER 35/13 Miscellaneous C, 1925-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 35/14 Miscellaneous D, 1925-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 35/15 Miscellaneous E, 1925-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 36/1 F.S. & G.L. Brown Machine Co., 1926-1927
- BOX-FOLDER 36/2 Miscellaneous F, 1925-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 36/3 Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1927
- BOX-FOLDER 36/4 Miscellaneous G, 1925-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 36/5-7 Heilprin, W. A., 1926-1927
- BOX-FOLDER 36/8 Miscellaneous H, 1926-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 36/9 Miscellaneous I, 1927-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 36/10 John R. Livezey Co., 1927-1928
- BOX-FOLDER 36/11 *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, 1925-1926
- BOX-FOLDER 36/12 Miscellaneous J, 1926-1929
- BOX-FOLDER 37/1 Miscellaneous K, 1926-1929

Series 16. Acoustic Tile, 1899, 1925-1929

Container

Contents

BOX-FOLDER 37/2	Ludlow, Israel, 1926
BOX-FOLDER 37/3	Miscellaneous L, 1926-1928
BOX-FOLDER 37/4	Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1926, 1928
BOX-FOLDER 37/5	Miscellaneous M, 1925-1929
BOX-FOLDER 37/6	National Association for Music in Hospitals, Inc., 1926-1927
BOX-FOLDER 37/7	Miscellaneous N-O, 1927-1929
BOX-FOLDER 37/8	Peck, Stowe and Wilcox Co. (Pexto), 1927
BOX-FOLDER 37/9	Miscellaneous P, 1926-1928
BOX-FOLDER 37/10	Miscellaneous R, 1926-1929
BOX-FOLDER 37/11	Smoot, 1927
BOX-FOLDER 37/12	Sun Book and Job Printing Office, Frank Vinton, 1927-1929
BOX-FOLDER 37/13	Miscellaneous S, 1926-1929
BOX-FOLDER 37/14	Miscellaneous T, 1925-1928
BOX-FOLDER 38/1	Miscellaneous U-W, 1925-1929
BOX-FOLDER 38/2	Wolfe & Littlehales, 1925-1927
BOX-FOLDER 38/3	Miscellaneous Y-Z, 1899, 1927-1929
BOX-FOLDER 38/4	Unidentified, 1927

Clippings, 1927 and undated

BOX-FOLDER 38/5	February–March, 1927
BOX-FOLDER 38/6	April 1927
BOX-FOLDER 38/7	May 1927
BOX-FOLDER 38/8	June 1927
BOX-FOLDER 38/9	July–August, 1927
BOX-FOLDER 38/10	undated
BOX-FOLDER 38/11	Miscellaneous clippings, undated

Series 17. Berliner Family Home Movie, 1903 or 1904

1 film reel of 1 (12 feet) ; : silent, black-and-white ; ; 16 mm. nitrate

[Item available online.](#)

Due to the non-standard frame size of the original nitrate material, the footage was "passed through" the printer four times in order to print all segments of the picture to a 16 mm. viewing print. For the online Berliner exhibit, the 16mm print was transferred to Betacam SP videotape to produce the master for digitization. Short jumps in continuity in the digital version indicate that small parts of the original film are missing.

Like many other motion pictures of the time, the original film was probably shot with a variable speed camera. Therefore, in the video mastering process, the playback speed was adjusted to present the appearance of natural motion to the greatest degree possible.