

# NICHOLS FINDING AID

Nichols Collection Papers in the  
Charles River Museum of Industry  
Cataloged by Ralph Papirno

## Introduction to the Catalog

Catalog numbers for the papers in the Nichols Collection all have the prefix 86-21. These papers include bound books, periodicals, reprints, brochures, letters, telegrams, newspaper clippings, and many photographic prints.

In each catalog citation the linear dimensions of the item are given in metric units and conventional U.S. units. Metric dimensions are given to the nearest whole millimeter, abbr. mm. Standard U.S. dimensions placed in parentheses after the metric units, are given to the nearest hundredth inch, abbr. in.

When quotations from any item are cited in the catalog a slash (/) is used to denote the end of a line.

For pagination the items have been separated into 100-item sections. Items numbered from 86-21-1 through 86-21-99 will be on pages with page number prefix 0. Items 86-21-100 through 86-21-199 will be on pages with page number prefix 1, etc. Example: item 86-21-100 is on page 1-1.

The initials WHN are used in the catalog as abbreviations for William H. Nichols, W. H. Nichols Co., W. H. Nichols & Sons, and W.H. Nichols & Sons, Inc. The appropriate connotation will be evident from the text.

The numbers 86-21-1 through 86-21-99 are reserved for bound books including the business books of W.H. Nichols Co. These catalog numbers are currently unassigned since cataloging of the books is yet to be accomplished. Other sequences of catalog numbers relevant to a single subject or a single source of items (such as an album or scrap book) are identified in this listing.

Letters, clippings, drawings, and other paper artifacts are stored in letter size or legal size archival folders. Photographs whose size is equal to or less than 127 mm by 178 mm (5 in. by 7 in.) are stored in standard 5X7 archival envelopes. Larger photographs are stored in standard 8X10 archival envelopes. A few oversize photographs have been stored temporarily in two letter size file folders, one inside the other. These will be replaced with legal size when archival quality folders are available. These latter items are stored in oversize file box No 1.

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Nicholas  
Documents  
not specific-

Numbers 86-21-100 through 86-21-127 have been assigned to items related to the Raingo Astronomical Clock (RAC) and other horological reprints, photographs, etc.

\*\*\* End of Note \*\*\*

86-21-100 \* Unassigned

86-21-101 \* Typewritten description of provenance of a RAC in the collection of Windsor Castle. Size 190 mm by 242 mm (7.5 in. by 9.5 in.) See also item 86-21-103.

86-21-102 \* Letter from A.E. Hurley, Inspector's office, Windsor Castle, to Major P.M. Chamberlain, Newark, N.J., dated 11 March 1931. Subject: RAC in Windsor Castle. Typewritten and signed. on 190 mm by 242 mm (7.5 in. by 9.5 in.) paper.

86-21-103 \* Photograph of RAC in the collection of Windsor Castle. Reverse side contains hand-written description and provenance similar to 86-21-101. Size 127 mm by 203 mm. (5.0 in. by 8.0 in.) See also item 86-21-102. Note: This item needs restoration.

86-21-104 \* Photograph of RAC in the Sir John Soame Museum in London. Identified by hand written notation on reverse side. Size: 152 mm by 203 mm (6.0 in. by 8.0 in.)

86-21-105 \* Photograph of the RAC in the collection of P.M. Chamberlain. Size 203 mm by 254 mm (8.0 in. by 10.0 in.) Reverse side notations: "Raingo Astronomical Clock in the P.M. Chamberlain collection"; Blue stamp with the legend "Ernest Tanare, Commercial Photographer, 445 Court Square, Brooklyn, N.Y., Tel: Triangle 5434." Needs Restoration.

86-21-106 \* Top view photograph of RAC shown in 86-21-105. Embossed on the lower right corner of front side is the legend: Ernest Tanare Photographer. The reverse side has the same notations as 86-21-105. Size 203 mm by 254 mm (8.0 in. by 10.0 in.)

86-21-107 \* Top oblique view photograph of RAC presumed to be that shown in 86-21-105. Size: 203 mm by 254 mm (8.0 in. by 10.0 in.) On reverse is the notation: "See Chapter 5 reduce to half size."

86-21-108 \* Photograph of RAC in a front view. Size 152 mm. by 228 mm. (6.0 in. by 9.0 in.) Two hand written notations on reverse: (1) "Astronomical clock by Raingo at Conservation des Arts et Metier secured through the courtesy of Mr. Paul Ditisheim." (2) "See Caption 2", "Reduce to half size."

86-21-109 \* Photograph of RAC in front view. Note on reverse: "Raingo Raingo Astronomical Clock in P.M. Chamberlain collection." Size 203 mm by 254 mm (8.0 in. by 10.0 in.)

86-21-110 \* Pencil sketch on laundry cardboard of clock base plate (?). Chordal circular segment approximate size 118 mm by 219 mm (7.0 in. by 11.0 in.)

86-21-111 \* Photograph of RAC similar to that of 98-21-109. Size 203 mm by 254 mm (8.0 in. by 10.0 in.)



86-21-112 \* Color rendering (lithograph?) of RAC in front view. Legend below clock image: "Relox Astronomico", "R.Ackerman's Repository of Arts", "8C 1824." Size 152 mm by 241 mm (6.0 in. by 9.5 in.) Lower right hand corner of plate missing.

86-21-113 \* Photograph of same RAC as in 86-21-109. Size 102 mm by 152 mm (4.0 in. by 6.0 in.)

86-21-114 \* Photograph of same RAC as in 86-21-109. Poor print: either negative underexposed or print overexposed. Size 89 mm by 127 mm (3.5 in. by 5.0 in.)

86-21-115 \* Photograph of RAC from same negative as in 86-21-114 but with correction of exposure. Size 89 mm by 127 mm (3.5 in. by 5.0 in.) .

86-21-116 \* Photograph of RAC of same clock as in 86-21-109. Poor composition and poor print.. Size 89 mm by 127 mm (3.5 in. by 5.0 in.) .

86-21-117 \* Reprint of photograph in 85-21-116. Poor print. Size 89 mm by 127 mm (3.5 in. by 5.0 in.) .

86-21-118 \* Reprint of photograph in 86-21-115. Size 89 mm by 127 mm (3.5 in. by 5.0 in.)

86-21-119 \* Top view photograph of Chamberlain RAC, same as shown in 86-21-109. Size 89 mm by 140 mm (3.5 in. by 5.5 in.)

86-21-120 \* Reprint of RAC photograph shown in 86-21-115. Size 89 mm by 114 mm (3.5 in. by 4.5 in.)

86-21-121 \* Photograph of RAC shown in 86-21-109. Size 89 mm by 152 mm (3.5 in. by 6.0 in.)

86-21-122 \* Pencil dimensioned drawing (in or mm ?) of a clock mounting plate (?). On 216 mm by 279 mm (8.5 in. by 11.0 in.) white paper. Needs restoration since paper is now yellowing.

86-21-123 \* Clip from Horology Magazine, title: "Raingo's Astronomical Clock" by Major Paul Chamberlain, in the July 1938 issue, pages 6-10 on three sheets. Figures from six of the RAC photos previously cataloged in the 86-21 series. Size: 152 mm by 229 mm (6.0 in. by 9.8 in.)

86-21-124 \* Color rendering (lithograph?) of RAC similar to 86-21-112. Legend beneath clock image: "Astronomical Clock, No. 17 of R. Ackermann's Repository of Arts", "Sec. Pub Nov 7, 1824" Item size 152 mm by 229 mm (6.0 in. by 9.8 in.)

86-21-125 \* Blueprint of Charles Vander Woerd's Gravity Escapement. This item is very fragile and must be handled with care. It requires extensive restoration. Size: 216 mm by 305 mm (8.5 in by 12.0 in.) This item stored in oversize file box #1.

86-21-126 \* Two-page brochure in French entitled: "Une Industrie Neuchateloise." Three clocks are shown. Size: 229 mm by 311 mm (9.0 in. by 12.25 in.) Stored in oversize file box #1.

86-21-127 \* Negative Photostat of portion of monograph entitled: "Elements of Watch and Clock Making" by Charles Frodsham, published in London 1862. This item was originally found in a manila envelope sent by Mr. William C. Langdon, A.T. & T. Co., 125 Broadway, New York, N.Y. addressed to Major Paul Chamberlain, 201 Triford Ave., Newark, N. J. Item size: 222 mm by 298 mm (8.75 in. by 11.75 in.) This item stored in oversize file box #1.

Catalog numbers 86-21-128 to 86-21-199 are currently unassigned.