



Nesbitt Aire, Inc. records 2359

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Manuscripts and Archives

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Scope and Content	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5
Business Records	5
Correspondence	5
Newsletters	5
Dividend Payments	6
Meetings	6
Reports	6
Company History	7
Employee Information	8
Miscellaneous	8
Catalogs	9
Catalogs	9
Notebook Catalogs	9
Other Company Catalogs	10
Manuals	10
Publications	11

Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	Nesbitt Aire, Inc
Title:	Nesbitt Aire, Inc. records
ID:	2359
Date [inclusive]:	1933-2001
Date [bulk]:	bulk 1950-1975
Physical Description:	10 Linear Feet
General Physical Description:	8 boxes.
Language of the Material:	English; One item in German; One item in French.
Abstract:	The Nesbitt Aire, Inc. Records are a collection of product catalogues from the heating and cooling business of the company.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

Nesbitt Aire, Inc. is one of the leading manufacturers of school heating and cooling systems. The John J. Nesbitt Contracting firm was formed in the early 1900s in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1922 the company was incorporated after Nesbitt's eldest son Alfred joined him. The company became John J. Nesbitt, Inc. Nesbitt, Inc. entered the heating and cooling industry in 1926 with the development of a light weight copper radiator. This innovation was a major development in the heating industry. Nesbitt found its niche in producing heating and cooling elements for schools. In 1926 Nesbitt purchased the Buckeye Blower Co. of Columbus Ohio. With this purchase Nesbitt gained the rights to all of Buckeye's patents. These new patents allowed Nesbitt's Chief Engineer, John W. McElgin, to introduce a line of extremely effective steam distribution coils. With this line of coils Nesbitt established its place in the industry as a leader and innovator. In 1933 Nesbitt introduced its first air conditioning unit. Unfortunately for Nesbitt the unit was not commercially viable. It wouldn't be until the mid-1950s that Nesbitt produced air conditioners again. Throughout the 1950s and 60s Nesbitt was a major producer in the heating industry. In the late 1960s and early 1970s they developed rooftop units capable of heating and cooling up to a 75 ton capacity. In 1979 Nesbitt was forced to sell under the weight of bankruptcy. A group of former employees bought the rights to the company and reorganized under the name of Mechanical Specialties Inc. MSI thrived for nearly a decade before having to declare bankruptcy. MSI

was purchased by the Mestek Company from CoreStates Bank in 1991. Mestek Inc. continued to use the Nesbitt brand until 2000 when bankruptcy forced the sale of Nesbitt to PEF Industries Inc. PEF formed a new firm called Nesbitt Aire, Inc., as a wholly owned subsidiary and moved production to Somerville, Tenn. The company remained short of capital and entered bankruptcy again in 2003. It was sold to Special Situations Fund, LLC, and Morris Capital Management, Inc., of Chattanooga, specialists in corporate turnarounds and salvage, and was reorganized as NesbittAire, LLC. After a brief period of rehabilitation, it was resold to the RSI Company of Cleveland, Ohio., who continues to manufacture the Nesbitt line. The Tennessee plant was sold at auction on May 21, 2005.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

The Nesbitt Aire, Inc. Records are a collection of product catalogues from the heating and cooling business of the company. The catalogues span a time period from 1933-2001 with a bulk range of 1950-1975. The catalogues feature all of the parts and products that the Nesbitt company produced during this time period. The collection includes a small amount of correspondence to stockholders concerning dividend payments and share values. There is a nearly complete run of Nesbitt company newsletters from 1951 to 1967 along with employee handbooks, company reports, meeting minutes and agendas, and the company history. The Nesbitt company history includes pictures of the Nesbitt family, award ceremonies, and company employees at work and at social functions.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Provenance

Gift of the Nesbitt Family

Access Restrictions

These records are located in remote storage. Please allow 48 hours for delivery to reading room.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Air conditioning
- Patents.
- Steam-heating.
- Heating and ventilation industry
- School buildings
- American Blower Company
- Nesbitt, John J.

Collection Inventory

Business Records, 1944-1998

Correspondence, 1951-1998

Scope and Content

Includes letters and memos to shareholders of the Nesbitt Company. The majority of the correspondence deals with stock issues, including the sale and merger of the Nesbitt company. The range of dates for the correspondence covers most of the 1950s and 1960s with letters from the 1970s and a few from 1998. The second set of letters in the correspondence subseries are notices to salesmen for Nesbitt.

Title/Description	Instances
1951	box 1
1959-1964	box 1
1969-1973	box 1
1977	box 1
1998	box 1
Sales Information, 1963-1967	box 1

Newsletters, 1951-1974

Scope and Content

Includes *Nesbitt's Newsbits*, the Nesbitt company newsletter. There is almost a complete run of newsletters from 1951 to 1967. Included in the Newsletter subseries are International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation newsletters from 1972 to 1974.

Title/Description	Instances
<i>Nesbitt's Newsbits</i> [company newsletter], 1951-1967	box 1
International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation newsletter, 1972-1974	box 1

Dividend Payments, 1961-1963

Scope and Content

Dividend payments issued quarterly. Each dividend is numbered by quarter.

Title/Description	Instances
Quarterly, 1961-1963	box 1

Meetings, 195219591961-1963

Scope and Content

Includes meeting minutes, agendas, notes, and reports from the Board of Directors meetings in 1961 and 1963. Agendas and minutes from various sales meetings are also included with this subseries.

Title/Description	Instances
Agenda for American Blower Corporation Sales Meeting, 1952 September 15-16	box 1
New York State Department of Education, 1959 December 9	box 1
Board of Directors and shareholders, 1961 July 191961 October 18	box 1
Special meeting (shareholder), 1963 November	box 1
Regional sales meeting reproduction of flip chart, 1962 June 26	box 1

Reports, 1950-1997

Scope and Content

Includes a bound collection of *Business Week* articles that were put together for John J. Nesbitt. The volume appears to be a year's worth of articles, but the articles are not dated. A collection of Nesbitt patents is the other bound report in this subseries. An incomplete run of annual reports from 1950 to 1970 and the late 1990s can also be found in this subseries, along with product reports and debut plans, environmental studies, and a report for the Pennsylvania School Heating and Ventilation Commission.

Title/Description	Instances
Special Reports on major business problems [bound collection of <i>Business Week</i> articles]	box 1

Influence of Air on Health	box 1
Proposed Plan for Announcing the 600 Series	box 1
Thermal Comfort System Designed for SCSD Schools	box 1
First Report Pennsylvania School Heating and Ventilating Commission, 1934 September	box 1
Copies of Patents Owned by John J. Nesbitt, Inc. and Buckeye Blower Co.	box 1
Annual Reports, 1953-1964 1971-1977 1991 1996-1997	box 1
Nesbitt Study Report No. 1, 1959 February 2	box 1
Spiegel, Walter. Unique Engineering and Test Center is Basis for Better Rooftop Systems, 1972 March 24	box 1
International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) Nesbitt Operation Sunshine: A Case for Facilities Consolidation, 1976 February 23	box 1

Company History, 1944-1998

Scope and Content

Includes photographs of the Nesbitt factory, employees, and members of the Nesbitt family. Most of the photographs do not identify the individuals pictured in them. Folder 1 includes a picture of the first unit ventilator built by John J. Nesbitt. Histories of the Nesbitt and International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) companies can be found in this subseries, along with newspaper articles about the relocation an ITT factory, and Nesbitt acquisitions. The subseries is completed by a tribute to Albert Nesbitt, comprised of a series of conversations with him in 1975.

Title/Description	Instances
Reprinted photographs collected and arranged by John J. Nesbitt III	box 1
Photographs: Portraits, Work, Award Ceremonies, And Social Functions Presentation, Army-Navy Production Award, 1944 February 11	box 1
The Nesbitt biography	box 1
History of ITT Nesbitt	box 1
Nesbitt history, February 1996	box 1
Benson, Gertrude. The Board Chairmans Board Chairman His Legacy To his Family and to Philadelphia [series of conversations with Albert Nesbitt], 1975	box 1
"Nesbit Corp. Files Bankruptcy Petition", 1970	box 1
International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) is Expected to Move Subsidiary from Philadelphia, 1976 September 3	box 1
Play Town buys ITT Factory, 1977 December 11	box 1

"Nesbitt Acquired by Environmental Technologies Corporation" [news release], 1979	box 1
<i>History of John J. Nesbitt, Inc., and of Its Founder John J. Nesbitt</i> , 2017 November	box 1

Employee Information, 1946-1976

Scope and Content

Includes an employment handbook and benefits package from 1959, and a company directory from 1963. The rest of the subseries is made up of material for salesmen, including a promotional packet, guides to local and state officials in Pennsylvania, and a businessman's guide to Washington DC.

Title/Description	Instances
Employee Handbook, 1946	box 1
Group Insurance, 1947	box 1
Employee Handbook and benefits package, 1959	box 1
Nesbitt Directory, 1963	box 1
Promotional Kit 70 for salesmen, 1973-1974	box 1
Legislators and Government Officials in the Delaware Valley Tri-State Area, 1975	box 1
The International Businessmans Guide to Official Washington, 1975-1976	box 1
Pennsylvania Legislative Directory	box 1

Miscellaneous, 1955-1970

Title/Description	Instances
<i>Excellence</i> , John J. Nesbitt, Inc.	box 1
Nesbitt heater nameplate	box 1
Invitations	box 1
Invitation to Nesbitt Twenty-Year Club Banquet, 1955 November 21	box 1
Invitation to cocktail and dinner party Atlantic City, NJ., 1957	box 1
Twenty-Year Club Banquet, 1958 November 20	box 1
Invitations to tea and cocktails with Nesbitt, 1962 February 21	box 1
Invitation to cocktail party, 1964	box 1
Invitation to Nesbitt Ladies Tea, 1970 February 18	box 1
Newspaper articles	box 1
<i>Nesbitt Air Conditioning Course</i> [textbook]	box 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Catalogs, 1930-2001

Scope and Content

Includes product, selection, and price catalogs, which include Nesbitt's wider range of products. There are a number of catalogs from the late 1950s that follow Nesbitt's introduction of cooling systems and air-conditioning units for sale to schools and industry. Many of the catalogs in this series have supplements that include technical data and diagrams, and service bulletins.

Catalogs

Title/Description	Instances
1932-1934	box 2
1938-1939	box 2
1942	box 2
1946-1959	box 2
1960-1973	box 3
1975-1979	box 3
1992	box 3
1995	box 3
2000-2001	box 3

Notebook Catalogs

Title/Description	Instances
400 Series	box 3
500 Series	box 3
600 Series	box 3
1930, 1933	box 3
Buckeye Blower, 1945	box 3
The American School and University Catalog, 1951-1952	box 3
Notebook prepared for John J. Nesbitt Jr. , 1954	box 4
1954	box 4
Notebook prepared for L.B Mumma, 1956	box 4
1957	box 4
1960	box 5

1962	box 6
1965	box 6
1968	box 7
1976	box 7
1977-1978	box 8
1992	box 8
2000	box 8

Other Company Catalogs

Title/Description	Instances
Alfred Teves (ATE) [German]	box 8
Buckeye Blower Company	box 8
B.F Sturtevant Co.	box 8
Schemenauer Manufacturing Co.	box 8
Warren Webster & Company	box 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Manuals

Scope and Content

Features installation and repair manuals for Nesbitt and ITT products. There is a large binder that features manuals for nearly all of the Nesbitt and ITT products.

Title/Description	Instances
ITT & Nesbitt Parts and Installation Binder	box 8
ITT Manuals: Remote TX Condensing Units	box 8
ITT Manuals: Remote TX Condensing Units, Model RCS	box 8
ITT Manuals: Rooftop Singlezone	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Cabinet Unit Heaters (Vulcan), 1966	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Miscellaneous items in small pocket binder, 1934	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Nesbitt Central Station Air Handling Units, 1966	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Nesbitt Series B Thermovent, 1939	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Nesbitt Storage Cabinet Installation, 1965	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Nesbittaire Floor Unit	box 8

Nesbitt Manuals: Series 400 Nesbitt Syncretizer, 1939	box 8
Nesbitt Manuals: Series T, TX, TP, & PKG Nesbitt Syncretizer, 19661968	box 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Publications

Title/Description	Instances
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>...about the atmosphere at SEF</i> , 1970	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Architectural Sill-Line..an inherent part of the basic design</i> , 1967	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Comparing rooftop environmental systems</i> , 1972	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Efficiency and luxury combined in the new Hempstead Park Nursing Home</i> , 1963	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Electric Syncretizer Unit Ventilator</i> , 1967	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Engineered for Excellence...Syncretizer Unit Ventilator</i> , 1967	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Fight the rising cost of on-site labor with Nesbitt singlezone rooftop units..</i> , 1970	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Fight the rising cost of on-site labor with Nesbitt air conditioning, heating and ventilating systems</i> , 1970	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt Color Selector</i>	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt Cooling & Heating Coils</i> , 1970	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt Horizontal Syncretizer</i> , 1966	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt pkg Syncretizer Technical Data</i> , 1965	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt reheat multizone engineering catalog</i> , 1970	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt Sill-line. The Worlds most Beautiful Perimeter Radiation</i> , 1967	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt Steam Coils</i> , 1970	box 8
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt TX Innersystem. Direct Expansion Horizontal Unit Ventilators...</i> , 1970	box 9
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Ventilators..</i> , 1970	

	box 9
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Nesbitt Water Coils</i> , 1970	box 9
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Now more than ever Nesbitt unit ventilators make sense for your school</i> , 1976	box 9
ITT, Environmental Products Division: <i>Singlezone. Low silhouette one piece construction</i> , 1972	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Adaptive Floating Control(AFC)</i> , 1978	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>AFC Adaptive Floating Control</i> , 1991	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Cost Data Report</i> , 1965	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Environments --and their costs</i> , 1969	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Floor Mounted Architectural Sill-Line Radiation for steam..</i>	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Nesbitt Electric Unit Heaters</i>	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Nesbitt Multiple Space Air Conditioning Systems</i> , 1991	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Nesbitt Program 90</i>	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Nesbitt Variable Air Volume Comfort System</i> , 1996	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>A New Energy Efficient System. Nesbitt Modular Air Conditioning Systems and Heat Pumps</i> , 1978	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Roommate III. Technical Data</i> , 1964	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>A single climate conditioning system would be fine if all the rooms in your plans were the same size</i> , 1967	box 9
ITT Nesbitt: <i>Technical Data: Nesbitt pkg Syncretizer</i> , 1965	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>The crisp new look in classroom heating, ventilating and air conditioning: Nesbitt gas-fired, forced air system</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Electric Cabinet Heaters (series E)</i> , 1962	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Electric Sill-line. The Worlds most Beautiful Perimeter Heating</i> , 1961	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Electric Unit Heaters</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Gas Conversion Burners</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Gas Fired Duct Furnaces (series D)</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Gas-Fired Duct Furnaces (series K)</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Gas-Fired Unit Heaters (series K)</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Hermetic Packaged Water Chiller (series NDH 20-40 tons)</i> , 1962	box 9

John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Horizontal Gas Furnace</i> , 1961	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Horizontal Syncretizer 2000cfm</i> , 1963	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Series 600 Syncretizer</i> , 1961	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Nesbitt Southerner Forced Air Gas Fired</i>	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>The Plus Factor</i> , 1962	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Presenting the Nesbitt 600 Series Unit Ventilators and Storage Cabinets</i> , 1962	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Schoolroom Ventilation in Moderate Climates</i> , 1947	box 9
John J. Nesbitt, Inc.: <i>Your best neighbor...a good school!</i>	box 9
Nesbitt Corporation: <i>Nesbitt Challenger Heat Pump</i> , 1980	box 10
Nesbitt Corporation: <i>Nesbitt Heating & Air Conditioning Equipment & Parts</i>	box 10
Nesbitt Corporation: <i>Nesbitt</i> promo folder, 1978	box 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)