



Jesse G. Gladding

The Gladding Fire Apparatus Manufacturing Company of Rhode Island: An Early 20th Century Fire Fighting Archive Collection

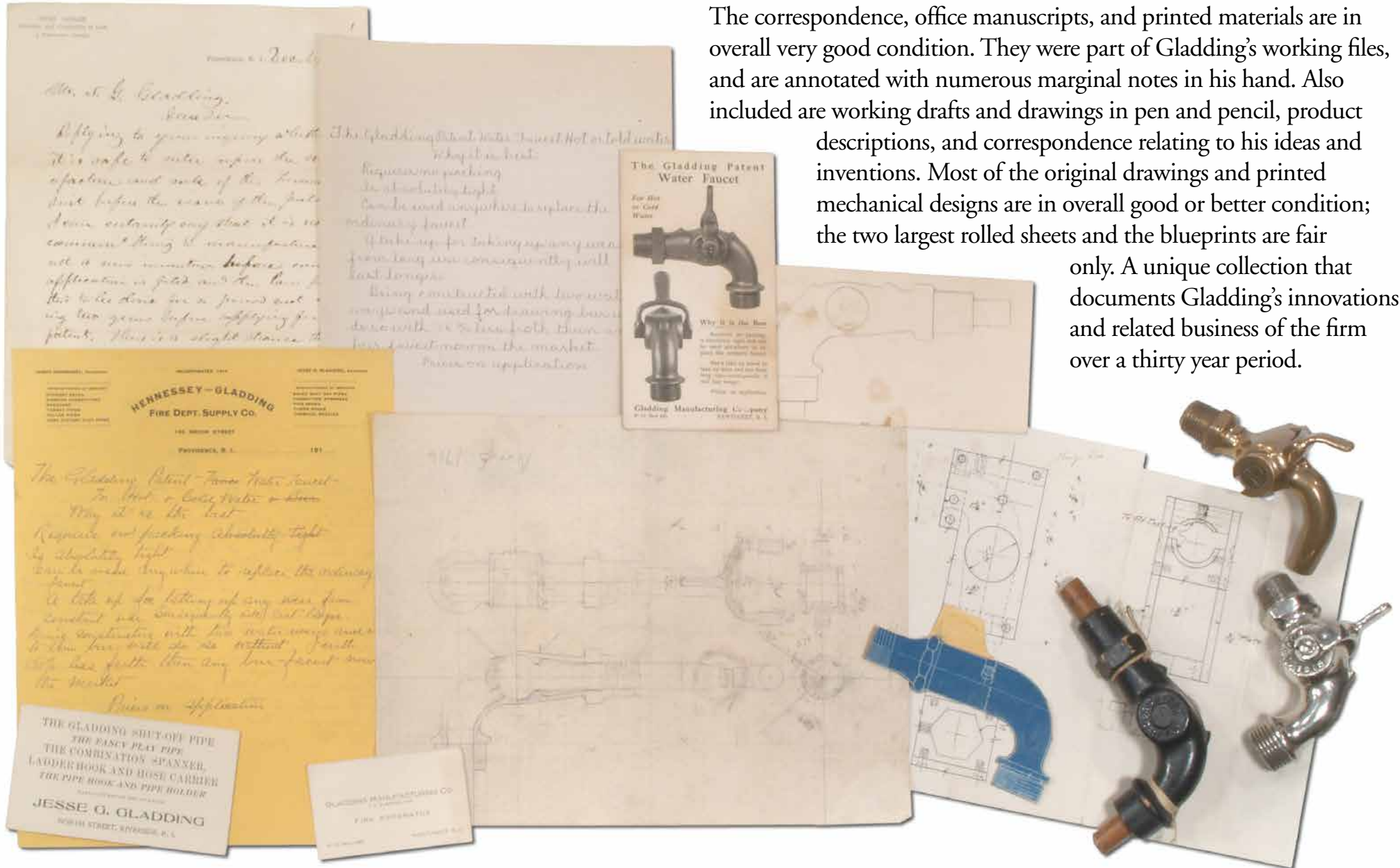
(Rhode Island): [1885-1925]

\$7500



A collection of approximately 10 Autograph and Typed letters, 20 business manuscripts, 18 mechanical drawings and blueprints, and 14 printed brochures, broadsheets, trade cards, etc., from The Gladding Fire Apparatus Manufacturing Company. Also included are two select water faucets and three pieces of fire fighting equipment manufactured by the company in the early 20th Century. The company's founder, Jesse G. Gladding of Rhode Island, was an inventor and manufacturer of faucets, waterproof boots and clothing, and various fire fighting equipment (shut-off pipes; valves; combination spanner, hook, and hose carriers; etc.). Many of his patented inventions revolutionized the industry.

The correspondence, office manuscripts, and printed materials are in overall very good condition. They were part of Gladding's working files, and are annotated with numerous marginal notes in his hand. Also included are working drafts and drawings in pen and pencil, product descriptions, and correspondence relating to his ideas and inventions. Most of the original drawings and printed mechanical designs are in overall good or better condition; the two largest rolled sheets and the blueprints are fair only. A unique collection that documents Gladding's innovations and related business of the firm over a thirty year period.



Printed trade cards, brochures, catalogs, and broadsheets

1. [1888] Brochure: "The Gladding Combination Suit." Octavo. 4pp., illustrated. Bristol, R.I.: Whittemore & Colburn, Printers. Advertisement brochure for Gladding's one-piece waterproof suit for firemen and yachtsmen.

2. [1895] Printed Stationery: "Gladding M'fg Company, manufacturers of all kinds of Water Proof, Oil, Rubber and Mackintosh Clothing for Ladies and Gentlemen, 159 Wood Street, Bristol, R.I." 5 unused sheets.

3. [1905] Printed Stationery : "The Gladding Fire Apparatus Manufacturing Co." Ruled and illustrated with a "Pipe-Hook." 3 unused sheets.

4. [1908] Broadsheet: "The Gladding Fire Apparatus Manufacturing Co., Shut-Off Pipe." Illustrated broadsheet on amber paper.

5. [1908] Broadsheet: "Fancy Play Pipes, Gladding's Combination Spanner Ladder Hook and Ladder Hose Carrier."

6. [1909] Trade card: "The Gladding Shut-Off Pipe; The Fancy Play Pipe; The Combination Spanner, Ladder Hook and Hose Carrier; The Pipe Hook and Pipe Holder; Manufactured by the Inventor Jesse G. Gladding, North Street, Riverside, R.I." With a note in Gladding's hand on the verso.

7. [1910] Broadsheet: "The Gladding Shut-Off Pipe, Gladding Chemical Nozzle, [3] Spanners." Illustrated. (2 copies).

8. [1910] Printed Stationery: "Hennessey-Gladding Fire Dept. Supply Co., 160 Brook Street, Providence, R.I." 3 unused sheets.

9. [1910] Printed Invoice Statement: "Hennessey-Gladding Fire Dept. Supply Co., 160 Brook Street, Providence, R.I." Unused.

10. [1910] Catalog: "John H. Clay manufacturer of Fire Department Supplies, 1320 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia." Printed self-wrappers. 12mo. 16pp., illustrated. Gladding's copy of this catalog of equipment, which includes many of his inventions. Lacks pp.3-6, most likely because they did not feature Gladding's equipment.

11. [1910] Sales Card: "The Gladding Patent Water Faucet, For Hot or Cold Water," GMC, Pawtucket, R.I. Illustrated. 2 copies, one with a pencil drawing on the back, the other with pencil annotations on the back.

12. 1915 Catalog: "Hennessey-Gladding Fire Department Supply Co., Providence, R.I." Printed self-wrappers. 12mo. 12pp., illustrated. Gladding's copy of this catalog of equipment, annotated with his notes relating to production improvements.

13. [1919] Trade card: "Gladding Manufacturing Co., Fire Apparatus, Pawtucket, R.I." With business contact information of a prospective client on the verso.

14. Two Printed Envelopes. Each with a canceled stamp, but unused: "Gladding Fire Apparatus Manufacturing Company, Providence; Gladding Manufacturing Co., Pawtucket." Correspondence and miscellaneous MSS

15. ALS, 2pp., Providence, Rhode Island: December 27, 1886, from Oscar Lapham, an attorney, answering questions about a patent on a new invention, and whether or not Gladding should begin selling same before the patent is granted.

16. ANS, 1 small sheet, Bristol, Rhode Island: November 1, 1895, from S.B. Bradford, recommending Gladding.

17. ALS, 1p., Providence, Rhode Island: [circa 1900], from Gardiner Swarts of the Rhode Island State Board of Health.

18. TLS, 1p., New York, New York: September 28, 1901, from Raymond C. Spaulding, an attorney, relating to a personal matter concerning a child of Chinese parents being unlawfully detained by a missionary.

19. TLS, 1p., Canton Junction, Massachusetts: October 23, 1901, from Joseph Katzeusteur of The C.C.C. Fire Hose Company, relating a problem with the threading on fire hydrant couplings.

20. ALS, 1 half-sheet, Boston, Massachusetts: June 2, 1904, from M.A. Judd to Albert Downing, Chairman of the Fire Board, introducing Gladding.

21. Typed Letter with name stamp, 1p., Providence, Rhode Island: August 24, 1907, from F.W. Shepard of the Fire and Water Engineering Magazine, relating to advertising for the National Convention in Washington, D.C.

22. TLS, 1 half-sheet, Brooklyn, New York: May 14, 1908, from Clinton Pedrick, an attorney, relating some legal filings.

23. TLS, 1p., Brooklyn, New York: October 26, 1909, from George A. Thormann, a distributing agent, relating to his handling of Gladding's product line.

24. TLS, 1p., Providence, Rhode Island: December 8, 1910, from J.C. Meloon of the General Fire Extinguisher Company, relating to a proposed manufacture of vises.

25. MS copy, 2pp., Providence, Rhode Island: March 28, 1912. Two incomplete, retained copy manuscripts.

26. MS copy, 1p., Poughkeepsie, New York: June 26, 1912. Retained copy manuscript of a letter to George Nagengast, Fire Chief, regarding his knowledge of a Brass Foundry in Poughkeepsie.

27. Typed Carbons, **Signed**, 2pp., August 8, 1914. Mounted on ruled paper. A copy of the minutes of the first Board of Directors meeting of the Hennessey-Gladding Fire Department Supply Company, during which the Company purchased Gladding's patents, paying him \$2500, and issued stock certificates.

28. MS copy, 1p., New York, New York: January 28, 1920. Retained copy manuscript of a letter to Willis D. Witter regarding Gladding's fire pipes and nozzles.

29. MS copy, 1p., Buffalo, New York: July 10, 1920. Retained copy manuscript of a letter to George R. Stephens regarding a catalog.

30. MS copy, 2pp., Elizabeth, New Jersey: January 17, 1921. Retained copy manuscript of a letter to Paul C. Schirbet of the Standard Oil Company regarding a past meeting and forthcoming order for equipment.

31. MS copy, 1p., Newark, New Jersey: January 17, 1921. Retained copy manuscript of a letter to R.B. Roberts of the

American Foundry Company regarding future deals with other companies.

32. MS copy, 1p., Portland, Maine: February 7, 1921. Retained copy manuscript of a letter to L.J. Coburn regarding Gladding's invention of a pump.

33. Three MS copies, 1, 4, 1pp., Fort Thomas, Kentucky: April 2, 11, and May 13, 1921. Retained copy manuscripts to Mr. M.J. Schultz relating to the manufacture of a faucet that Gladding had invented.

34. MS copy, 2pp., Providence, Rhode Island: May 24, 1921. Retained copy in Gladding's hand of a letter from F.L. Comin (?) relating to the selling of Gladding's patents.

35. MS, 5pp., [no date]. Retained copy manuscript list of "Cities and Towns that have asked me to show them a shut-off pipe which has any advantage over those which they now have in use."

36. MS, 1p. Inventory list of "Bound Newspapers."

37. Seven MS on 8½" x 11" sheets. Handwritten catalog descriptions in ink: "The new Gladding Patent Bale Shut off Hydrant Gates" (two variant copies, two sheets each), "The Gladding Patent Water Faucet Hot or Cold water" (two variant copies, one sheet each), "The Gladding Patent Chemical Nozzle," "The Gladding Patent Pipe Hook," "The new Gladding Patent Combination Shut off Pipe" (two sheets), "The Gladding Patent Chemical Nozzle/Patent Water Faucet," and "The Combination Spanner Hose Carrier and Ladder Hook."

38. Typed endorsement for Gladding's Patent Fireman's Combination Pants & Boots (one half-sheet).

39. Miscellaneous office notes, business contacts and trade cards, and newspaper clippings.
Drawings and Blueprints

40. Original mechanical drawing in pencil: "The 2½" Gladding Swivel Valve," dated July 10, 1914 (approximately 13" x 21½"). Split at the folds, stained, some chipping, else good.

41. Printed mechanical drawing: "The 2½" Gladding Swivel

Valve Details,” dated July 13, 1914 (approximately 18½" x 25").
Light spotting, scattered tears, very good.

42. Printed mechanical drawing: “The 2½" Gladding Swivel Valve Details,” dated July 14, 1914 (approximately 9½" x 13¾").

Light spotting, very good.

43. Six MS and one printed mechanical drawing, circa 1914-1916.

44. Five blueprint mechanical drawings. Various sizes, rolled, frayed and chipped at the edges, fair.

45. One large, original mechanical drawing on brown paper, rolled, frayed and a stain to one edge, good.

Fire fighting equipment

46. Two early Gladding Water Faucets, circa 1900. Galvanized

brass.

47. The Gladding Patent Combination Spanner Ladder Hook and Hose Carrier (No. 3). Patented Feb. 26, 1907. Galvanized iron, equipped with the original rope.

48. The Gladding Combination Shut-Off Pipe, circa 1915. Galvanized iron and brass. Approximately 23¾".

49. The Gladding Shut-Off Valve, circa 1915. Galvanized iron. Gladding’s most revolutionary invention, which allowed fire fighters to adjust the water pressure and force of the spray from within the pipe.

50. The Gladding Patent Water Faucet for Hot or Cold water. Patented Nov. 7, 1916. Galvanized iron (and accompanied by a wooden model of the same). [BTC#365259]