

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Special Collections**  
**Collection #001-04-03**  
**Textile Industry Labels & Ephemera**  
c.1850-c.1930

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 001-04-03

Title: Textile Industry Labels & Ephemera

Creator: Unknown

Dates: c.1850-c.1930

Quantity: ½ manuscript container, 64 items (total 0.25 linear feet)

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition: Purchased from Joslin Hall in 2019.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from bookseller.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Jessica Rogers-Cerrato in 2021.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English, Japanese, Arabic, Sino-Vietnamese, and Hausa.

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:  
*[item number], [item title], Textile Industry Labels & Ephemera, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.*

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection. Consideration of the copyrights is the responsibility of the researcher.

**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material None.

Published description Not applicable.

Location of originals Not applicable.

Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Textile industry Textile industry--United States Textile industry--Great Britain Textile industry--India Textile fabrics--Labeling Cotton textile industry Silk industry--Japan Labels Embossing (printing) Commercial art Chromolithography, Victorian Lithography  product labels embossed works (visual works) advertisements

**SEE ALSO**

Renard Silk Co. of New York, Collection of silk manufacturers' labels from China and Japan, Providence Public Library Special Collections, 741.692 R394c SpecColP Quarto.

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

This collection consists of pictorial labels used for the advertisement and sale of printed textiles, bales of cloth, and individual fabric lengths. These labels range from straightforward identification tags to detailed works of art. The illustrated labels can be anything from simple line drawings to elaborate works of late 19th and early 20th century art, both serious and whimsical. Techniques include lithography, chromolithography, embossing, and other printmaking processes.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The labels here predominantly represent textile manufacturers in the United States, England, France, India, and Japan, as well as a small number of labels from Ireland, Malawi, South Africa, Nigeria, and Vietnam, and a few miscellaneous labels and ephemera.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

The items in this collection are organized and loosely alphabetized by country using a numbering system devised by the original collector. Since the collector used the term America rather than the preferred United States, and Africa rather than specific countries, those items appear first. Where the country of origin is not known, the field is marked "Unknown." Some unknown items were identified and labeled after initial organization. Note, the collection does not contain an item number 24.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

Item	Description	Date	Country of Origin	Folder
1	Omega printed textile label. Green border with blue background. Trim and center images of playing card suits. Text reads, "Registered in Nyasaland No. 2034. Omega/Omega. Registered Trade Mark No. 129867." Dimensions: 5 x 7.5 inches	c.1920	Malawi (formerly Nyasaland)	1
2	Mamosa print label for printed textiles. Brightly colored yellow, green, and red with an image of a baby of color sitting on a red blanket in the center. Text reads, "Mamosa Print. Printed in England. For South Africa. Superiour Make, Hard Wearing." Dimensions: 5 x 7 inches	c.1920-1930	England; South Africa	1
3	Spruce Manufacturing Company label for printed textiles. Gold label with red accents. Image of a hand pressing a logo into a red wax seal. Text reads, "Spruce Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Manchester. Registered Trade Mark. Made in England." Dimensions: 4 x 5 inches	c.1920-1930	England	2
4	Nehesco printed fabrics label. Very colorful label for Nehesco Fabrics, showing a storefront window with their floral fabrics artfully arranged. Includes English and Arabic text. Dimensions: 4 x 6 inches	c.1930	England	2
5	19th century English textile or sewing supply label. Label for an unknown product by an unknown company. Pale blue with gold trim, center image of the head and bust of a woman. Text notes the size or gauge was seven and a half. The look of the label suggests cloth, thread or a similar product. Dimensions: 4 x 2.5 inches	c.1850-1860	England	2
6	Waterbury, Connecticut sewing hooks & eyes label. Label for the Waterbury Union Co.'s "Superior Hooks and Eyes." Mounted on cardboard backing; cut from the top of a notions box. Dimensions: 5 x 3.5 inches	c.1850-1860	United States	3
7	Wamsutta Textile Mills label. Label from the Wamsutta Mills in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The extensive smoke belching factory is shown in an aerial view and the lettering is filled in silver. Dimensions: 7.75 x 5.5 inches	c.1860	United States	3

8	Semples Spool Cotton lake boat scene trade card. Front of card includes an image of a 12-point buck framed in blue above a lake scene with two people on a rowboat. Some text lost on the back. Manufactured in Mount Holly, NJ. Dimensions: 2 x 3.25 inches	c.1890	United States	3
9	Anglo-American embossed gold and white textile label. A small label in white and embossed gold, showing an American banner and English flag. Dimensions: 2.25 x 3.25 inches	19th century	United States	3
10	19th century American textile label. Textile label with gold stamped medallions showing exposition medals won in Philadelphia, Dublin, London and Paris. Dimensions: 3 x 3.5 inches	19th century	United States	3
11	Mid-19th century Lancaster Prints cloth pictorial label. An engraved English cloth label featuring an image of a Roman-style soldier with spear and shield. Dimensions: 4 x 6.5 inches	c.1850-1860	England	4
12	English pictorial cloth label with image of a man weeping in a graveyard. A periwinkle-colored cloth label, with an unrelated pencil inscription on the back dated July 16, 1856. Dimensions: 4 x 5.25 inches	c.1850	England	4
13	19th century English Bishop's Lawn black and gold embossed label. Such labels were often used for textiles, but there is no space for a yard/price to be written, so the use of this label remains uncertain. Dimensions: 3 x 3 inches	19th century	England	4
14	Cumberland Mills Swiss Blankets card. Cardstock with blue lettering, includes a border with vines, trestle, and small flowers and leaves. Dimensions: 2.5 x 3.5 inches	c.1870	United States	5
15	19th century blue and gold American Eagle label. An oval-shaped embossed label with the American eagle in gold on a blue ground. Such labels were often used for textiles, but there is no space for a yard/price to be written, so the use of this label remains uncertain. Dimensions: 3 x 3.5 inches	19th century	United States	5
16	Late 19th century Statue of Liberty textile label. Illustrated with a gold embossed Statue of liberty against a blue cloudy sky background, surrounded by a border of gold-embossed leaves on a turquoise	c.1890	United States	5

	ground. Folding label. Dimensions: 3.5 x 4.5 inches			
17	19th century American gold and black embossed eagle label. Such labels were often used for textiles, but there is no space for a yard/price to be written, so the use of this label remains uncertain. At the base of the plinth there is semi-legible lettering which seems to say "Wilterry's Co. - Providence". Dimensions: 3.5 x 4 inches	19th century	United States	5
18	19th century American or English textile label with a silver deer. Label features a silver stag surrounded by floral work. Dimensions: 3.5 x 4.5 inches	19th century	United States or England	6
19	19th century golden cricket with blue trim embossed label. Oval-shaped in blue, gold, and white. Dimensions: 2.5 x 3.5 inches	19th century	United States or England	6
20	Harmony Linings American or English textile label. Printed label in red, black, cream, and gold. Text reads, "Harmony Linings. R&H. Twelve Yards. No. 13". The R&H are laid overtop a stylized letter A. Dimensions: 5 x 3 inches	c.1870	United States or England	6
21	19th century silver and blue textile label with scalloped edges. Ornate image of an eagle and lion with British and American flags. Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	19th century	United States or England	6
22	19th century engraved textile/clothing label with three race horses ridden by jockeys. Horseshoes in each top corner. Mounted on stiff paper backing, trimmed. Dimensions: 6.5 x 4.25 inches	19th century	United States or England	6
23	Label for printed textiles. Shades of red, yellow, and pale green. Center image of a seal diving into the sea. Goldenrod border features three small seals in red with red & green Art Deco designs. Dimensions: 5.5 x 7.5 inches	c.1920-1930	England	7
25	Label for printed textiles. Blue background with red and green trim. Image of a hand grasping a door knocker. Text reads, "S.M. Co. Ltd. Made in England. Registered Trade Mark No. 633510." Dimensions: 7 x 9 inches	c.1920-1930	England	7
26	French Fil au Chinois linen thread carton label. The company behind the Fil Au Chinois brand was founded by Francois-Philibert Vrau and began	c.1860	France	8

	manufacturing linen thread in Lille in 1827. The brand soared in popularity in the 1860s & 1870s. Multi-color label with caricature of a Chinese man holding a fan. Dimensions: 3.75 x 5.75 inches			
27	19th century French gold foil textile label. Features gold foil cut-out text with no backing. Text reads, "Paris Mousseline" in an elaborate script. Dimensions: 8 x 2.5 inches	19th century	France	8
28	Late 19th century French blue dye label from Bleu Fixe. Label for Bleu Fixe a la Colombine fabric dye. Gold, cream, & black. Image of a woman dressed as a harlequin. Dimensions: 3.5 x 5.5 inches	c.1890	France	8
29	19th century French Satin textile label from Sartine et Cie, Paris. A bale label with text that reads, "Satin de soie finie et profitee." Made by Sartine of Paris for West Caldwell & Co. of New York. Dimensions: 3.25 x 5 inches	19th century	France	9
30	1900s French/Vietnamese textile label. A colorful textile label for Jacquet Freres & Vially and their agents, Pachod Freres & Cie, with offices in Lyon, Saigon, and Hanoi. Image of Imperial Court center with red banners on the left and right overlaid with Sino-Vietnamese script. Dimensions: 4.5 x 6.5 inches	c.1900	France; Vietnam	9
31	Jardine Skinner of Calcutta peacock textile label. Jardine, Skinner & Co. was founded in India in 1825; through the 19th and early 20th centuries they carried out a large trade in textiles, tea, and opium. Features an image of a large peacock with a floral border. Dimensions: 4.25 x 5.25 inches	c.1920	India	10
32	Label for printed textiles. Label most likely for textiles. Red and shades of gold with some green. Features an image of two mounted elephants on hind legs on either side of a small castle. Dimensions: 4.5 x 3.5 inches	c.1920-1930	India	10
33	Label for printed textiles. Label most likely for textiles. Rectangular shape features a British soldier in a decorative uniform on horseback with a red border. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5.5 inches	c.1920-1930	India	10
34	Label for printed textiles. Label most likely for textiles. Red, yellow, and green borders, with blue notes in the corners, frame an image of a large, tusked elephant	c.1920-1930	India	10

	and some foliage. Dimensions: 4.75 x 6.5 inches			
35	Early 20th century English/Indian textile label. Brightly colored with red, blue, yellow, gold, and green. Features an image of an orange cat seated in the grasslands with palm trees in the distance. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5 inches	20th century (early)	India	11
36	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Image of a galloping horse with faint buildings along the horizon. Red and gold border. Dimensions: 4.25 x 2.5 inches	20th century (early)	India	11
37	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Image of a woman in a sarong with a cobra around her neck. She stands on a decorative carpet against a red background bordered by gold trim. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5.25 inches	20th century (early)	India	11
38	Early 20th century Indian textile Label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Features an image of two women, one seated on the ground, one standing, alongside a potted plant. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5.25 inches	20th century (early)	India	11
39	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Vibrantly colored label features an image of an Indian woman grappling with a large tiger up on its hind legs. Background shows palm trees and a small English child in a bonnet. Floral designs in the border. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5.5 inches	20th century (early)	India	12
40	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Red and gold with some blue. Image of a topless Indian woman wearing a turban seated on an ornate chair. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5.5 inches	20th century (early)	India	12
41	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Shades of green, yellow, red, and pale blue. Image of a woman in a sarong with arm outstretched. Dimensions: 2.5 x 5.5 inches	20th century (early)	India	12
42	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Features an image of a textile mill above a small seal	20th century (early)	India	12

	with an anchor on it between two anthropomorphic lions. Large flowers on either side. Stylized sparrows in each top corner. Dimensions: 3.75 x 5 inches			
43	Label for Jivas Yarns. Shades of red, green, yellow, and blue. Features a lion and an elephant engaged in tug of war. Text reads, "Haji Jiva Haji Khamisa & Co. Madras. Jivas Yarn. Made in England." Dimensions: 6.5 x 5 inches	c.1920-1930	India; England	13
44	Early 20th century Indian textile label for the English trade. Unmarked label, most likely for textiles. Image of three ostriches gathered together. Palm trees and the ocean are visible on the horizon. Dimensions: 5.5 x 4 inches	20th century (early)	India	13
45	Linen factory label of Watson, Armstrong, & Co. from Portadown, Ireland. The Edenderry Factory of this well known firm is pictured on the label. Removed from a scrapbook with glue points on the back corners. Dimensions: 5.5 x 4 inches	19th century	Ireland	14
46	Fukushima, Japan, Kakeda silk label. Image of a rising sun surrounded by cranes. Bottom half of the border features curling waves while the top half depicts clouds. Text reads, "Genuine Kakeda Silk. Yamaki Shiokichi. Fukashima. Province of Iwashiro. Japan." Smaller banner below of Japanese script. Dimensions: 5 x 3.5 inches	c. 1870	Japan	15
47	Japanese raw silk label from Toyoseishi Co. Ltd. Label depicts an illustration of a stork in flight and beside a rising sun. Text includes "Storkchop." Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	15
48	Japanese raw silk label from Sanriu-sha Co. Ltd. Label for Japanese Kin Ryu raw silk featuring an illustration of a dragon and a hawk. Shades of green and silver with some yellow and faded border in silver. Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	15
49	Raw silk label from Oishidaseshi & Co. of Uzen, Japan. Label features an image of two golden pigeons surrounded by a garland of berries and leaves. Green and gold with a geometric border in gold. Dimensions: 2.75 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	16
50	Japanese raw silk Label from Katakura & Co. Ltd. Label text notes, "Filature Raw Silk. Autumn." Image of a grey Poplar tree leaf overlaid with monogrammed	c.1920	Japan	16



	letters "U" and "S." Shades of grey with a touch of red. Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches			
51	Raw silk label from Maajiro Seishiba of Iyo, Japan. Bright yellow background with a grey crest, featuring a monogrammed M, and red silk cords with tassels. Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	16
52	Japanese raw silk label from Okayakan Kikaiseishi Co. Pale green label features a scroll design and an illustration of orange autumnal leaves. Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	16
53	Japanese raw silk label for Kikaiseishi Kyoseigumi of Joshu. Pale green and bronze featuring an illustration of a nut and leaves. Stamped with the word "Autumn." Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	17
54	Japanese raw silk label for Higuchiseishijyo of Uzen. Label features a yellow background with an illustration of a golden peacock. Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	17
55	Japanese raw silk label for Murakisha of Mino. Label features a green background with an illustration of a large letter "M." Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	17
56	Japanese raw silk label for Katakura & Co. Ltd. Label features an illustration of a large lion. Text reads, "Filature Raw Silk. Spring." Dimensions: 3 x 4 inches	c.1920	Japan	17
57	Label for Rainbow Print printed textiles. A colorful textile bale label featuring three figures on a beach beside a palm tree looking up at a rainbow. Dimensions: 5 x 6.25 inches	c.1930	Unknown	18
58	Challenge Cotton label for printed textiles. Label features a decorative soldier on horseback with a raised sword. Text reads, "Superior Quality Cotton Goods. Challenge. Made in England." Dimensions: 4.5 x 6.25 inches	c.1920-1930	England	18
59	Label for Ariadne printed textiles. A red, blue, and gold textile bale label featuring an image of Ariadne leaning on a leopard. It was Ariadne who gave Theseus a ball of thread (or yarn) to help him find his way in the Labyrinth while battling the Minotaur. Dimensions: 4.5 x 6 inches	c.1920-1930	Unknown	18

60	Label for Warrior printed textiles. A textile bale label featuring an elaborate image of a knight in armour on a white horse with a castle in the distance. Dimensions: 5.75 x 8 inches	c.1920-1930	Unknown	18
61	Label for printed textiles. A yellow, green, and red label with an image of a leopard in a tree escaping a forest fire. Includes text in Hausa (Nigeria) and Arabic. Dimensions: 6 x 8 inches	c.1920	Nigeria	18
62	Label for "Cap" brand Real Indigo Prints. A textile bale label with a red and gold border. Orange background with a black and white plaid flat cap (scally cap). Dimensions: 5.75 x 5 inches	c.1920	British Isles (?)	18
63	Label for textiles or fabric. Unique and ornate textile label with an elaborate border in gold, white, and teal. Center features a detailed Victorian coastal scene. Dimensions: 10.5 x 3.5 inches	19th century	Unknown	18
64	Black silk finished velveteen shop card. A shop display card for "Patent Silk Finish'd Velveteen. The Popular Shade of Black for Ladies Costumes." Gold, red, black, and white with a geometric border and a star in the center surrounded by a gold "U" shape. Dimensions: 7 x 9.5 inches	c.1860	Unknown	18