

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Rhode Island Collection**  
**003-04-03**  
**Corset Advertising Collection**  
**1880s-1900s**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 003-04-03

Title: Corset Advertising Collection

Creator: Unknown

Dates: 1880s-1900s, bulk 1880s

Quantity: 1 box (0.5 linear feet)

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition: Purchased 2017.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from collector.

Processed by: The collection was processed in 2017 by Claire Uziel.

Conservation: None.

Language: Materials are in English.

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Collection department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:  
*[item title], Corset Advertising Collection, Rhode Island Collection, Providence Public Library.*

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**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material None.

Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Corsets Corset industry Advertising Advertising cards Business cards Advertising, Magazine Advertising specialties Novelties Fashion--History Advertising--Fashion Fashion--History

**SEE ALSO**

002-03-04, Rhode Island advertising trade card collection

003-04-02, Soapine trading card collection

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

Corsets, or upper-body undergarments which tightened to shape the torso, have been fashion garments for hundreds of years. However, the corset of the mid to late 19th century is now considered stereotypical. During this period, the corset was a fabric undergarment stiffened with boning and tightened with laces in order to give the female wearer an hourglass figure. During the 19th century, boning was usually made using baleen. By the 20th century, baleen was replaced by light steel or plastic boning.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection include advertising material for corsets and related items during the late 19th to early 20th centuries. Items include advertising trade cards, magazine advertisements, novelty items, and business cards.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

Arranged in four series and alphabetically by product brand within each series.

Series I. Magazine Advertisements (one folder)

Series II. Trade Cards (one folder)

Series III. Novelty Items (four folders)

Series IV. Business Cards (one folder)

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### Series I: Magazine Advertisements

Item	Title	Date	Folder
01	Color illustration of a woman being tied into a Bon Ton corset	n.d.	1
02	"Ferris Waist Good Sense"	c. 1900	1
03	"Kabo Corsets have no brass eyelets", illustration of woman looking out window, <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i>	1904 March	1
04	"Kabo Corsets have no brass eyelets", reproduction of painting of woman, <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i>	1904 September	1
05	"R & G Corsets / Better Than Ever"	n.d.	1
06	"Thompson's 'Glove-fitting' Corsets", art-nouveau floral illustration, <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i>	1904 April	1
07	"Thompson's 'Glove-fitting' Corsets", art-nouveau floral illustration	1904	1
08	"Thompson's 'Glove-fitting' Corsets", art-nouveau styling	1904	1
09	"Warner's Rust-proof corsets -- Every Pair Guaranteed"	n.d.	1

### Series II: Trade Cards

Item	Title and location of advertising retail business	Date	Folder
10	Alaska Down Bustles, Rome, NY	n.d.	2
11	Ball's Circle Hip Skating Corsets, featuring woman roller skating, Lowell, MI	n.d.	2
12	Ball's Coiled Spring Elastic Section Corsets, featuring woman holding flag, New York, NY	n.d.	2
13	"Cupid whispers 'Balls Corsets are the best. Wear none other.' And so say the medical fraternity", Antwerp, NY	n.d.	2
14	Ball's Health Preserving Corset, featuring woman on horseback, Saratoga Springs, NY	n.d.	2
15	Ball's Health Preserving Corset, featuring two vignettes, Jackson, MI	n.d.	2

16	Ball's Health Preserving Corset, featuring woman standing at table, Haverhill, MA	n.d.	2
17	"Ball's Health Preserving Corset is the best in the world", featuring three girls and two dogs, Hudson, MI	n.d.	2
18	Celluloid Corset Clasps, Troy, NY	n.d.	2
19	Chicago Corset Company, New Haven, CT	c. 1885	2
20	"Downs' Self-Adjusting Corset is the best", Earlville, IL	n.d.	3
21	Downs Self Adjusting Corset, featuring woman and cherub	n.d.	3
22	"I feel comfortable in the Down's Self Adjusting Corset", featuring woman reclining in chair. Allegan, MI	n.d.	3
23	The Downs Self-Adjusting Corset, featuring woman in traditional German attire, Muncie, IN	n.d.	3
24	Adjustable Duplex Corset, Skowhegan, ME	n.d.	3
25	Duplex Corset, New York, NY	c. mid-1880s	3
26	Ehrich Magic Clasp Corset, New York, NY	n.d.	3
27	Eureka Health Corset, Nashua, NH	n.d.	3
28	Extension Corset	n.d.	3
29	F.C. Corset, Fort Plain, NY	n.d.	3
30	G.D. Chicago Waist, Hammond, Indiana	n.d.	4
31	Genuine Jackson Corset Waist, Redwood Falls, MN	n.d.	4
32	Genuine Jackson Corset Waist, Barnesville, OH	n.d.	4
33	"Kabo Corsets have no brass eyelets", photo colortype, Chicago, IL/New York, NY	n.d.	4
34	Quilted Side Corset, Fort Plain, NY	n.d.	4
35	"R & C Corsets are the best", Salem, MA	n.d.	4
36	Spirella consultation	n.d.	4
37	Doctor and Madame Strong's Corsets, Haverhill, MA	n.d.	4

38	Dr. Strong's "Tricora" Corset, Boston, MA	n.d.	4
39	Langdon & Batcheller's Genuine Thomson's "Glove-Fitting"	1897	4
40	Thomson's Patent Glove-Fitting, depicts trio from <i>The Mikado</i> holding corsets, Utica, NY	1886	4
41	Thomson's Patent Glove-Fitting Corsets, St. Louis, MO	n.d.	5
42	Dr. Warner's Coraline Corset, featuring illustration of corset full of plants, Utica, NY	n.d.	5
43	Dr. Warner's Coraline corset, featuring a girl ripping paper off an illustration of a cherub in a corset, Gloversville, NY	n.d.	5
44	"Rose Temple as Patience always wears Warner Bro's Coraline Corsets", Sherman, NY	n.d.	5
45	"Warner Bros Coraline Corsets, the last aesthetic crazy", Sherman, NY	n.d.	5
46	"Blissful dreams assured by using Warner Bros Coraline Corsets", Sherman, NY	n.d.	5
47	"Minnie Hauk uses Warner Bros Coraline Corsets", Keene, NH	n.d.	5
48	Warner Bro's Coraline, featuring cherubs taking using a camera aimed at a corset in a garden, Avoca, NY	n.d.	5
49	Warner Bro's Coraline, featuring cherubs making a painting of a cherub inside a corset, Williamsport, PA	n.d.	5
50	Madame Williamson's Combination Health Corset	n.d.	5
51	Yatise Corset	n.d.	5

### Series III: Novelty Items

Item	Title and location of advertising retail business	Date	Folder
52	Adjustable Duplex Corset side-fold card	n.d.	6
53	Ball's Health Preserving Corsets "measuring tape"	1880	6
54	Cooley's Globe Corset metamorphic card, Ballston Spa, NY	n.d.	6
55	Cooley's Cork Corset metamorphic card, Brooklyn, NY and New York, NY	n.d.	6

56	Duplex Corset die-cut of woman in sitting in a rocking chair	n.d.	6
57	Kabo Corsets paper doll, Jamestown, NY	n.d.	6
58	Dr. Warner's Coraline Corset Calendar, die-cut in corset shape, Delphi, IN	1890	6
59	Dr. Warner's Coraline Corset single-fold pamphlet, die-cut in corset shape, NY	n.d.	6
60	Warner's Rust-Proof Corsets pocket calendar	1920	6
61	Square card with illustration of closet holdings (women's garments, rolls of fabric, parasols, etc.)	n.d.	6

#### Series IV: Business Cards

Item	Title and location of advertising retail business	Date	Folder
62	"The Hall Reliable" Custom Made Corset, Miss Fannie Mott, Providence, RI	n.d.	7
63	"Mme. McCabe's No. 4 Corset Waist" card with place for agent's name	n.d.	7