

# **Finding aid for the Bos Leather Company records Collection 079**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

July 1988

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	Bos Leather Company records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1905-1967
<b>Extent</b>	2.17 Linear feet Five boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Bos Leather Company was formed in 1909 in Grand Rapids, Michigan by Sidney (originally Sietse) J. Bos (1878-1941), a Dutch immigrant. The Bos firm specialized in shoe making, but also manufactured a limited amount of other leather products, such as briefcases. The Bos Leather Company records document the financial history of the firm, including inventory records from 1909 to 1967. Monthly sales records are included from the mid-1930s until 1967. A sample of trade publications and supplier's publications is included, though these are from national or international companies, not Grand Rapids firms.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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The Bos Leather Company was formed in 1909 by Sidney (originally Sietse) J. Bos (1878-1941), a Dutch immigrant. Bos worked as a sales agent for Hirth, Krause & Co., a leading Grand Rapids, Michigan shoe wholesaler, until he formed his own firm. The firm was first located at 744 Wealthy Ave, moved to 35 Ionia Ave in 1922 and finally to 21 Ottawa Ave in 1940. In 1928 his son, Cornelius J. Bos (1905-1982) joined the firm as a sales manager. Later his other son, John Sidney Bos, also joined the firm. The two brothers took over control of the company during the 1930s. They continued the firm until 1979 when they sold it to Joseph and Robert Flood. The Floods closed the company in 1981.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The records consist of monthly sales records divided according to sales agent and product category. The data is summarized in the monthly sales tax reports and trail balances. The inventories provide a detailed listing of merchandise and equipment on hand at the end of each year. Both the sales reports and inventories are noteworthy for the long, unbroken runs.

The publications provide a sampling of information on several topics such as foot care and design, shoe making equipment and tools, and shoe making supplies. A noteworthy catalog in the supplies section is "Schafer's Black Beauty Harness" catalog of horse harnesses. This section also contains reports from national trade organizations. Finally this section contains the 1941 Encyclopedia of the Shoe and Leather Industry, which provides detailed insight into the leather and tanning industry as well as an indication of advertising in the industry

The firm specialized in shoe-making, but also manufactured a limited amount of other leather products, such as briefcases. The records chiefly document sales and inventory levels during the company life, 1909-1969. Never a large operation, the firm had annual sales of approximately \$120,00 during the 1960s.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department July 1988

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Cornelius J. Bos and J. Sidney Bos, 20 September 1979. Accession number 1986.201.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Collection 232: Grand Rapids Public Library trade catalog collection

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Bos, Sidney J, 1878-1941

### **Subject(s)**

- Business Enterprises -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids Region
- Business records -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Leather industry and trade -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Series I. Financial Records, 1909-67.

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I. Financial Records, 1909-67.</b>		
<b>Weekly Sales Reports</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1936-1954.	1	1-19
1955-1957.	2	1-3
<b>Inventories</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1909-1912	3	1
1913-1916.	3	2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
1918-1923.	3	1
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1924	3	3
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>

**Series II. Publications, 1905-33, n.d.**

1925-1929.	3	2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1930-1934.	3	4
1935-1956.	4	1-5
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Trial Balances, 1936-1943.	2	4
Monthly Sales Tax Reports, 1940-1967.	2	5-7
<b>Series II. Publications, 1905-33, n.d.</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
The Retail Shoe Dealer's Advertiser, vols. ii, xxv, xxvi, n.d.	4	2
Shoe Trade Journal, 1905.	4	2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Encyclopedia of the Shoe and Leather Industry, 1941.	4	3
<b>Foot Aids, n.d. (4 items, 12/15/2001)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Foot Relief Manual / by Dr. Wm. M. Scholl. Chicago : Scholl Mfg. Co., n.d.	5	1

## Trade Catalogs, Machinery, including sewing and stitching machines (10 ite...

Dr. Scholl's Foot Comfort Remedies and Sundries. ... 1940.	5	1
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Dr. Scholl's Foot Comfort Remedies and Arch Supports, Cat. #142, 1943.	5	1
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Nat. School of Orthopraxy of the Foot, St. Louis, 1930. Incl. Back page Certificate of Enrollment for John Sidney Bos, Mar. 1934 and Letter to J.S. Bos, Mar. 13, 1934 from Wizard Co. accompanying.	5	1
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**Trade Catalogs, Machinery, including sewing and stitching machines (10 item, 12/15/2001)**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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List of parts / Singer, No. 29-4	2	2
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Price list of machines/ Laing, Harrar & Chamberlin. Philadelphia, 1939.	2	2
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Price list of Parts, Durkopp No. 3, Rotary Shuttle (2), n.d.	2	2
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Landis No. 12, Model F, Sticher, Instruction Book and Parts Catalog. St. Louis, 1950 (2)	2	2
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Tools – Shoe Findings, Leathers / Joseph Jones Co., n.d. (leather samples)	2	2
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Bradbury & Co. A1 Repairing Machine / Dunlap Machinery Co., N.Y., ca. 1901?	2	2
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Instructions Gritzner Sole Sticher. Durlach, Germany. + “Guarantee” w image of Gritzner Machine Co.	2	2
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## Trade Catalogs, Machinery, G.R.

(German) Anleitung zum Gebrauche der Circular-Elastic-Schuhmacher-Nahmaschine n.d.	2	2
Rolling Step Ladders for Stores / The bicycle Step Ladder Co., Chicago. Cat. No. 28, n.d.	2	2
<b>Trade Catalogs, Machinery, G.R.</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Directions for Operating the Perfecto, Shoe Repairing Machine / Ben Krause Co., G.R., importers & sole agents for the U.S. n.d. [Dickinson Bros. Illustrations]	5	2.5
<b>Trade Catalogs, Machinery, 1938, 1950, n.d. (4 items, 12/15/2001)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
USMC (United Shoe Machinery Corp.) binder	5	3
Champion "5" Stitchers	5	3
Champion "30" Stitchers	5	3
Osborne Tools, Cat. No. 4. + yellow price sheets	5	3
Trade Catalogs, Supplies,(6 items, 12/15/2001)	5	4
Shoe finders Supply Co. Price List ... 1927	5	4

## Trade Catalogs, Supplies, G.R.

Shoe finders Supply Co. Price List ... 1928	5	4
Shoe finders Supply Co. Price List ... 1930 [missing and cut pages, 11-18	5	4
Shoe Store Supplies for all the year round / P.H. Volk & Co., 1933 cat.	5	4
Star Heel Plate Co., Cat. No. 16	5	4
K.Kaplan Sons & Co., leather and shoe supplies. 1937.	5	4
<b>Trade Catalogs, Supplies, G.R.</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Hirth-Krause Co., Tanners, G.R., Catalog 1923, Onderdonk Printing Co., G.R.	5	4.5
<b>Trade Catalogs, Supplies, (5 items, 12/15/2001)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
USMC (United Shoe Machinery Corp. Shoe Factory Supplies for Shoe Repairing, n.d. [pg. 70 cut, + 2 loose items]	5	5
Hatters Supply House, Chicago. Catalog "O", 1948.	5	5
Schafer's Black Beauty Harness, Cat. No. 18, Decatur, In. n.d. + 2 Lamac's Shoe-Sole Preparer sheets w handwritten notes	5	5

## Trade Catalogs, Supplies, 1922-23, n.d. (1 items, 12/15/2001)

Bedard Equipment, Minneapolis. + 1923 Price List	5	5
Bernard Shoe Repair Tools, Sargent & Co., n.d.	5	5
<b>Trade Catalogs, Supplies, 1922-23, n.d. (1 items, 12/15/2001)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Wholesale Leather and Shoe Store Supplies / Thompson Ehlers Co., Chicago, 1922-23	5	6
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Dr. Hunt's Corn Remover / prepared by Am. Chemical Co., Urbana, Ohio. [broadside], n.d.	5	7
Afbeeldingenboek der Firma Friedr. Herder Abr. Sohn. Solingen, n.d. [hardbound trade catalog in German, for cutting tools]	5	8