

**Title:** Milwaukee Gas Light Company Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-1852

**Inclusive Dates:** 1857 – 2008

**Quantity:** 0.7 cu. ft.

**Location:** LM, Sh. 098  
MV, F33 and F35

**Abstract:** The Milwaukee Gas Light Company was established in 1852 to light the streets of Milwaukee. Soon after that, the company began offering domestic lighting services to the public as well. In 1904 the company built its West Side Gas Plant to support its growing services. Designed by architect Alexander Eschweiler, the Richardsonian Romanesque building housed retort furnaces to super-heat coal into gas that is then stored in gasometers and piped throughout the city overnight. When the need for manufactured gas ended in the 1950's the West Side Gas Plant was purchased by a trucking company, who removed all of the historic windows, and added a raised floor to aid in truck loading and unloading.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of historical notes/published histories, newsletters, miscellaneous publications, annual reports, cookbooks and other ephemera.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:** The collection was processed by Nick Neylon, Dec. 1992.

**Arrangement:**

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
Scrapbook <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- written histories of Milwaukee Gas Light Co. 1852-1920</li><li>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Fire 1892</li><li>- newsletters <i>The Watch Tower</i> 1935</li><li>- drawings and maps of gas works</li></ul>	1	1
Scrapbook <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Wisconsin Eastern Gas Company: Forms, Data, &amp; Information for Extension Program 1927</li><li>- Booklets<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o <i>The Story of Gas</i> 1919</li><li>o <i>Rail &amp; Wire</i> May 1950</li><li>o <i>Prices Charged for Gas</i> 1885-1907</li></ul></li><li>- maps of service area and property of Milw. Gas Light Co. 1905, 1951</li></ul>	1	2
Misc. items	1	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- notes on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Works 1881-1906, 1948</li> <li>- diagram of management</li> <li>- notebook of short history of Milwaukee Gas Light Co. by H. L. Palmer</li> <li>- stock sheets</li> <li>- articles from <i>The Watch Tower</i> 1935</li> <li>- magazine <i>Gas News</i> 1953</li> <li>- news clipping 1935, 1949 Strike</li> </ul>		
<p>Misc. items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- notebook with centennial history of the company</li> <li>- booklet "Facts Relating to the Use of Gas for Manufacturing Purposes" 1904</li> <li>- Milwaukee Gas Co. ad from <i>The Illustrated Easter News</i>, 1896</li> <li>- Gas bill, 1897</li> <li>- Gas bill from Fifth Ward Gas Light Company, 1860</li> <li>- Diagrams of Third Ward Gas Works</li> <li>- Copy of lithograph of Third Ward Gas Works</li> <li>- Table for lighting and extinguishing street lamps, 1896</li> <li>- Ewald Haase/R.B. Brown award dinner menu, 1939</li> </ul>	1	4
<i>Milwaukee Journal</i> newspaper 1949 with article on natural gas (special edition, see MV, F33)	1	5
Certificate and by-laws 1857	1	6
<p>Cookbooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holiday Foods 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cookbook (2 copies)</li> <li>- Holiday Foods, n.d.</li> <li>- Festive Foods (4 issues)</li> <li>- Holiday cookbook covers from 1933-1972</li> <li>- Christmas cookies cookbook covers from 1932-2007 (CD included)</li> </ul>	1	7
Annual reports 1945-1949	2	8
"The Development of the Milwaukee Gas Light Company" 1940	2	9
100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet (3 copies, 2 editions)	2	10
"The Effect of Natural Gas into the State of Wisconsin" c. 1940 (produced by a group opposed to the introduction of natural gas to Wisconsin)	2	11
Miscellaneous	2	12
<b>OVERSIZE ITEM</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	
Christmas book of prose and poetry distributed at Christmas Party 1947	MV, F35	
<i>Milwaukee Journal</i> , November 27, 1949	MV, F33	