Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: British Patents Collection
Dates: 1841-1853
Identification: SC/BPC
Physical Description: 1.56 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections

Abstract: The collection consists of documents related to the process of acquiring patents in the United Kingdom in 19th century. Items include a patent specification written by Alfred Vincent Newton in 1853 for an “Improved Sewing Machine,” and a copy of a patent issued to Oliver Louis Reynolds in 1840 for a “Certain Improvement on Machinery for Producing Stocking Fabric or Framework Knitting.”

Genre/Form of Material:
Paper records

Processing Information:
Jessica Geiser, 2014

Conditions Governing Use:
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Conditions Governing Access:
The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.

Scope and Contents
The British Patents Collection consists of documents related to the process of acquiring patents in the United Kingdom in 19th century. In order to acquire a patent in the United Kingdom, the inventor first must put a detailed description of their invention into the public domain through what is called a patent specification. The inventor is then granted a patent by the government providing them the right to prevent others from exploiting their invention for a limited period of time. Items in the collection include a patent specification written by Alfred Vincent Newton in 1853 for an “Improved Sewing Machine,” and a copy of a patent issued to Oliver Louis Reynolds in 1840 for a “Certain Improvement on Machinery for Producing Stocking Fabric or Framework Knitting.”

Box 1, Item 1

Box 1, Item 2
Copy of Patent Granted to Oliver Louis Reynolds on November 4th, 1840 for a “Certain Improvement on Machinery for Producing Stocking Fabric or Framework Knitting,” 1841 January 4