



Press Kit

Updated November 2024

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Project Components

Philadelphia Revealed

Visit the Exhibition. Listen to the Podcast. Share Your Story.

Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic

An exhibition of the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University

On view at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), 118-128 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia
July 18, 2024–**April 6, 2025 (NOW EXTENDED)**

philadelphiahistory.org/philadelphiarevealed / pafa.org/museum/exhibitions

Curated by Page Talbott, PhD, Stacey Swigart, and Melissa Clemmer, Drexel University Lenfest Center for Cultural Partnerships

The Philadelphia Revealed Podcast

Series premiere July 10, 2024

why.org/philadelphiarevealed

Produced by WHY and hosted by Jamie J. Brunson of First Person Arts

Tom Grahslar and Jamie J. Brunson, Executive Producers;

Alex Lewis and John Myers, Rowhome Productions Executive Producers

Public programs presented by First Person Arts

firstpersonarts.org

Description

Philadelphia Revealed is an exhibition, a podcast, and a platform for anyone to add their story to Philadelphia history.

Visit the Exhibition

The exhibition, *Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic*, is a large, interactive display of over 600 authentic objects, telling the story of Philadelphia's city history collection. Inspiring pride in our great city, this major exhibition reflects 350 years of Philly history. The exhibition highlights the strengths of the [Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University](#) (former Philadelphia History Museum), including material representing the Atwater Kent Museum's **earliest acquisitions, eclectic collections it absorbed, national celebrations, development of the city and civic history, Philly sports, salvaged material and relics, manufacturing and retail, and art and music**. The Collection grew over 80 years to encompass an array of Philadelphia stories: objects reflect the city's diverse residents and their contributions over three centuries. Along with 600+ artifacts, the exhibition includes hundreds more historical images as well as multimedia and hands-on elements.

Visit [PAFA](#) for admission prices, hours, and information. The exhibition will be FREE on four special days: Thursday, **September 26**; Friday, **September 27**; Sunday, **October 6**; and Sunday, **November 24**, 2024. (Also check website for discounted/free admission programs, including free admission with a valid Drexel ID.)



Share Your Story

Visitors to the exhibition can find and share their own stories through an **interactive game** developed by First Person Arts. Philadelphia history is still being told. Philadelphia Revealed aims to find out what these objects mean to all of us. [First Person Arts](#) is a nonprofit organization that believes everyone has a story to tell. We tell them in different ways, but they are all part of our collective history. Visitors of all ages can pick a booklet—with three storytelling themes to choose from—that will guide them to find and tell their story. At the end, they can add it to the First Person Arts story archives.

Public Programs: First Person Arts will also facilitate two free public programs at PAFA: Saturday evening, **September 14**, and a Family Arts Academy workshop Sunday, **October 6**, 2024.

PAFA will host additional [Education](#) programs and [Events](#) in conjunction with *Philadelphia Revealed*.



Listen to the Podcast

Visitors can hear other Philadelphians' stories through *The Philadelphia Revealed Podcast*, produced by WHYY in partnership with Rowhome Productions. Hosted by Jamie J. Brunson of First Person Arts, each episode features a new storyteller highlighting an object from the exhibition and sharing their own story inspired by it. A turnstile from Veterans Stadium, a hat worn by Abraham Lincoln, handcuffs that may have held abolitionist John Brown—these are just a few of the treasures highlighted. We think everyone will be able to see themselves in the Collection—and that learning about Philadelphia's many histories can help us understand its present...and future. The first episode comes out **July 10, 2024**. (Find it on Apple, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.)

Digital Projects: Drexel Student Involvement

The *Philadelphia Revealed* exhibition includes three digital projects developed by Digital Media students in Drexel's Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, supervised by Nick Jushchynshyn.

1. **Centennial Diary:** Visitors can read onscreen excerpts of a young woman's diary of visiting the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, illustrated with historical images from the Collection—including stereo views on a 3D tablet. The diary author, who became Dr. Frances Allen De Ford, graduated from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania—a predecessor of Drexel University College of Medicine.
2. **Jacket of Neil Benson with 749 Pin-back Buttons:** Visitors can interact with a 3D-scanned digital version of this jacket (original also on display) of photographer and community activist Neil Benson and explore some of the causes represented. Benson worked as a photojournalist in Philadelphia 1970-2000, and the Collection includes 30,000+ of his photos, many in the exhibition.
3. **Virtual Hat Try On:** Visitors can "try on" with an Instagram filter a selection of hats from the Collection—part of the city's manufacturing history—including a velvet pillbox hat made by Drexel alum Lauralou Courtney Bates (BS Home Economics '46, MS '48).

Exhibition Introduction & Selected Text

Philadelphia Revealed: Unpacking the Attic

The Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University

Welcome! All the items in this exhibition are from the Atwater Kent Collection (AKC)—formerly the Philadelphia History Museum. Many have never been on display. Drexel is opening access to the Collection, a public cultural resource, through exhibits and programs, planning for future lending, and an Online Collection database.

This Collection has been called “Philadelphia’s attic.” It grew over decades, “rescuing” the city’s material culture from defunct collecting institutions, organizations whose missions changed, closed businesses, and individuals and families. The accumulated Collection was not curated by design—but grew to encompass an array of Philadelphia stories. These objects can lead to new understanding of Philadelphia’s many histories—and its present. Expect some surprises about the city you thought you knew.

While the Collection is rich with thousands of different types and groups of material, there are also gaps, which themselves can be meaningful: What was not saved or collected? Drexel intends to add material that helps tell missing, new, and more complex stories.

Section 1:

A Museum is Born: The Atwater Kent Museum (1939–2018)

The Atwater Kent Museum (AKM), founded in 1938 and opened to the public in 1939, was Philadelphia’s city history museum for nearly 80 years. It was housed in an elegant Greek Revival structure on 7th Street (which had served as the home of the Franklin Institute from 1826-1933). To save the historic building from becoming a parking lot, Mayor Samuel Davis Wilson and the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks reached out to A. Atwater Kent Sr., inventor and radio pioneer.

Kent purchased the site and gave it to the City to house a museum dedicated to the history of Philadelphia. The new Museum featured a variety of historical artifacts borrowed from several local institutions, along with early purchases related to Philadelphia and American history—prints, landscapes, and maritime materials. Some of the earliest acquisitions are featured here.

Section 2:

A Collection of Collections

Throughout Philadelphia’s history, institutions of all kinds have come and gone—hotels, businesses, civic organizations, museums—under a variety of circumstances. When a collecting institution is shuttered, there is generally a question of what to do with the items housed there. The Atwater Kent acquired objects from many museums that closed or organizations that revised their mission.

Among these collections the Museum acquired over the decades—in their entirety or selectively—are items from the little-known Long’s Museum and Hotel, Edwin Forrest Home, Commercial (Civic Center) Museum, Wurts House, and of particular importance the “museum collection” of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania—including the former Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Examples of objects acquired from these and other institutions are on display here.

Section 3:

The Centennial, Sesquicentennial, and Bicentennial City

Boom or Bust: Celebrating America’s Birthday

Given Philadelphia’s central role in the founding of the United States, it is no surprise the city was the main venue for celebrating our country’s major anniversaries. Philadelphia is now preparing for the next major celebration: the Semiquincentennial—250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—in 2026.

The nation celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1876 with the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park, the first full-scale world’s fair held in the United States. With nearly 10 million visitors, the Centennial was the most financially successful of these anniversaries. Other celebrations followed in 1926 and 1976.

For each of these three major events, souvenirs of every type were created, images printed and painted, books published, records kept. The Atwater Kent Museum received large collections and individual and unusual commemorative items. A variety are displayed here.

Section 4:

Philadelphia: A City of Firsts

Philadelphia, known as the birthplace of the United States, was where the Founders convened, deliberated, and established a new nation. Thankfully, much of Philadelphia’s rich history has been carefully preserved for 21st-century visitors.

A city’s essence encompasses its downtown areas, architectural landmarks, transportation networks, major institutions, places of worship, and more. While many of Philadelphia’s

prominent features are relatively modern, a significant portion of its infrastructure traces back to the early 1800s, rooted in William Penn's visionary plan from 1682.

A pivotal aspect of Philadelphia is its strategic location, both geographically and in terms of access to natural and man-made resources. The Atwater Kent Collection showcases many artifacts representing transportation's evolution, spanning from early water-based travel to railroads, public transit, the expansion of highways, and the airport.

Moreover, public utilities have played a crucial role in Philadelphia's infrastructure since the early 1800s. The historic Fairmount Water Works, for instance, was once part of the most advanced water system in the nation. Additionally, the city made significant strides in innovation, establishing the first municipally owned natural gas distribution company in 1836. Philadelphia also led the way in firefighting techniques, prison reform, the development of civic institutions, and political activism.

Section 5:

“It’s a Philly Thing”: Sports in Philadelphia

In the world of sports, Philadelphia fans have earned a reputation for their fervent enthusiasm. Over the decades, they have passionately supported both winners and losers, expressing their emotions through boos and cheers in equal measure.

Baseball holds a special place in the heart of the city. From its inception to its evolution into a professional league, and from hosting the first-ever National League game to early World Series events, Philadelphia has played a significant role in shaping baseball history. The city’s first team was the Olympic club, established in 1831, followed by the formation of the Athletic Base Ball Club (Philadelphia Athletics) in 1860. Moreover, Philadelphia epitomized the importance of Negro League baseball within urban communities. Unfortunately—so far—the Atwater Kent Collection contains only one artifact from any of these important sports teams.

Starting from the 1950s, the Philadelphia Eagles dominated the city’s sports scene, garnering a dedicated fan base that packed the stadium every week. Fans passionately rode the emotional rollercoaster of every gridiron triumph and setback, mirroring the fierce play on the field with their irrepressible enthusiasm in the stands.

No matter the sport, Philadelphia has boasted impressive tournaments, matches, regattas, and championships—including tennis, cricket, fencing, archery, golf, track and field, boxing, cycling, rowing—all of which are represented in the Collection.

Section 6:

One Person’s Trash is Another Person’s Treasure: Salvaged Materials & Relics

Historical artifacts survive through a variety of circumstances, some deliberate, others not so much. The survival of any object includes an element of chance and luck.

Historical materials found in the trash or on a curbside, for example, are described as salvage. By comparison, relics can be treasured fragments or evocative material, rescued from oblivion and preserved as reverential objects. In the Atwater Kent Collection, both categories are well represented.

Salvaged items include scrapbooks, store signs, historical items recovered from archaeological or river-dredging projects, ephemera, litter—collected randomly by people who appreciated the historical value of these items.

Relics may include small pieces of wood from historic sites, locks of hair from loved ones, and objects associated with important people.

Section 7:

A Premier Manufacturing Center: Philadelphia 1850–1920

Diversity, specialization, waterways, skill: all reasons Philadelphia thrived as a premier manufacturing center through the early 1900s. From the outset, Philadelphia’s products—textiles, furniture, glassware, tools, clothing, ironwork—were known for their high quality. Rather than compete with mass production, which boomed in the Midwest in the mid-1800s, Philadelphia entrepreneurs continued to stress “custom work” that stood out in comparison to the products of the assembly line.

The Atwater Kent Collection contains prime examples of Philadelphia’s premier products, many from once-preeminent factories no longer in business, like Atwater Kent radios, Disston tools, Quaker Lace, and Buten Paint. Their legacy of high-quality manufacturing is on display here.

Section 8:

From Department Stores to Select Boutiques: Philadelphia’s Retail Businesses Thrived

Thanks to the bustling Delaware River port, Philadelphians had access to merchandise of every sort from the 1700s onward. The later arrival of railroads, canals, and other modes of transportation situated Philadelphia to receive goods of all types.

Early stores typically specialized in a limited product line: shoes, hats, household furnishings, food. Dry goods stores had a wider variety of merchandise: fabrics and finishing goods,

housewares, etc. Businesses often congregated in certain areas, making shopping more convenient.

Department stores with an even greater selection blossomed on Market Street between 8th and Broad by the late 1800s, the first being that of John Wanamaker, whose store became a national model. The “big six”—Wanamaker’s, Strawbridge & Clothier, Lit Brothers, Gimbels, N. Snellenburg & Company, and Frank & Seder—primarily sought the middle-market trade, leaving smaller boutiques to satisfy the wealthier customer.

Besides department stores, specialty vendors continued to ply their trades: pharmacies, groceries, toys, and bookstores. The Atwater Kent Collection is rich in examples from both types of stores, having acquired some stores’ entire inventory. A small sample is on display here.

Section 9:

The Creative Culture: Philadelphia as an Artistic Center

Philadelphia has a long, distinguished history as a center of American creativity: painting, printmaking, music, craft, writing, architecture, performing arts, and photography. From its inception, the Atwater Kent Museum collected examples of these artistic creations, focusing on the people, buildings, and vistas that were hallmarks of cultural Philadelphia. Examples of this variety of artistic accomplishment are represented throughout this exhibition, from the early 1700s through late 1900s.

Seeing Philadelphia Through the Photographer’s Lens and the Artist’s Eye

The Atwater Kent Museum collected examples of Philadelphia’s artistic endeavors—focusing on the city’s people, architecture, and views, from the early 1700s through late 1900s.

A particular strength of the Atwater Kent Collection is photographs—thousands, dating from as early as the mid-1800s, documenting cityscapes, architectural landmarks, political events, and routine activities. These photographs, as well as historical prints and drawings, are important documents, particularly of buildings that were destroyed and can only be recalled through these evocative images.

Object Highlights

Introduction Area:

- Gas-jet eagle that was lit by gas at the 1848 celebration of American victory in the Mexican War.
- Two oil-on-canvas murals Gimbels commissioned and hung in its flagship store at 9th & Market Streets in 1952.

Section 1 – A Museum is Born: The Atwater Kent Museum (1939–2018):

- Examples of the Museum’s earliest acquisitions, including a 1688 deed from William Penn.
- Objects from City Ice Boat No. 1, the first ice-breaking boat, made for use on the Delaware River.
- Painted figures from the 1778 Meschianza celebration during the British occupation of Philadelphia.
- Models and drawings made by WPA artists for exhibits in the 1930s.
- Featured in Podcast: Color lithograph: *The Floating Church of the Redeemer* (1853).

Section 2 – A Collection of Collections:

- Animal Locomotion images/glass transparencies made by Eadweard Muybridge in the 1880s, and other objects from the Philadelphia Commercial Museum.
- Toiletry/dressing case of 1800s actor Edwin Forrest.
- Quinceañera (15th birthday) dress, cape, and crown, and other objects from the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies.
- 1800s firefighting objects from CIGNA Corporation/Insurance Company of North America.
- Portrait of abolitionist John Brown and objects from his 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry, from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Collection.
 - Featured in Podcast: Handcuffs believed worn by John Brown in prison and, possibly, to the gallows (c. 1859).
- Pair of abolitionist African American Quaker dolls, a children’s dress made with “Free-Labour Cotton,” and other material from the Friends Historical Association collection.

Section 3 – The Centennial, Sesquicentennial, and Bicentennial City:

- Souvenirs from the 1876, 1926, and 1976 national anniversary celebrations held in Philadelphia.
 - Featured in Podcast: Centennial souvenir hair comb (1876).
- Chinese armchair brought to the Centennial by the China delegation.
- 10 ft long panoramic photo of the Centennial Exposition by Frederick Gutekunst.
- Paintings by Arrah Lee Gaul, official painter for the Sesquicentennial.

Section 4 – Philadelphia: A City of Firsts:

- Alexander Milne Calder’s model for *William Penn* statue on City Hall.
- William Birch’s paint box (1780) and views by William and Thomas Birch.
- Material from one of the first African American Philadelphia Police officers.
- Watchmen’s box (c. 1750) from Arch Street Friends Meeting House grounds, 4th & Arch.
- Watercolor view and hospital register of Lazaretto quarantine (of ship passengers) in the mid-1800s.
- Woven coverlet (c. 1830-50) used by abolitionist Passmore Williamson in prison for helping Jane Johnson and her sons gain freedom from slavery.
- National Draft Bowl used for military draft lotteries in World Wars I and II.
- Featured in Podcast: Jacket of photojournalist Neil Benson with 749 pin-back buttons (late 20th century).

Section 5 – “It’s a Philly Thing”: Sports in Philadelphia:

- Featured in Podcast: Turnstile from Veterans Stadium.
- Mike Schmidt’s (Phillies) uniform.
- Phillies 2008 World Series artifacts.
- Trophies and pennants from the 1800s and 1900s, from a range of sports and events.

Section 6 – One Person’s Trash is Another Person’s Treasure: Salvaged Materials & Relics:

- Objects from a 1700s sunken British ship dredged from the Delaware River.
- Featured in Podcast: Album with photos of an African American regiment in World War II, found in the trash.
- Relics made from wood from Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Treaty Elm, and Slate Roof House (of William Penn).

Section 7 – A Premier Manufacturing Center: Philadelphia 1850–1920:

- Featured in Podcast:
 - 1930s cathedral-style wood-cased radios made by Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company and others.
 - Wagon from *The Evening Bulletin* (c. 1940).
- Objects from Whitman’s and candy-making equipment from Young’s Confectionery.
- Bowler/derby hat Abraham Lincoln wore on his way from Harrisburg to Washington, DC, for his first inauguration, c. 1861.
- Stetson hats and forms/blocks.
- Woven (Navajo) rug samples made with Germantown wool (c. 1890).
- *The Charters of the Province of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia*, printed/sold by Benjamin Franklin (1743).
- Newspaper vending machines of *Philadelphia Bulletin* and *Philadelphia City Paper*, with last issues.

Section 8 – From Department Stores to Select Boutiques: Philadelphia’s Retail Businesses Thrived:

- Material from John Wanamaker’s, including products like a men’s two-piece wool bathing suit (c. 1940) and objects from his office/museum, including his replica of the 13th-century British Coronation Chair, tall case clock, and a Native American purse.
- Cash register (c. 1890) and other material from Strawbridge & Clothier and other Philadelphia department stores.
- Schoenhut toys, including musical instruments, firefighting toys, games, and Humpty Dumpty Circus.
- Carousel horse (c. 1900) made by Gustav Dentzel.
- Handmade dolls from the 1700s and 1800s.
 - Featured in Podcast: Flora McFlimsey doll sold at Great Central Fair during Civil War (1864).
- Horn & Hardart recipe box and ephemera.
- Pushcart from Freihofer’s Bakery (c. 1900) and sign from Margerum (groceries) from Reading Terminal Market (c. 1930).




Section 9 – The Creative Culture: Philadelphia as an Artistic Center:




- Featured in Podcast: *Crazy Nora/h* – portrait of Honora Power/s by William E. Winner (1865).
- Portraits (c. 1740) by Swedish immigrant Gustavus Hesselius, one of the earliest American painters.
- Portraits of the King and Queen of England (1770s) by Benjamin West.
- Paintings and ephemera from Peale’s Museum (founded 1784).
- One of the first photos taken in Philadelphia (c. 1850): a salt print panorama from Independence Hall steeple by Frederick and William Langenheim.
- Paintings and objects painted by African American artist David Bustill Bowser in the mid-1800s.
- Firsthand Civil War sketches by illustrator Francis H. Schell.
- Artwork, engraving tools, and objects from the Sartains, a family of artists.
- Spinnet/harpsichord from 1760.
- Earliest dated piano made in America (1789).
- Benjamin Franklin’s four-sided music stand.





Press Images




High-resolution images available; please email: info@philadelphiahistory.org

Please use provided caption/credit lines.

Reference Image	Required Caption/Credit (and additional info)
	<p>REQUIRED: Gas Jet Eagle, 1848 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Found in Collection, 77.1.688).</p> <p>MORE INFO: This iron eagle was lit by gas (like a neon sign) at the celebration of American victory in the Mexican War in 1848. It is the only surviving part of the ironwork that spanned Chestnut Street in front of Independence Hall.</p>
	<p>REQUIRED: Industrial Philadelphia – The Workshop of the World, Morris Berd, 1952 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Stern’s Department Stores, 90.81.1).</p> <p>MORE INFO: One of two oil-on-canvas murals Gimbels commissioned and hung in its flagship store, 9th & Market Streets. (The donor, Stern’s Department Stores, acquired Gimbels.)</p> <p>Born in Philadelphia, Morris Berd (1914–2007) became an instructor at his alma mater, Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art (University of the Arts). He mentored several generations of Philadelphia artists.</p>
	<p>REQUIRED: The Floating Church of the Redeemer (New York: Wm. Endicott & Co., 1853) (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Philadelphia Commercial Museum, 44.86.80).</p> <p>MORE INFO:</p>

<p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>This Gothic-style Episcopal church was built—for the Churchmen’s Missionary Association for Seamen of the Port of Philadelphia—on top of two barges in 1849. It was usually anchored at the foot of Dock Street, in the Delaware River, before being set on brick foundations in Camden in 1853. The building burned in 1868.</p> <p>C.L. Dennington, architect. Color lithograph.</p>
 <p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>REQUIRED: Centennial Souvenir Hair Comb, 1876 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, The Jane & Richard Loeliger Collection, From Frances Troxell and Lorraine Carango, 88.8.204).</p> <p>MORE INFO: Tortoiseshell.</p>
	<p>REQUIRED: Bicentennial Logo Sign, 1976 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Ross Griffiths, 11.17.1).</p> <p>MORE INFO: From Chestnut Street Transit Way.</p>
 <p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>REQUIRED: Jacket of Neil Benson with 749 Pin-back Buttons, late 20th century (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Neil Benson, 08.3.6.4.1).</p> <p>MORE INFO: Neil Benson (1953–2023) was a prolific photographer and community activist. He worked as a photojournalist in Philadelphia (1970-2000)—documenting the turbulent closing decades of the 20th century. Before his death, he donated a collection of over 30,000 of his photos to the Atwater Kent Museum. Many appear in the exhibition.</p>

	<p>REQUIRED: Phillies World Series Championship Ring, 2008 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Mayor Michael Nutter, 14.18.1).</p> <p>MORE INFO: With 103 diamonds representing games won. Maker: Masters of Design, North Attleboro, MA</p>
 <p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>REQUIRED: Turnstile from Veterans Stadium, used 1971-2003 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, From Department of Public Property, 04.4.1).</p>
 <p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>REQUIRED: Album with Photos of 389th Engineer General Service Regiment in World War II, c. 1950 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Salvage/Gift of Valoree J. Nelson, 13.57.1).</p> <p>MORE INFO: Found in the trash on a street in Norristown, Montgomery County, this album provides clues about its ownership. One picture identifies an African American regiment from World War II. Other images include the Logan Pharmacy in Nicetown–Tioga, North Philadelphia (owned by Margaret Logan, one of the first Black women pharmacists in Pennsylvania). A veteran appears in front of a home at 3806 North 17th Street in Philadelphia. Who made the album, and why was it discarded? Perhaps its history will be revealed by visitors to this exhibition.</p>
 <p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>REQUIRED: Cathedral-Style Tabletop Wood-Cased Radio (Model 84), Atwater Kent Manufacturing Co., Philadelphia, 1932 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Elaine Shapiro and the Estate of Roy Shapiro, 14.1.18).</p> <p>MORE INFO: A. Atwater Kent launched the Kent Electric Manufacturing Company in the back of his father’s machine shop in Worcester, Massachusetts, around 1900. Kent moved to Philadelphia in 1902 and set up his business as the Atwater</p>

	<p>Kent Manufacturing Works. He sold small electric motors, generators, fans, and the modern form of the automobile ignition coil. He produced his first radio components in 1921, selling DIY “breadboard” kits to early radio enthusiasts. The Company was the largest maker of radios in the country by 1925, employing 12,000 people at 4745 Wissahickon Avenue in Northwest Philadelphia. Largely a casualty of the Depression, the design engineering facility was dissolved in 1931 radio factory shuttered in 1936. Philco acquired the plant and built refrigerators there.</p>
 <p>[Featured in Podcast]</p>	<p>REQUIRED: Wagon: <i>The Evening Bulletin</i>, c. 1940 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of Audrey G. Everett, 13.22.1.A-B).</p> <p>MORE INFO: <i>The Philadelphia Bulletin</i> was a prominent daily (evening) paper published from 1847 to 1982—largest in the city for 76 years and once the largest evening newspaper in the country. Its widely known slogan was “In Philadelphia, nearly everybody reads <i>The Bulletin</i>.”</p>
	<p>REQUIRED: Hat Box With Philadelphia Historic Sites, John B. Stetson Company, Philadelphia, c. 1940 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Gift of John R. Eakle, 83.1.4.A-B).</p> <p>MORE INFO: Hat making, among Philadelphia’s earliest occupations, grew to be one of the city’s major industries. Its peak occurred from the late 1800s through mid-1900s, during which time Philadelphia boasted many hat factories, including the world’s largest hat manufacturer, John B. Stetson Company, in Lower Kensington. Millinery, the crafting of women’s hats, did not reach the same scale of mass production but also became a thriving industry in the region over time.</p>
	<p>REQUIRED: Toy Piano, A. Schoenhut Company, Philadelphia, c. 1900 (Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, Museum Purchase, 55.11.3).</p> <p>MORE INFO:</p>

	<p>Born into a toy-making family in Germany, Albert Frederick Schoenhut (1849–1912) was invited to Philadelphia to repair toy pianos for Wanamaker’s in 1866. He started his own toy piano company in 1872 and expanded to make other instruments, dolls, figures, and other toys. The Philadelphia-based toy company was the largest in the country in the early 1900s. It declared bankruptcy in 1935.</p>
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