SCIENCE HERITAGE LTD

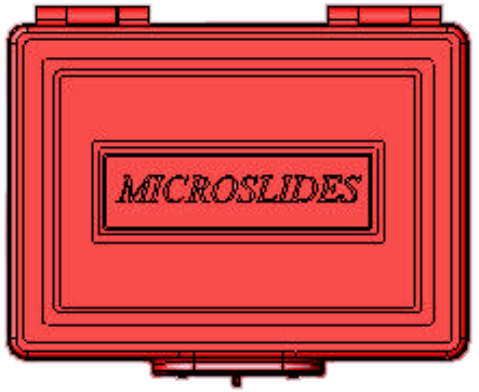
205 Years of MICROSLIDE Storage

A History of Slide/Specimen Storage

From 1808 to 2013



Ypelaar 1808



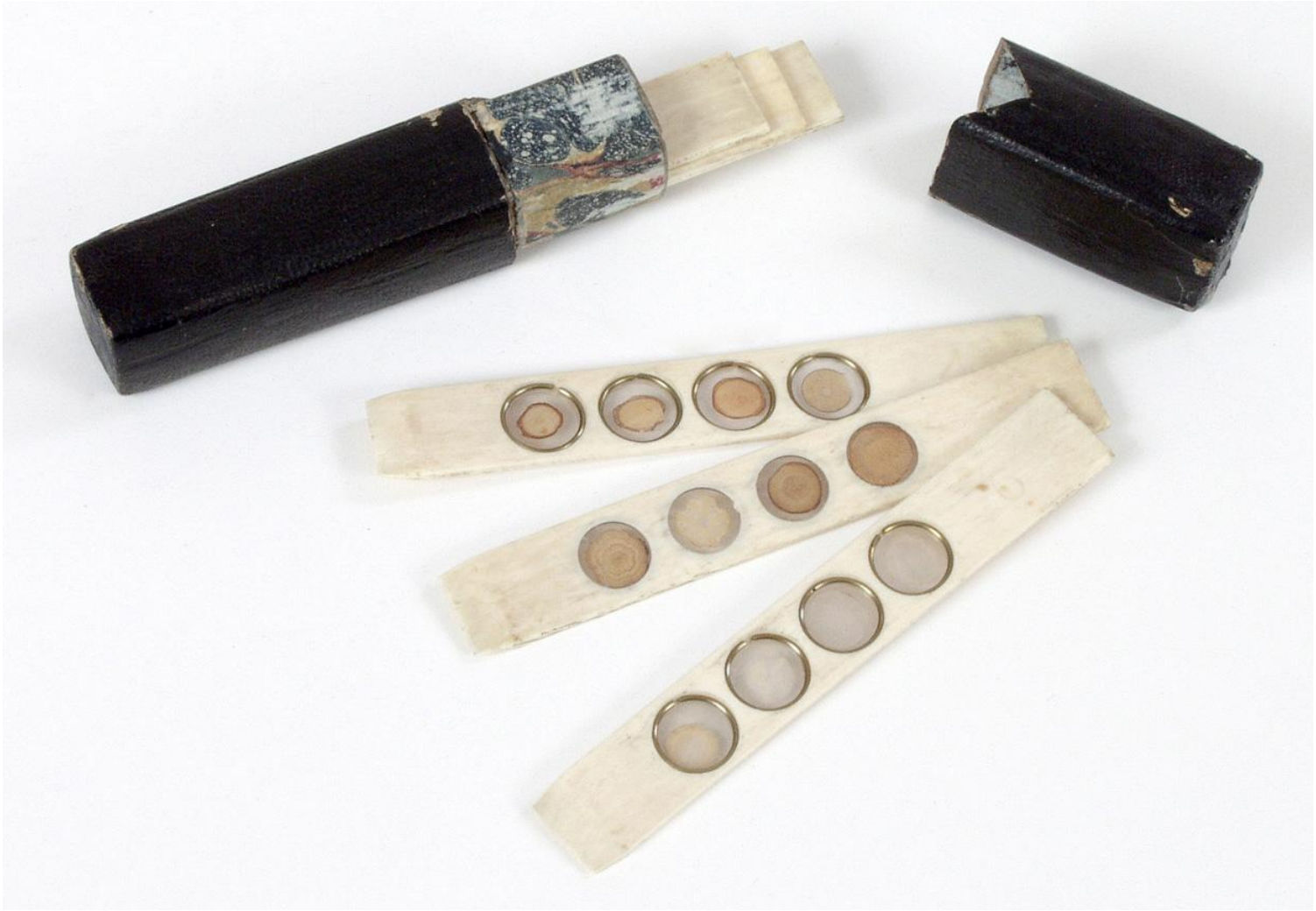


Before glass specimen slides there were “pill boxes” for specimen storage.

18-19th Century



Some specimens and sections were stored in folded paper envelopes.



The first prepared specimen slides/sliders were bone or ivory “sliders” for dry mounts. These were boxed in skin covered card and leather slip cases.

1785



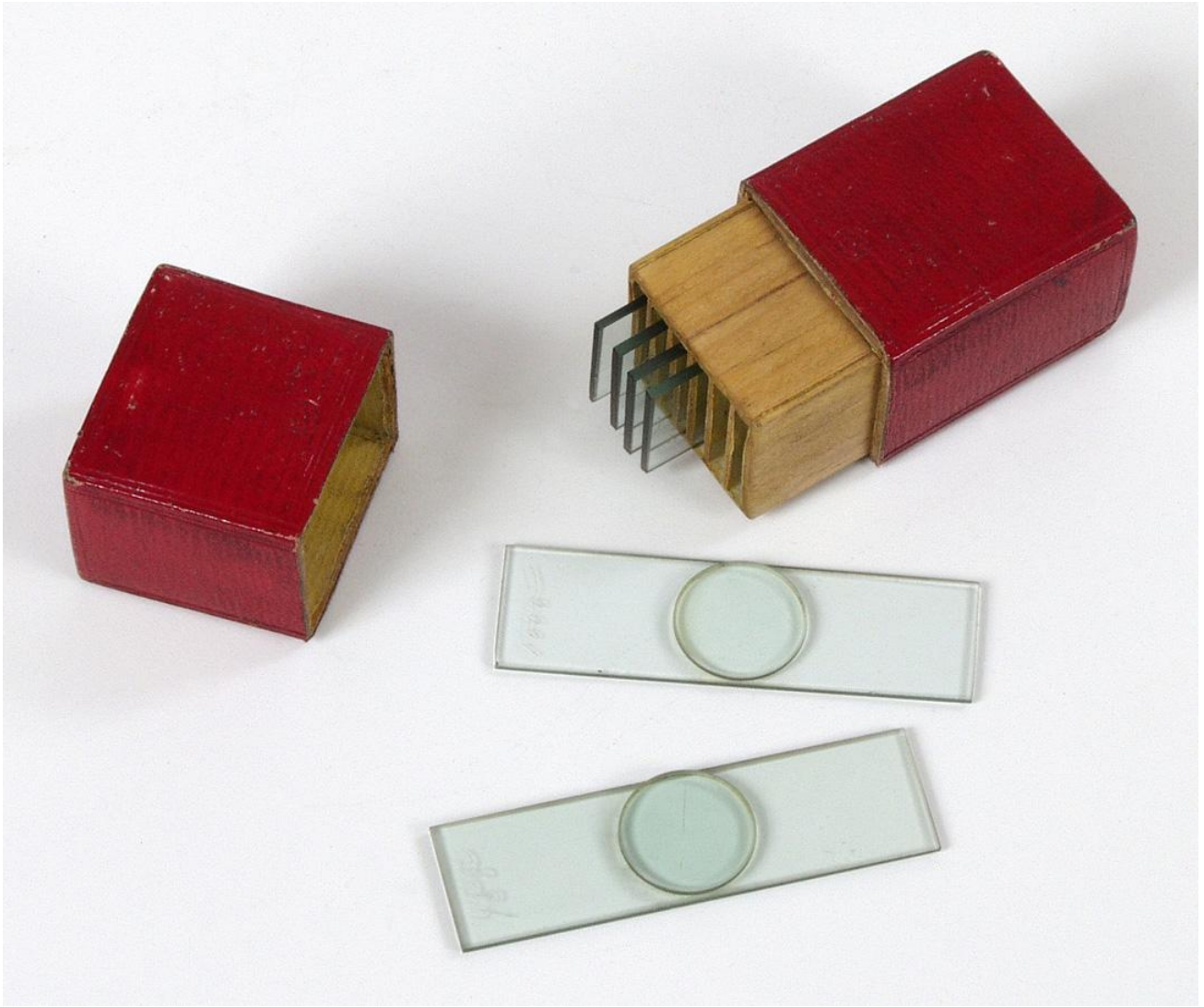
In the late 18th Century, Ypelaar mounted specimens in ivory “cups” that were stored in purpose made fancy wooden “compacts”.

Ypelaar 1798



In the late 19th Century, multi-layered card carriers were designed to transport and protect fragile specimen mounts.

Pritchard 1820

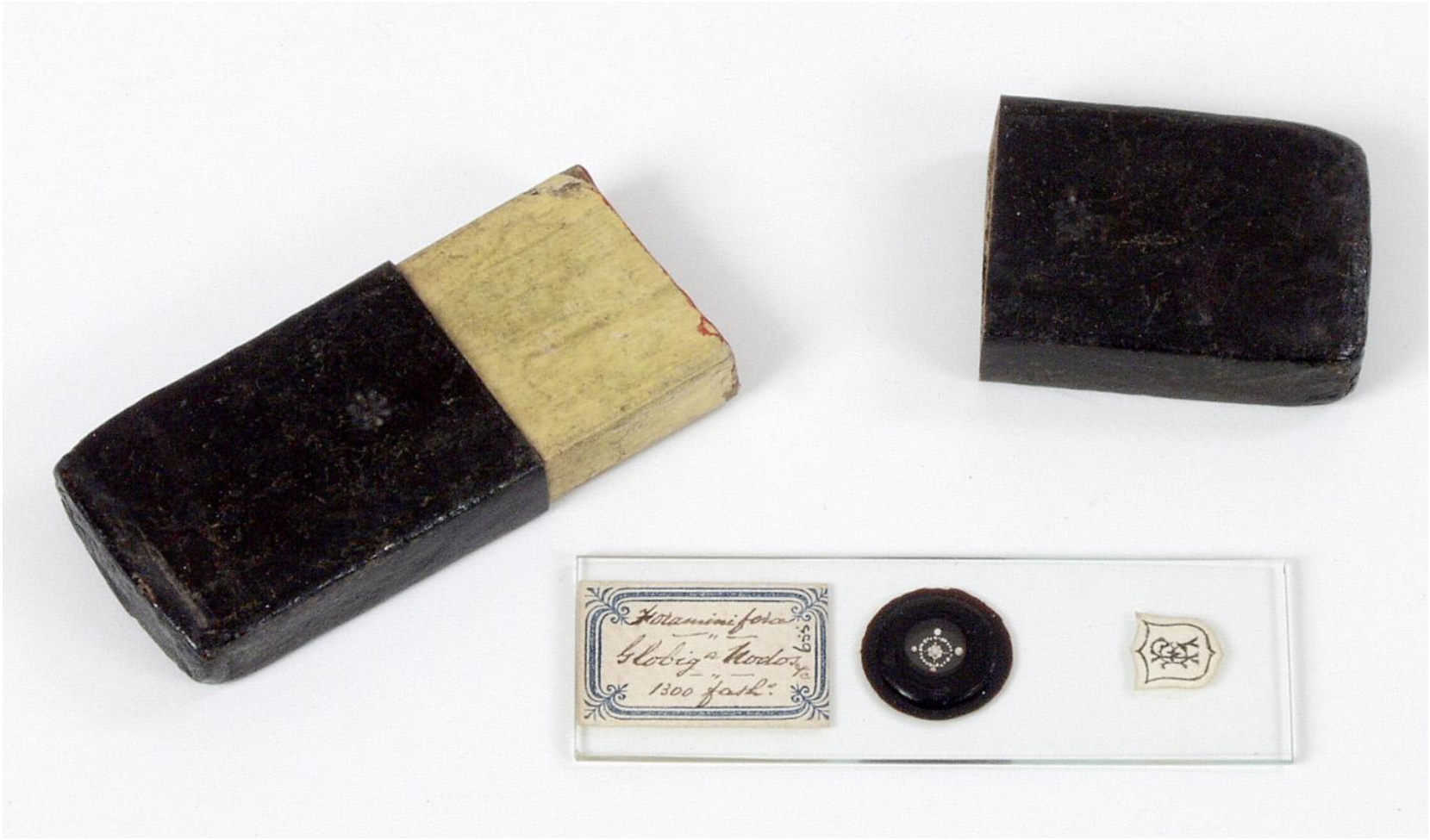


An early 19th Century set of diamond/glass rulings carried in a fitted wooden slip case.



In the early Victorian period, unique glass mounts for microscopic photographs were stored with a viewing glass in a plush fitted box.

1862



Fancy “arranged” slides were fragile and protected in a velum and leather slip case.

1890



Trade Slip Case 1895 Lab-Tek 1955

For the “PAP” test transport of slides made popular by George N. Papanicolaou, M.D. in the late 1940’s, J.B. McCormick, M.D. designed and Lab-Tek produced the first contemporary molded plastic “slip case”. What goes around, comes around”—purpose made.



The Lab-Tek Cytomailer by JBMC



Collections of standard 3 x 1 glass slides were stored in a wood and cloth “slidebox”.

Dancer 1880



Leather covered and plush lined “single” slide boxes both stored and transported precious specimen slide mounts.

1885



Diatome collections mounted by Möller are rare and precious—stored in plush lined print labeled boxes.

Möller 1895



A “working” laboratory specimen tray for 20 prepared slides is a “standard” design originating in the early 1900’s and continuing in a similar design today. Retaining “tapes” keep the slides in place.

1900



Slide wallet
1890

JBMC
1990

Nothing new, under the sun.



Paper covered wood frame slide boxes of 25-50 and 100 capacity are illustrated in scientific apparatus catalogues of the early 1920’s and remain a product offered today.



Utility grade, multiple slide trays boxed in groups of 10 and 12 were first shown in the late 1800's. And remain in limited use in the 21st Century.



Deluxe fitted mahogany cases of wood and card trays reflect the respect and guarding of rare and special slide collections of the Victorian period.

1880-1890



Victorian trays and case to contain 72 slides respect the value of a special slide collection.

1880-1890



Of commercial or collection grade this box of 72 slides is typical of J.T. Norman a highly respected slide preparer of the late 1900's

J.T. Norman 1900



A commercial slide tray cabinet for 144 specimens of 1900's vintage is occasionally found in private collections.



The vertical storage of microscopic slides beginning in the early 1900's remains the standard of slide storage in wood, wood and paper covered boxes, and now of molded plastic, most often of 100 and 25 slide capacity.

1910-present



The 25 capacity soft clear wooden box was the “workhorse” of the trade until the 1940’s when manufacturing facilities switched from microscope slides to the packaging of munitions. A ten year void of production stimulated J.B. McCormick to “invent” the plastic Bakelite Slide Box.



Trade Box
25 Slide 1925

JBMC
25 Slide 1948



With hinged closure and locking hooks.
Another 25 capacity box design.



Fine mahogany with plush lining to protect precious collections.



Early versions of wood and paper covered card were purpose made for slide transport and storage.

Trade 1890



With the formation of the Histoslide Company and having a need to store and ship prepared slides for natural science study—J.B. McCormick invented the first plastic microscope slide box. Made of Bakelite, the box was an instant success.

JBMC Histoslide Co. 1948

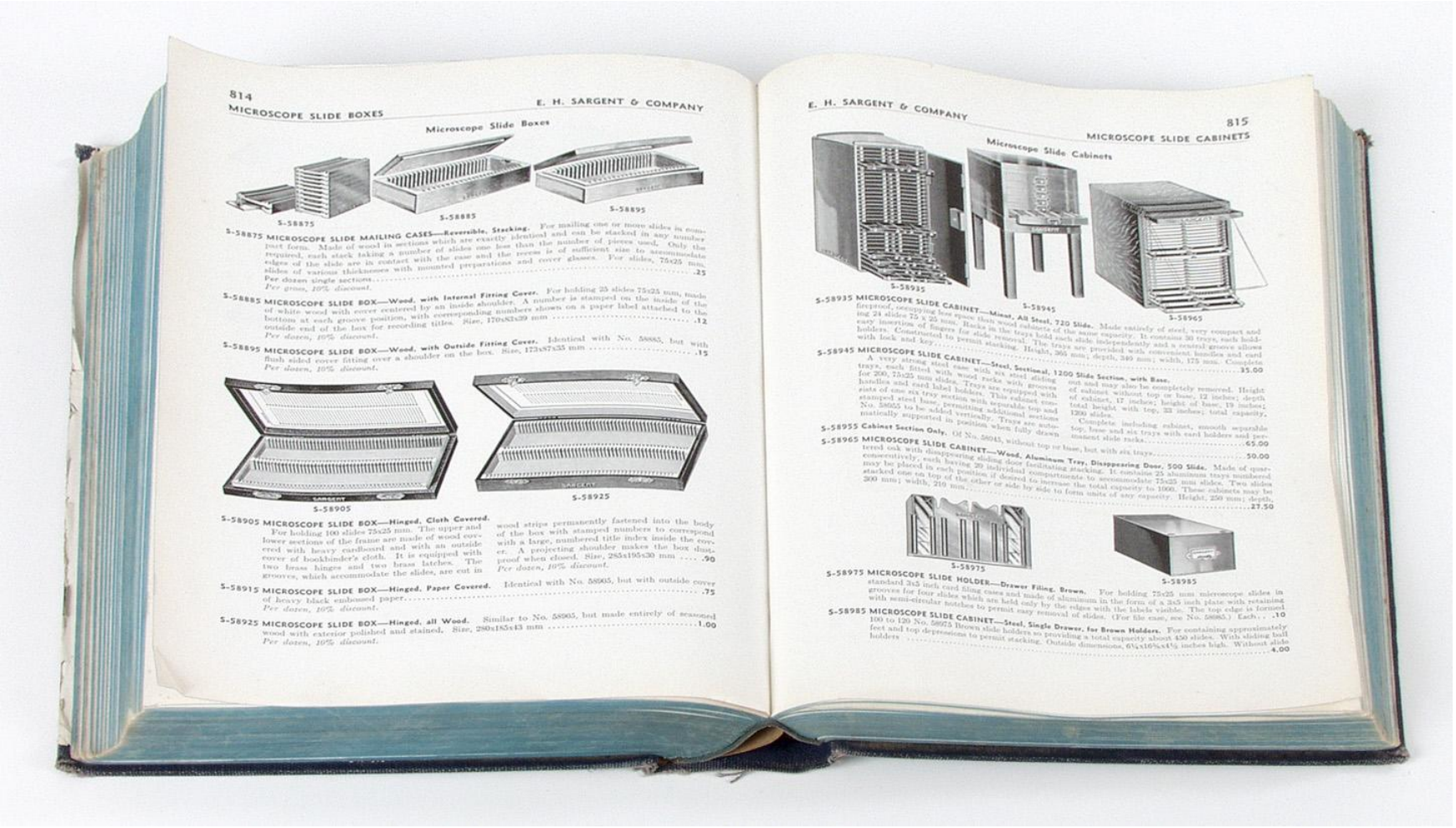


Produced in mahogany brown and ebony black, a cork lining cushioned the “rattle” of glass. The first order for 100,000 boxes was placed in 1948 by John McConnell of Central Scientific Company, Chicago.



The McCormick designed Histoslide 100 capacity Bakelite Slide Box introduced a new standard of quality and utility. It followed the successful introduction of the 25 capacity slide box.

JBMC 1950



814

MICROSCOPE SLIDE BOXES

E. H. SARGENT & COMPANY

Microscope Slide Boxes

S-58875

S-58885

S-58895

S-58875 MICROSCOPE SLIDE MAILING CASES—Reversible, Stacking. For mailing one or more slides in compact form. Made of wood in sections which are exactly identical and can be stacked in any number required, each stack taking a number of slides one less than the number of pieces used. Only the edges of the slide are in contact with the case and the recess is of sufficient size to accommodate slides of various thicknesses with mounted preparations and cover glasses. For slides, 75x25 mm. Per dozen single sections ..... .25
Per gross, 10% discount.

S-58885 MICROSCOPE SLIDE BOX—Wood, with Internal Fitting Cover. For holding 25 slides 75x25 mm, made of white wood with cover centered by an inside shoulder. A number is stamped on the inside of the bottom at each groove position, with corresponding numbers shown on a paper label attached to the outside end of the box for recording titles. *Size, 170x83x39 mm* ..... .12
Per dozen, 10% discount.

S-58895 MICROSCOPE SLIDE BOX—Wood, with Outside Fitting Cover. Identical with No. 58885, but with flush sided cover fitting over a shoulder on the box. *Size, 173x87x35 mm* ..... .15
Per dozen, 10% discount.

S-58905

S-58925

S-58905 MICROSCOPE SLIDE BOX—Hinged, Cloth Covered. For holding 100 slides 75x25 mm. The upper and lower sections of the frame are made of wood covered with heavy cardboard and with an outside cover of bookbinder's cloth. It is equipped with two brass hinges and two brass latches. The grooves, which accommodate the slides, are cut in wood strips permanently fastened into the body of the box with stamped numbers to correspond with a large, numbered title index inside the cover. A projecting shoulder makes the box dust-proof when closed. *Size, 285x195x30 mm* ..... .90
Per dozen, 10% discount.

S-58915 MICROSCOPE SLIDE BOX—Hinged, Paper Covered. Identical with No. 58905, but with outside cover of heavy black embossed paper ..... .75
Per dozen, 10% discount.

S-58925 MICROSCOPE SLIDE BOX—Hinged, all Wood. Similar to No. 58905, but made entirely of seasoned wood with exterior polished and stained. *Size, 280x185x43 mm* 1.00
Per dozen, 10% discount.

E. H. SARGENT & COMPANY

815

MICROSCOPE SLIDE CABINETS

Microscope Slide Cabinets

S-58935

S-58945

S-58965

S-58935 MICROSCOPE SLIDE CABINET—Metal, All Steel, 720 Slide. Made entirely of steel, very compact and fireproof, occupying less space than wood cabinets of the same capacity. It contains 30 trays, each holding 24 slides 75 x 25 mm. Racks in the trays hold each slide independently and a central groove allows easy insertion of fingers for slide removal. The trays are provided with convenient handles and card holders. Constructed to permit stacking. The trays are provided with lock and key 25.00

S-58945 MICROSCOPE SLIDE CABINET—Steel, Sectional, 1200 Slide Section, with Base. A very strong steel case with six steel sliding trays, each fitted with wood racks, with grooves for 200, 75x25 mm slides. Trays are equipped with handles and card label holders. This cabinet consists of one six tray section with separable top and stamped steel base, permitting additional sections No. 58955 to be added vertically. Trays are automatically supported in position when fully drawn out and may also be completely removed. Height of cabinet without top or base, 72 inches; depth of cabinet, 17 inches; height of base, 19 inches; total height with top, 33 inches; total capacity, 1200 slides.
Complete including cabinet, smooth separable top, base and six trays with card holders and permanent slide racks 65.00

S-58955 Cabinet Section Only. (Of No. 58945, without top or base, but with six trays 50.00

S-58965 MICROSCOPE SLIDE CABINET—Wood, Aluminum Tray, Disappearing Door, 500 Slide. Made of quartered oak with disappearing sliding door fascinating stacking. It contains 25 aluminum trays numbered consecutively, each having 20 individual compartments to accommodate 75x25 mm slides. Two slides may be placed in each position if desired to increase the total capacity to 1000. These cabinets may be stacked one on top of the other or side by side to form units of any capacity. Height, 250 mm; depth, 200 mm; width, 210 mm 27.50

S-58975

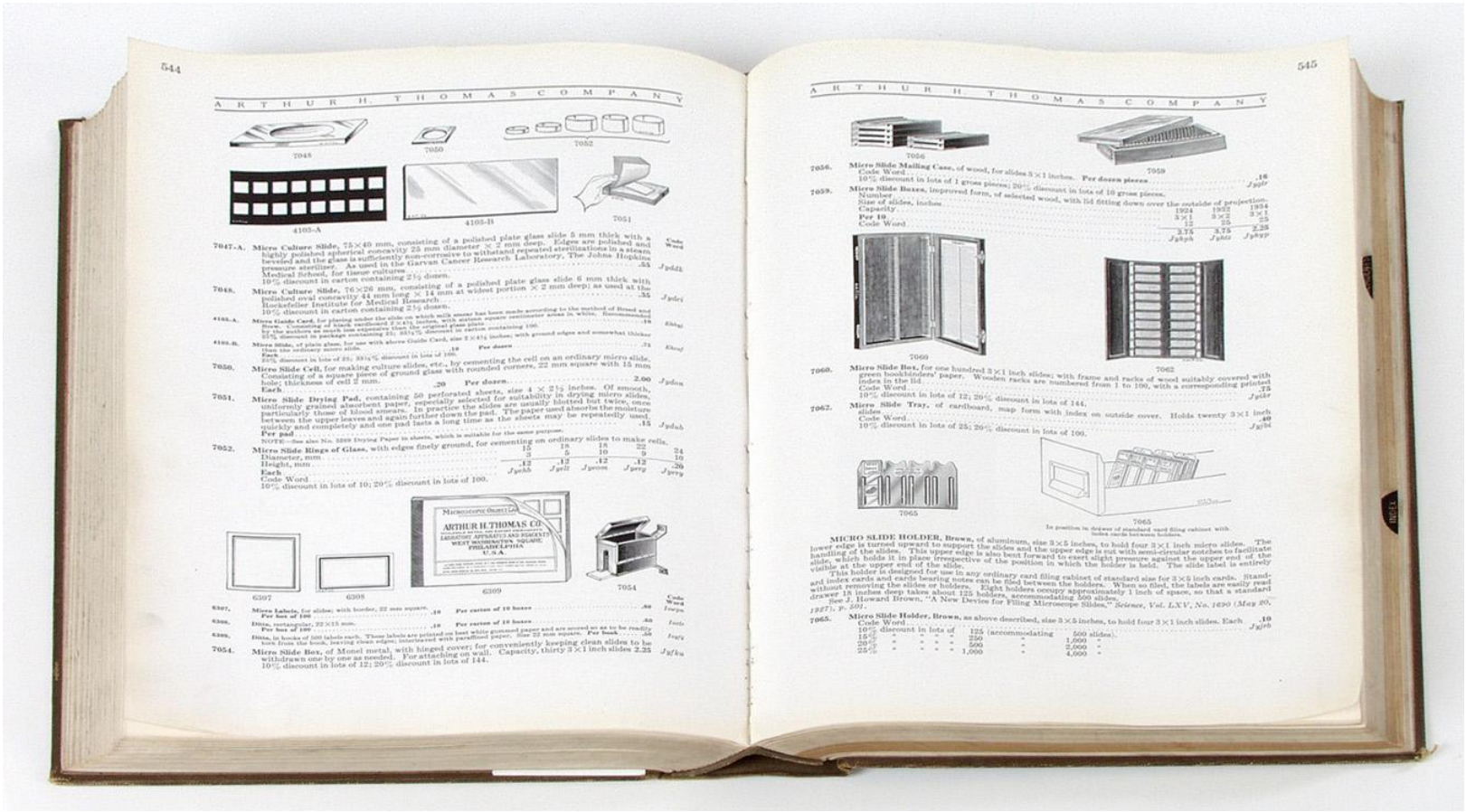
S-58985

S-58975 MICROSCOPE SLIDE HOLDER—Drawer Filing, Brown. For holding 75x25 mm microscope slides in standard 3x5 inch card filing cases and made of aluminum in the form of a 3x5 inch plate with retaining grooves for four slides which are held only by the edges with the labels visible. The top edge is formed with semi-circular notches to permit easy removal of slides. (For file case, see No. 58985.) Each 10

S-58985 MICROSCOPE SLIDE CABINET—Steel, Single Drawer, for Brown Holders. For containing approximately 100 to 120 No. 58975 Brown slide holders so providing a total capacity about 450 slides. With sliding ball feet and top depressions to permit stacking. Outside dimensions, 6¼x16⅝x4⅛ inches high. Without slide holders 4.00

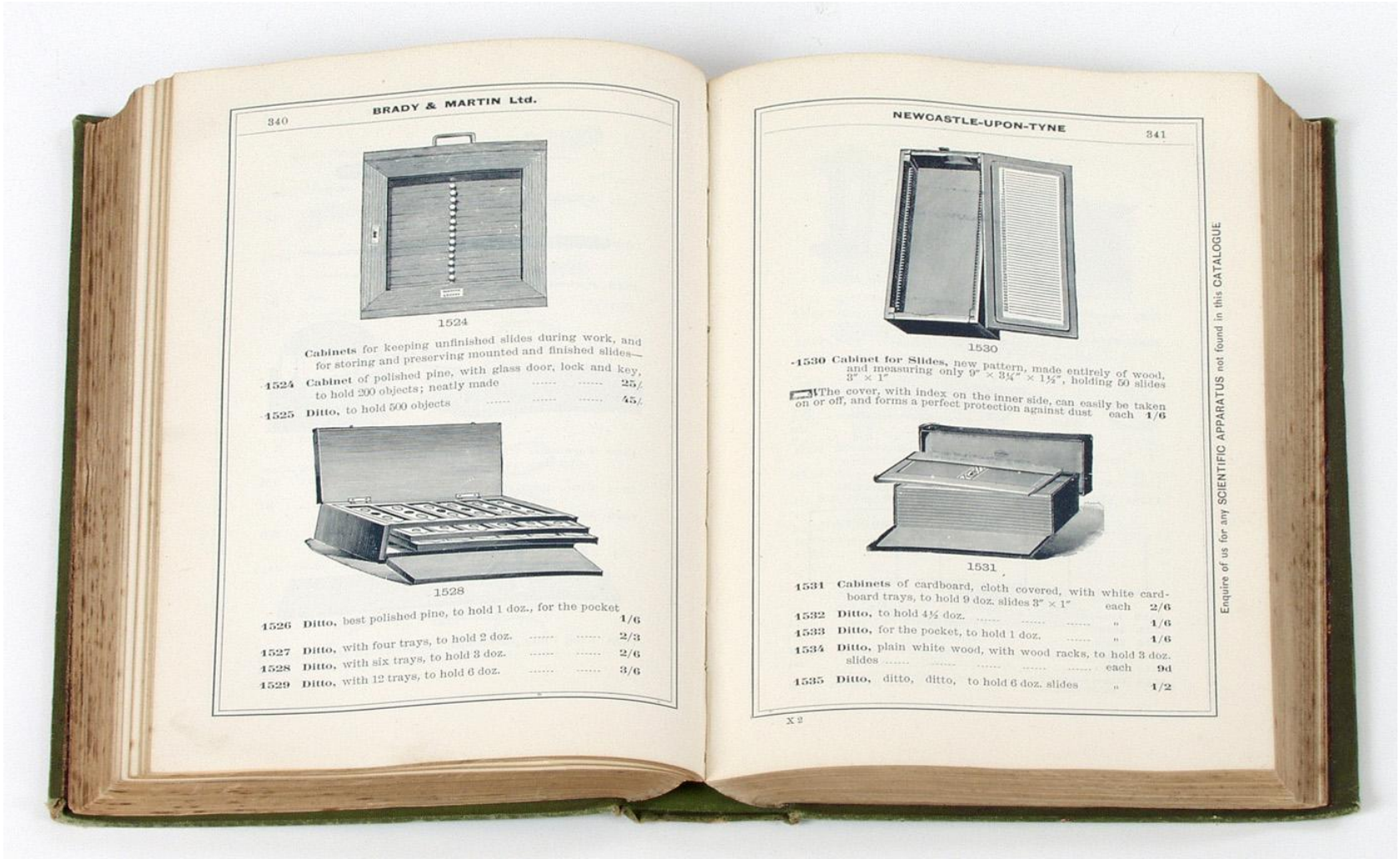
The 1930's scientific product catalogue of E.H. Sargent illustrates the variety of slide storage products that were common to the trade c. 1930.

Sargent 1930



In a similar way the Arthur Thomas Catalogue offers all of the “classic” storage and transport products.

Thomas 1930’s



340 BRADY & MARTIN Ltd.

1524

Cabinets for keeping unfinished slides during work, and for storing and preserving mounted and finished slides—

1524 **Cabinet** of polished pine, with glass door, lock and key, to hold 200 objects; neatly made 25/-

1525 **Ditto**, to hold 500 objects 45/-

1528

1526 **Ditto**, best polished pine, to hold 1 doz., for the pocket 1/6

1527 **Ditto**, with four trays, to hold 2 doz. 2/3

1528 **Ditto**, with six trays, to hold 3 doz. 2/6

1529 **Ditto**, with 12 trays, to hold 6 doz. 3/6

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE 341

1530

1530 Cabinet for Slides, new pattern, made entirely of wood, and measuring only 9" × 3¼" × 1½", holding 50 slides

The cover, with index on the inner side, can easily be taken on or off, and forms a perfect protection against dust each 1/6

1531

1531 **Cabinets** of cardboard, cloth covered, with white cardboard trays, to hold 9 doz. slides 3" × 1" each 2/6

1532 **Ditto**, to hold 4½ doz. .... " 1/6

1533 **Ditto**, for the pocket, to hold 1 doz. ..... " 1/6

1534 **Ditto**, plain white wood, with wood racks, to hold 3 doz. slides .... each 9d

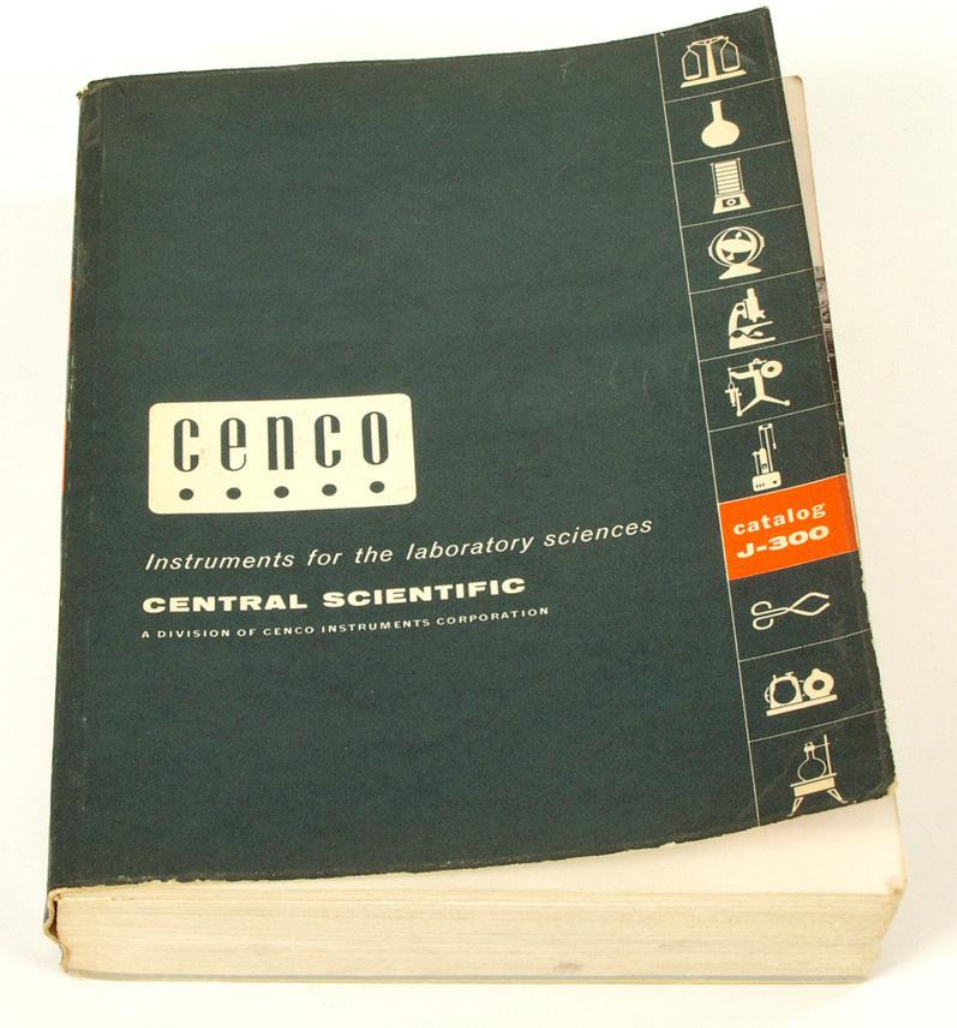
1535 **Ditto**, ditto, ditto, to hold 6 doz. slides " 1/2

X 2

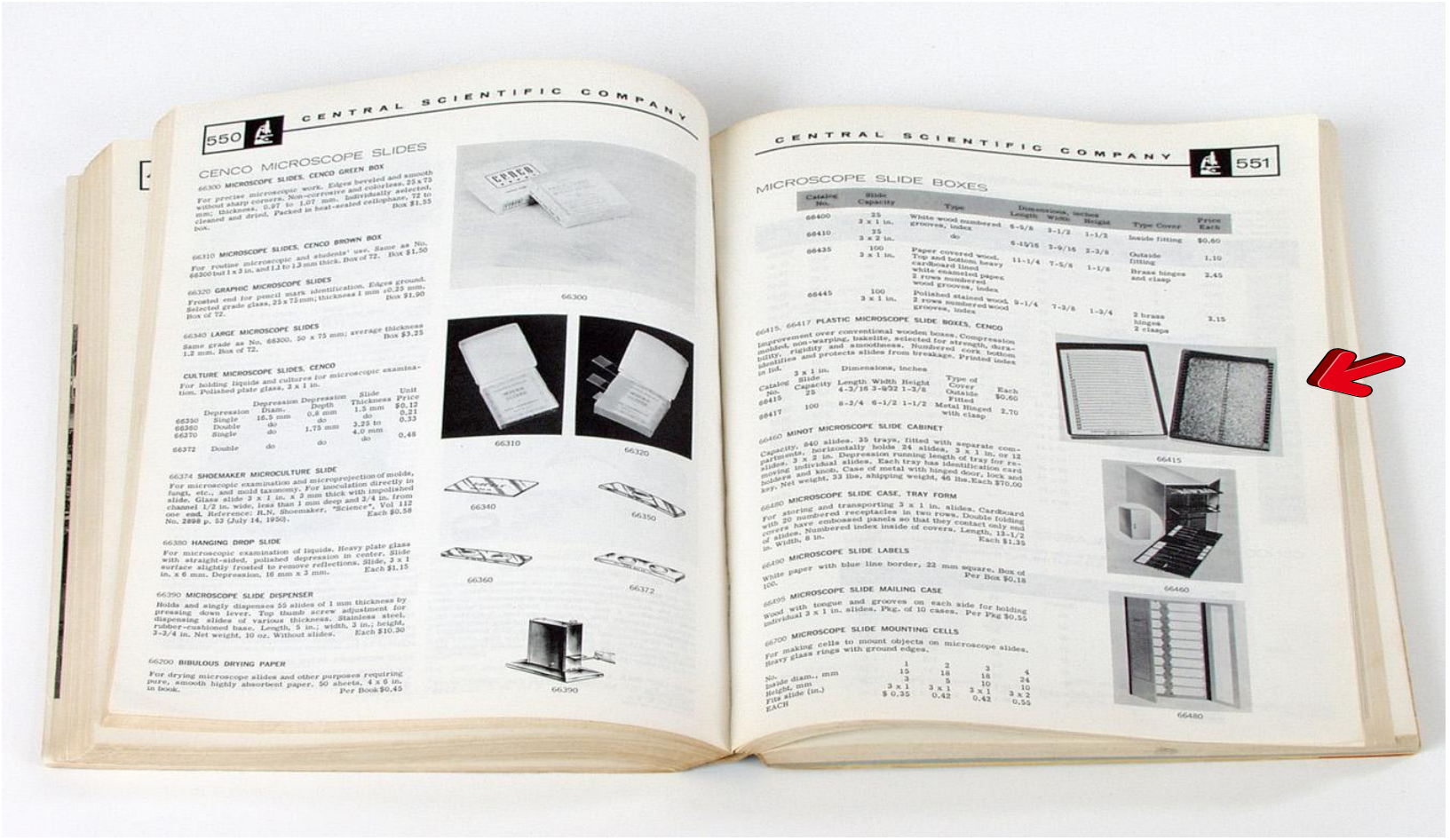
Enquire of us for any SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS not found in this CATALOGUE

England, Europe, USA, worldwide need for microscopic slide storage and transport of the early 1900's.

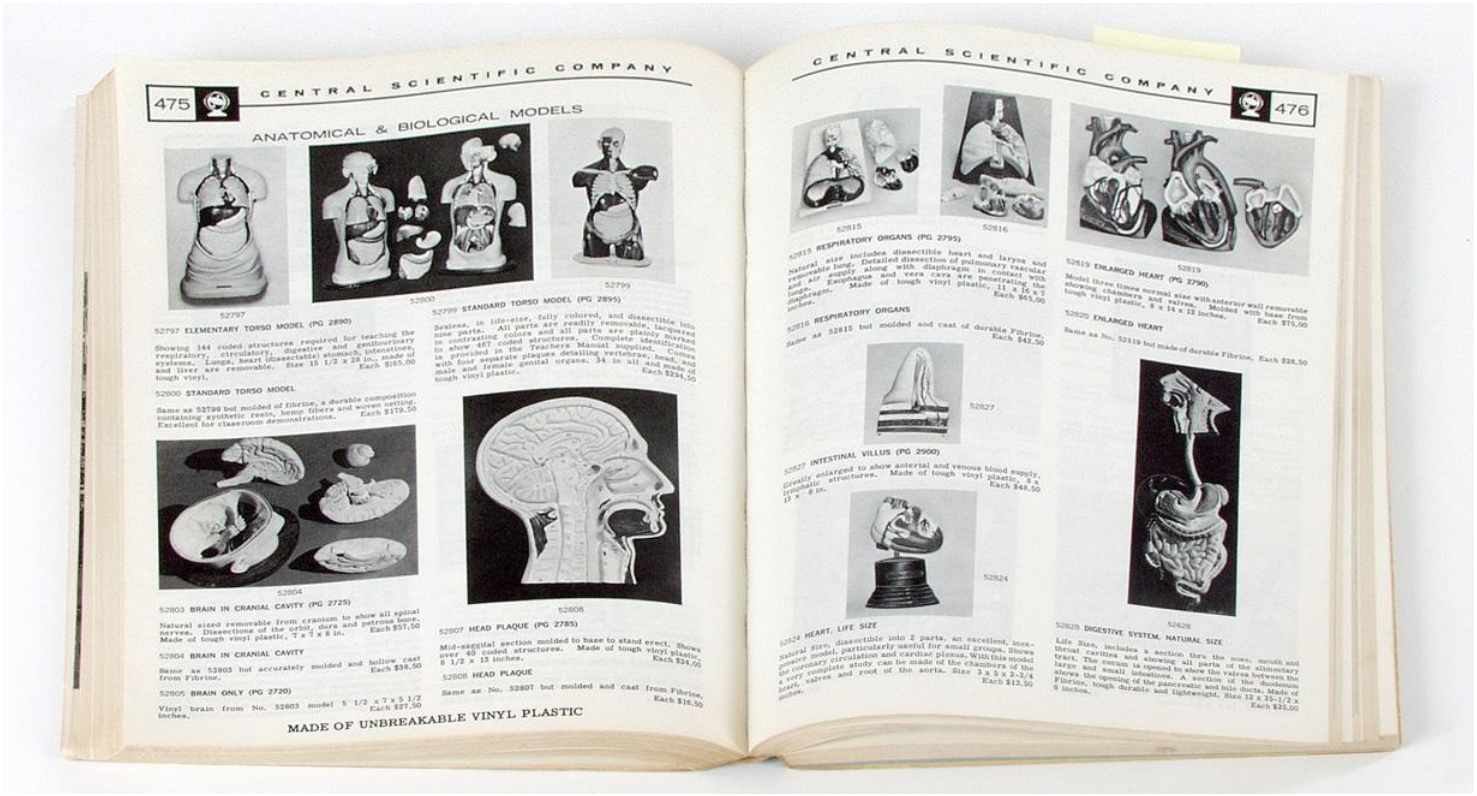
U.K. Brady/Martin 1900



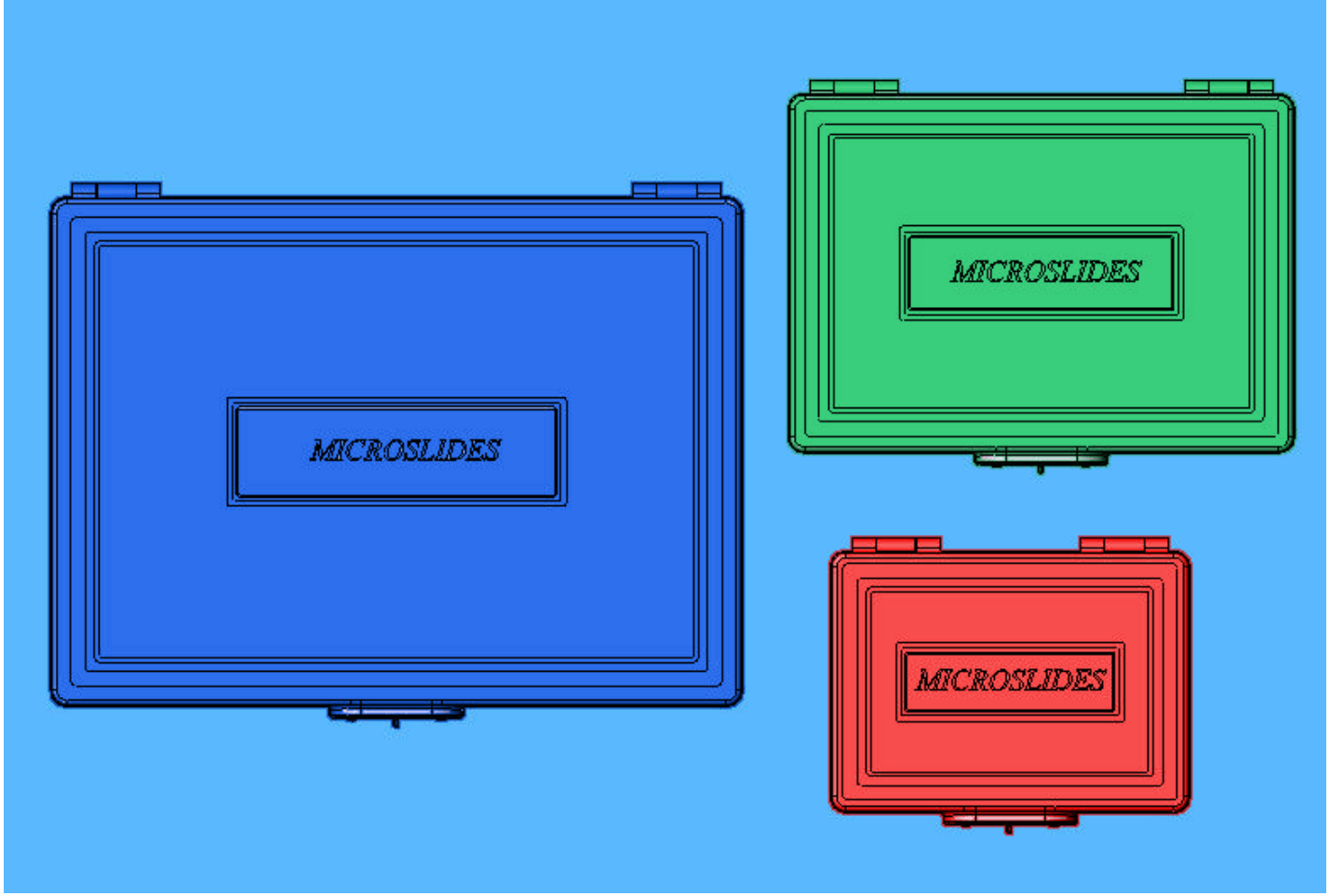
The 1950's—Central Scientific—our first customer that purchased 100,000 Bakelite Slide Boxes was the hinge of change.



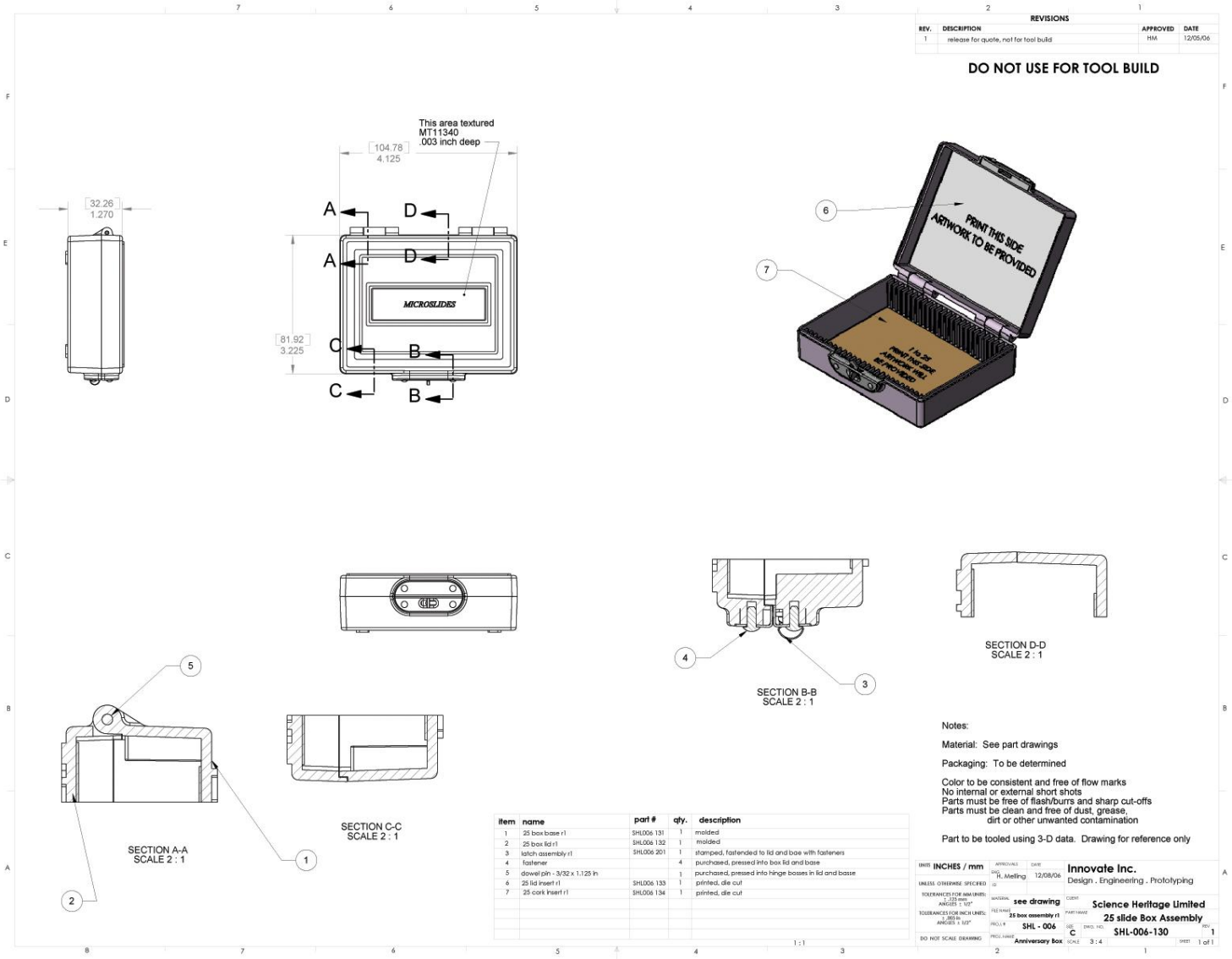
And now the J.B. McCormick designed Bakelite Plastic Slide Box was the standard of the industry.



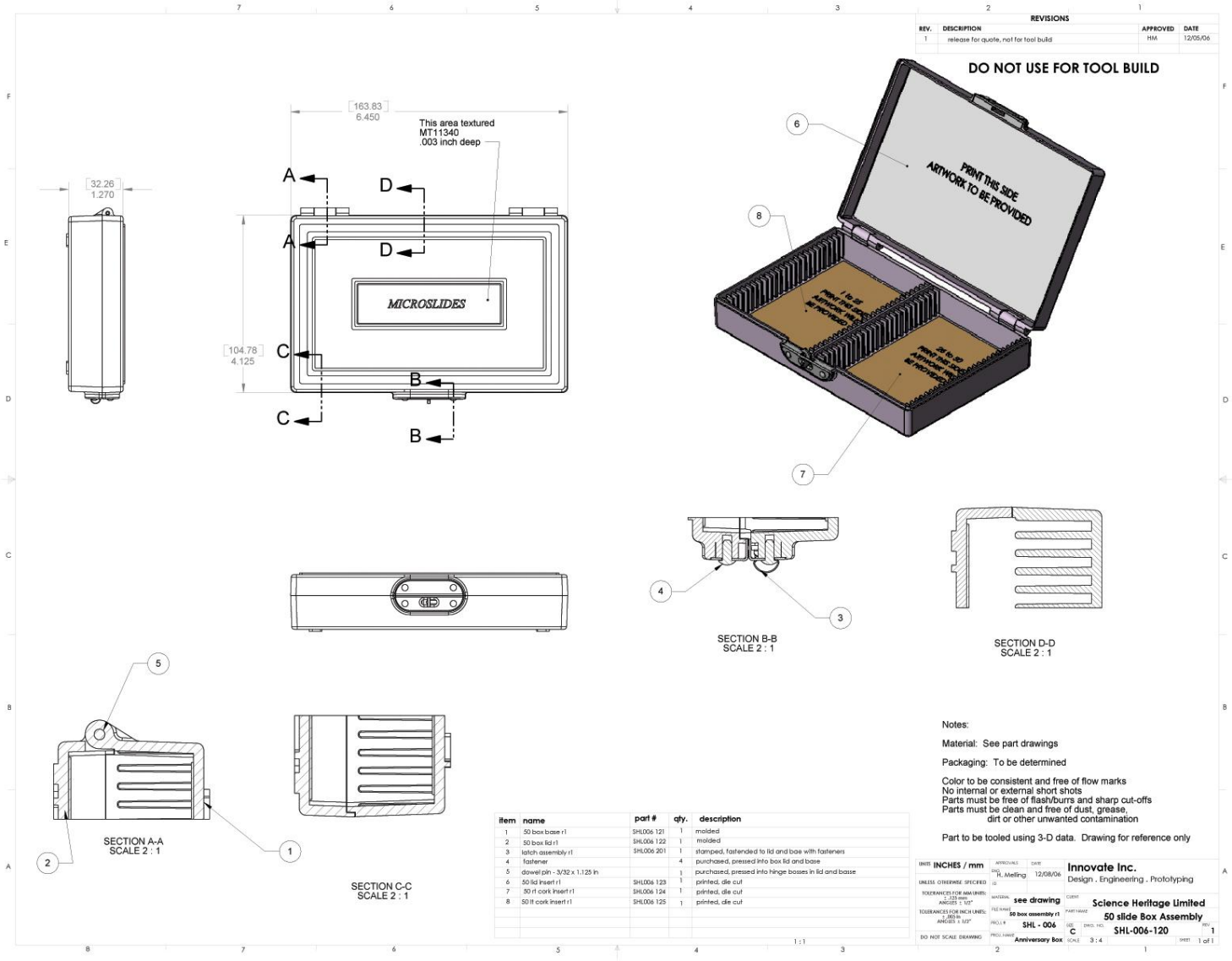
Illustrated in the late 1950's catalogue of "CENCO" were all of the Histoslide Company products—slide boxes and teaching models made for biology and anatomical science—these were the first unbreakable vinyl plastic teaching models. The "muscle man" was issued a U.S. patent number 2,763,070 to J.B. McCormick, M.D.



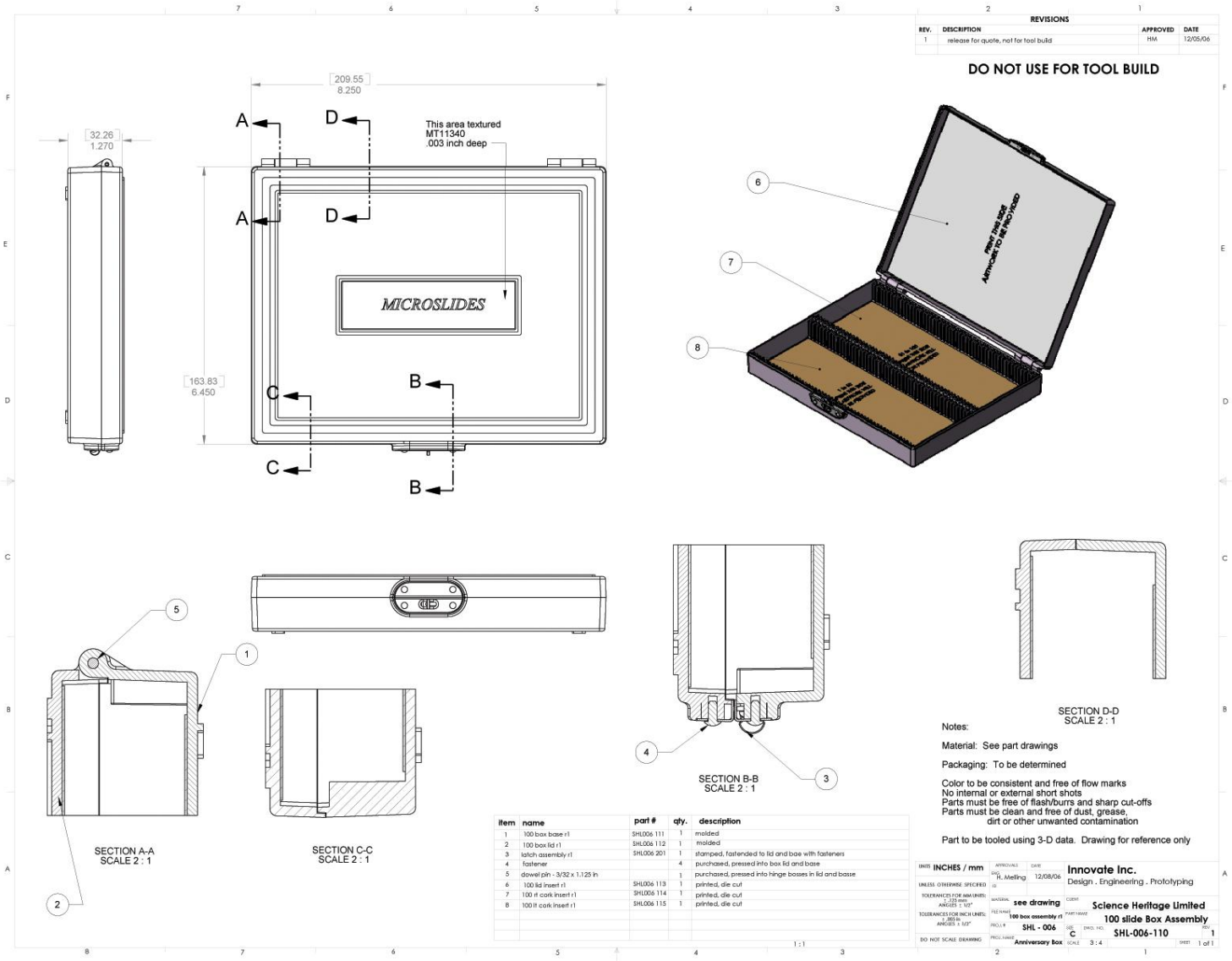
After setting the standard of design for 3x1”
microscope slide storage and transport since 1948, the McCormick Scientific, LLC, C.S.O. (Chief Scientific Officer) has designed the new precision molded family of slide boxes. Sizes for 100, 50 and 25 slides have hinged covers and precision stainless steel slide locks. Available in multiple colors.



25 capacity slide box



50 capacity slide box



100 capacity slide box

"Best in its class" 1948 - 2013



1948



2013