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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**T.A. HUSTON & CO. CHOCOLATE BOX  
GEN MS 24**

**Total Boxes: 1  
Linear Feet: 1**

**By  
Karin A. France**

**Portland, Maine  
April 2010**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: The T.A. Huston & Co. Chocolate Box was created by T.A. Huston & Co. of Auburn, ME. James Whitmore of Buckfield, ME donated the box, having found it in the wall of his apartment building.

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Cite as: T.A. Huston & Co. Chocolate Box, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

## **History**

Thomas Huston started his bakery in 1869 in Auburn, ME. He had saved money from his job as the driver of a bakery wagon in Portland, ME in order to buy his own bakery, which continued to grow until the building was destroyed by fire in 1882. He started over again. His sons, W. Roy Huston and N.A. Huston eventually joined the company and helped facilitate its move to Portland, where a modern, seven-story bakery/factory was constructed on 314-318 Forest Avenue in 1919. The factory was filled with the most state-of-the-art baking equipment, and also was equipped for premium levels of cleanliness, safety, and efficiency.

The company built a reputation based on the fact that they produced products from Maine, and they limited the distance of their shipping operations to only as far as they could guarantee continued freshness of their products. The entry to the main offices included the following slogan: "Made in Maine—for Maine—by Maine People. Taste a Huston Cookie Baked Fresh Daily and Delivered Direct from Our Ovens to Your Dealer. It's Their Freshness that Makes Them So Delicious. T.A. Huston & Company 'The Down East Bakers' 'Bakers of Better Biscuits Since 1869.'" One of their most famous products was the Sebago Lunch Biscuit, for which the company used only Sebago Lake water, "which had been said by government chemists to be the purest water to be found in the country."

In 1931, the bakery was sold to the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco), which continued to operate the facility in 1954. They were forced to close because the building could not accommodate new modernizations in the industry. After many years during which the building was used primarily for storage and warehousing and then became vacant, the University of Southern Maine purchased the property in 1991 and converted it into the Albert Brenner Glickman Family Library.

For further information on the company and its conversion into the present-day library, see:

Shorey, Philip Ricker. "Know Maine Products Made in Maine For Maine By Maine People." Sun Up Maine's Own Magazine. April 1927 (copy in collection file for the T.A. Huston & Co. Salesman's Catalog)

<http://library.usm.maine.edu/about/portland/buildinghistory.html>

### **Description of the Collection**

This is the original packaging of "Clover Leaf Chocolate Peppermints," produced by T. A. Huston & Co., Auburn Maine. The box originally contained 12 pieces of candy. Because the box lists Auburn, ME rather than Portland, ME, it likely dates from before the 1919 move to the Forest Avenue facility in Portland. A picture of the box can be seen in the T.A. Huston & Co. Salesman's Catalog.