

Adolph Lietz was born in Leubeck, Germany in 1860. He immigrated to San Francisco in 1879 and worked in several scientific instrument shops before opening his own business. Lietz purchased the business of Carl Rahsskopff in 1880 and began his own business in 1882. Lietz originally joint ventured with another maker, Gottlieb A. Mauerhan, to form "Lietz and Mauerhan," a relationship that lasted for about a year. Following Mauerhan's departure, Lietz paired up with Conrad J. Weinmann who had previously worked for Carl Rahsskopff. The company was renamed "A. Lietz & Co." and at that time produced surveying instruments and related tools. The firm incorporated in 1892 under the name "The A. Lietz Company" and Weinmann possibly left at about that time. In 1910 a complete line of drafting materials and engineering equipment was added. In 1947, after 65 years of production, the firm discontinued the manufacturing of surveying instruments.

Lietz Timeline:1882 - Adolph Lietz starts a surveying instrument company in San Francisco. His motto: "Quality, Service and Price."

1906 - After the devastating earthquake, Lietz transits are used to help rebuild San Francisco. (They were also used from 1933-1937 in the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.)

1910 - Lietz begins manufacturing a line of drafting equipment and opens its first retail store in San Francisco. (Timeline info from Visit to Sockia: Back to Basics by Marc Cheves, LS)

1947 - Lietz stops manufacturing equipment and becomes a product distributor.