

MS-444, William Hobart Papers

Collection Number: MS-444

Title: William Hobart Papers

Dates: 1880-2010 (bulk 1960s-2010)

Creator: Hobart, William H., 1924-2018

Summary/Abstract:

The William Hobart Papers document the evolution of a company from its beginnings as a small family-owned business based out of Troy, Ohio, into a substantial national foodservice and food retail industry. The collection covers important landmarks such as acquisitions, documents the Hobart brothers family life, the Hobart Institute of Technology, and Troy community development directly related to the Hobart's contributions. The collection includes personal Hobart family papers, company related papers, correspondence, photographs, blueprints, sketches, pamphlets, financial records, employee records, and certificates.

Quantity/Physical Description: 6 linear feet

Language: English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access:

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-444, William Hobart Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The William Hobart Papers were donated to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by William H. Hobart in June, 2010.

Separated Material:

The work *Piqua Revisited: A Collection of Historical Photographs* was separated from collection. It was cataloged and is available in Special Collections and Archives Reading Room.

Related Material:

MS-34, Troy Buggy Work Company Records
SC-19, First National Bank of Troy, Ohio Records

Processed by: Lauren Hamer, March 2012

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into four series:

Series I: Hobart Brothers Company

Subseries IA: Correspondence

Subseries IB: Acquisitions and Mergers

Subseries IC: Company Promotional Information

Subseries ID: Annual Reports

Subseries IE: Community Relations

Subseries IF: Electric Car

Series II: Hobart Institute of Technology

Series III: Photographs

Subseries IIIA: Family

Subseries IIIB: General

Series IV: Family History

Biographical/Historical Note:

The Hobart Electrical Manufacturing Company was founded in 1897 in Troy, Ohio, by C.C. (Clarence Charles) Hobart and Herbert L. Johnson. In 1903, Hobart motors were officially sold to dealers and the first self-contained coffee powered mills were officially on the market. By 1905, Hobart increased the manufacturing line to include electric meat choppers.

During the early 1900s, Hobart expanded to the international level including opening sales offices in South Africa, South America, and Australia, and, by 1926, the M-80 mixer was added to the sales market. During the same year, they purchased the Crescent Washing Machine Company and entered the warehouse market as well. The company continued to introduce many more appliances to the market and opened up their first Sales Training School in 1961. The Hobarts were also experimenting with the invention of an electric car during the 1970s, which is documented in the photographs and sketches within the collection. They continued to acquire many companies such as Frandor Engineering Company, Koch Refrigeration, Wacson Systems and the Commercial Cooking Equipment Division of General Electric. The company also merged with Illinois Tool works in 1995 and PrestoLite in 1996. New appliances and innovations were introduced throughout the twentieth century.

As the Hobart Corporation grew from a small, family owned, business to a large international corporation, the Hobart family became increasingly involved with Troy civic life and established the Hobart Arena as well as numerous other local achievements.

Scope and Content:

The William Hobart Collection holds great significance because it displays through the use of photographs, correspondence, company records, and other media the evolution of a company from its beginnings as a small family-owned business based out of Troy into a substantial national foodservice and food retail industry. The collection covers important landmarks such as acquisitions, documents the Hobart brothers family life, the Hobart Institute of Technology, and Troy community development directly related to the Hobart's contributions.

Series I, The Hobart Brothers Company, which is divided into six subseries, encompasses the entire span of the company from its creation through the year 2010. The series includes a wealth of information about the development of the corporation and outlines the implementation of appliances and expansion into the global marketplace.

Subseries IA, Correspondence, is comprehensive and includes correspondence from the offices of the executives (Hobart brothers), management, and general stationary used in the company throughout the years. For correspondence relating directly to the acquisition, see the Acquisition and Mergers Subseries IB.

Subseries IB, Acquisition and Mergers, mainly includes information regarding the merger with Illinois Tool works and the acquisition of PrestoLite. Most related items are articles in Troy newspapers and drafts of letterheads written to management and employees and are dated 1996/1997.

Subseries IC, Company Promotional Information, contains brochures from the 1950s sent to other corporations that contain detailed photographs of employees operating factory equipment , a brief summary of the company's history, and the business tour to Russia in 1990.

Subseries ID, Annual Reports, consists of reports from mainly the 1960s and 1970s. Reports include nominations of directors and an overview of appliances added to the company's manufacturing inventory.

Subseries IE, Community Relations, contains items relating directly to the company and its contributions to the community of Troy at large. It includes a Troy Sesquicentennial Celebration program covering the years of 1814-1964.

Subseries IF, Electric Car, contains blueprints, graphs, sketches, and articles relating to the development of the proposed engine and battery for an electric car model. Photographs of the electric car engine are included in Series III.

Series II, Hobart Institute of Technology, contains course catalogs, brochures with historical timelines (most likely used for advertising purposes), and programs from celebrations relating to the Institute. The dates span from 2004-2010.

Series III, Photographs, is divided into two subseries and includes family photographs, photographs of the city of Troy, Troy Graduation photographs, the Hobart homes, Hobart appliances, the proposed electric car, and signed photographs from the 1992 President George H.W. Bush campaign. There are three glass plate negatives included. Two are depicting Charles Hobart and one depicts an unidentified home.

Subseries IIIA, Family, contains portraits of Charles Clarence Hobart, Lou Hobart, Martha Hobart, William Hobart, and Edward Hobart. There are also a variety of unidentified glass slides and photographs.

Subseries IIIB, General, includes five concentration areas:

Hobart Homes and Buildings includes C.C. Hobart's house, Frances Hobart's house and photographs from 1961. It also includes older unidentified photographs which may date back to the 1900s. It also contains Hobart Company building photographs, includes two copies of photographs and a blueprint, possibly of plans for expansion during the 1950s.

Products and Appliances, includes copies of three photographs of appliances from approximately the 1960s. It also contains photographs of the battery and engine at various stages of development.

City of Troy, General information and Graduation Photographs contains items from 1909, 1930, and a yearbook from 1931.

President George Bush Campaign Contribution includes autographed photographs sent to the Hobart family for support of his 1992 campaign.

Hobart Brothers 75th Anniversary includes photographs from the 1992 celebration.

Series IV, Family History, includes a Xeroxed copy of the Hobart name family history, Julie DuCamp Hobart's awards and community achievements, and press information regarding Edward Hobart's funeral in July 1985.

Subject Terms:

Persons/Families

Hobart, William H., 1924-2018
Hobart, Charles Clarence
Hobart, Edward
Hobart family

Organizations/Corporate Names

Hobart Corporation
Hobart Brothers Company – History
Hobart Electrical Manufacturing Company
Hobart Institute of Technology

Places

Troy (Ohio) – Industries

Troy (Ohio) -- History

Dayton (Ohio)

Subjects

Electrical apparatus and appliances

Civic leaders – Ohio – Troy

Welding equipment industry – United States -- History

Electric automobiles

Food service – United States – Equipment and supplies

Material Types

Newspapers

Correspondence

Photographs

Memoirs

Scrapbook

Blueprints (reprographic copies)

Brochures

Pamphlets

Certificates

Stationary

Programs (documents)

Collection Inventory

Series I: The Hobart Brothers Company

Subseries IA: Correspondence

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	General Company (For timeline of company, see Location 95, File 1)	1976, ca. 1990, Undated
	2	Company Shares, Checks & Bonds	ca. 1935
	3	Xerox Copies of Past Inventors and Patents	Undated
	4	Company Stationary	Undated
	5	William Hobart's Correspondence, Miami Conservancy District (for article regarding William's appointment as President of HBC, see Location 95, File 1)	ca. 1970-1990
	6	Edward Hobart	ca.1960-1990
	7	"The HB Reporter"	1964-1968
	8	Employee Correspondence	1969
	9	Summary of Employees by Department	1970
	10	Summary of Employees by Department, Notice of Shares	1971
	11	Employee Correspondence during recession	1971
	12	Employee Correspondence	1974
	13	Employee Correspondence, Vacation Notices	1975
	14	Employee Correspondence	1976
	15	Employee Correspondence	1977
	16	Employee Correspondence	1978-1979
	17	Employee Correspondence, Personnel Activity	1980
2	1	Company, Sales Breakdown by Industry	1950
	2	1913 Flood Letter by Edward Hobart, Documentation of flood by Lois Davies	Undated
		Awards and Certificates, (See Location 95, File 2)	1969, 1995, ca. 1990

Subseries IB: Acquisitions and Mergers

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	3	Illinois Tool Works	1995
	4	Illinois Tool Works	1995-1996
	5	Prestolite	1996

Subseries IC: Company Promotional Information

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	6	Company Promotional Catalogs (for the 1965 version Presidential Issue of Welding Design and Fabrication see Location 95, File 1	1960s-1990s
	7	Proposal for business trip to Russia	1990
	8	Proposal for business trip to Russia	1990
	9	Business trip to Russia	1990
	10	Business trip to Russia	1990
	11	Business trip to Russia	1990

Subseries ID: Annual Reports

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Reports and Meeting Coverage	1950-1965
	2	Reports and Meeting Coverage	1964-1968
	3	Reports and Meeting Coverage	1971-1975
	4	Reports and Meeting Coverage	1976-1979

Subseries IE: Community Relations

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	5	Company Information Relating to Troy	1964, 2000
	6	General Information Relating to Troy	ca.1960-1970
	7	Hobart Quarter Century Program	1965
	8	Hobart History in Troy	1950-1965
	9	General Troy Material, Brochures, List of Industries	1950, ca. 1960, 1995
4	1	General Troy Material, Newspaper Articles, Postcards	ca.1960-1970

Subseries IF: Electric Car

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	2	Electric Car Blueprints, Graphs, Specifications (for larger blueprints, see Location 95, file 3)	ca. 1970
	3	Electric Car Blueprints, Graphs, Specifications	ca.1970
	4	Electric Car Blueprints, Graphs, Specifications	ca.1970

Series II: Hobart Institute of Technology

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
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5	Institute Promotional Information, Brochures and Pamphlets	ca. 2010
6	Institute Promotional Information, Brochures and Pamphlets	ca.2010

Series III: Photographs

Subseries IIIA: Family

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	7	William Hobart	1982, ca. 1980
	8	Edward Hobart	Undated
	9	Edward Hobart	Undated
	10	C.C. Hobart (Charles Clarence)	Undated
	11	Charles Hobart	Undated
5	1	Lou Hobart (wife of C.C. Hobart)	Undated
	2	Martha Hobart	Undated
	3	Frances Hobart (sister of C.C. Hobart)	1961, Undated
	4	The Arthur Bundy Family Scrapbook	1908, 1932, Undated
	5	Unidentified Photographs	1880, 1932, 1955, Undated
	6	Charles Clarence Hobart Glass Slide	Undated
	7	Charles Clarence Hobart Glass Slide	Undated
	8	Unidentified Home Glass Slide	Undated
		Glyn Williams and Orval Menke (see Location 95, File 6)	Undated
		Hobart Brothers Portrait Sketches (see Location 95, File 4)	Undated
	Portraits (see Location 95, File 5)	Undated	

Subseries IIIB: General

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Hobart Homes and Buildings	
	9	Hobart Homes	1961, Undated
	10	Hobart Building	Undated
6		Hobart Boathouse and Treasure Island	Undated
		Products and Appliances	
	11	Hobart Appliances	Undated
	12	Electric Car and Battery	ca. 1970

	City of Troy	
13	General Troy City	Undated
14	Troy Graduation, 1931 Yearbook	
	President George Bush Campaign Contribution	
15	Signed Campaign Photographs	1992
	Hobart Brothers 75th Anniversary	1992
16	Anniversary Celebration Coverage (for oversize photograph of 75 th Anniversary Celebration, see Location 95, File 1)	

Series IV: Family History

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	17	Julie DuCamp Hobart, Awards and Press	1944, 2007
	18	Hobart Family History	Undated
	19	Edward Hobart Funeral	July, 1985
	20	Edward Hobart Funeral	July, 1985
	21	Edward Hobart Funeral	July, 1985