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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Messmore and Damon Company Records
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0846
Date: 1892 - 1998
Extent: 16 Cubic feet (40 boxes)
Creator: Messmore, George Harold
        Messmore and Damon Company
        Damon, Joseph
Language: English
Collection text is in English.
Some materials are in Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese and Spanish.
Summary: The records document Messmore and Damon's work in the design and construction of parade floats, museum dioramas, exhibitions, displays and scenery. The materials include business records, photographs, patents, scrapbooks, promotional materials, sound recordings and moving image.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
The collection was donated by Pamela Messmore Tobiacon, granddaughter of George H. Messmore, in 2003.

Related Materials
Materials in the Archives Center
William L. Bird Holidays on Display Collection (AC1319)
Michael Cipriano Papers (AC1274)
Landy Hales Papers (AC0906)
John Nicholson Papers (AC1279)
Edward J. Orth Memorial Archives of the World's Fair (AC0560)
Processing Information

Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2013. Pamela Messmore Tobison and Dana McKelvy provided additional biographical information and identified some photographs in Series 9: Photographs, July 2017.

Preferred Citation

Messmore and Damon Company Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Social Security numbers are present and numbers have been rendered unreadable and redacted. Researchers may use the photocopies in the collection. The remainder of the collection has no restrictions.

Reference copies for the audio discs do not exist. Use of these materials requires special arrangement with the audiovisual archivist.

Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning intellectual property rights. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Accruals

Additional materials (one cubic foot) were added in 2007.

Biographical / Historical

Messmore and Damon, Inc. was founded in 1914 by George Harold Messmore (1884-1961) and Joseph A. Damon (1882-1962). Messmore and Damon met in 1916 while working on floats for the Elks Convention in New York City. The two formed a partnership and in 1914 opened Messmore and Damon, Inc., a small shop where they initially constructed animal displays, but quickly expanded to theatrical scenery, parade floats, props for television, amusement park operations, seasonal displays, special effects in stores, advertising and promotional work, window displays, dioramas, and other exhibit work. Most of their parade and department store work featured mechanical devices which animated the animal and human figures involved, pioneering in what became known as "animatronics." The firm did the first Macy's Day Parade in 1924 and attained world-wide fame with their exhibit, The World a Million Years Ago at the 1933-1934, Chicago Century of Progress Exposition. A separate company, Messmore, Inc., was created to manufacture and sell a cardiology patient simulator, "Harvey," later known as "George," for use in medical schools.

George H. Messmore, known as "GH," started his career working backstage in theaters and built displays for the Panama-Pacific Exposition (1915). Messmore married Meta Decker (1890-1985) and they had one son, Francis (1916-1997), known as "Fran." Fran joined Messmore and Damon in 1946, working on department store displays and ran the company until his death in 1997. The company was dissolved on September 2, 1998.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of papers relating to Messmore and Damon's work in the design and construction of parade floats, museum dioramas, exhibitions, displays and scenery. The materials include business records, patents, photographs, scrapbooks containing clippings and photographs, promotional materials, sound recordings, and moving image.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into eleven series.

Series 1: Background/Biographical Materials, 1925-1996

Series 2: Business Files, 1918-1997

Subseries 2.1: Messmore and Damon, Inc., 1918-1988

Subseries 2.2: Messmore, Inc., 1971-1989

Series 3: Patents, 1892-1952

Series 4: Projects/Exhibitions, 1924-1997

Series 5: Parades, 1960-1997

Series 6: Product Literature, circa 1930s-1992


Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1925-1947

Series 9: Photographs, 1900-1997

Subseries 9.1: Family, 1900-1997

Subseries 9.2: Subjects, 1930-1995

Subseries 9.3: Chronological, 1957-1985

Subseries 9.4: Ephemera, undated

Subseries 9.5: Postcards, undated

Subseries 9.6: Negatives, undated

Series 10: Oversize Materials, 1930-1989

Subseries 11.1: Audio Discs, 1933-1937

Subseries 11.2: Moving Image, 1997

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Dioramas
- Exhibitions
- Parade float designers
- Parade floats
- Parades
- Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery

Types of Materials:
- Business records -- 20th century
- Clippings -- 20th century
- Phonograph records
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century
Series 1: Background/Biographical Materials, 1925-1996

This series consists of biographical sketches of Messmore family members (Dorothy, Julia, George, William, and Francis) and a Christmas party invitation, undated, for Pamela Messmore. Also included are the identification cards for Francis Messmore from the 1933-1934 Century of Progress and 1939 World's Fair; a scripture service, with photograph of a burial mass for Edmund G. Decker (1897-1947); Francis Messmore's Fordham University paper "The Synthetic Dinosaur Brontosaurus" (circa 1940s); Soldier of the 34th Illinois Volunteers (1996) by Francis Messmore; and "Live to be 100," a typescript by Louis Dufour (1963). Also, Francis Messmore's rated hours for an Army extension course (1950) at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth is included. Articles detailing Messmore and Damon's business include: "Just Mechanics and Brains,"Opportunity (1923); a typescript "From Props to Pachyderms" (undated); and a draft typescript of the company's history (1983). Newspaper and magazine article clippings and reprints contain stories about Messmore and Damon, Inc. Publications include, but are not limited to Literary Digest, Science and Invention, American Machinist, Popular Science, the Detroit News, New York Herald Tribune, Scientific American, and the New York Times.

Box 1, Folder 1 Messmore Family (biographical), undated
Box 1, Folder 2 "Synthetic Dinosaurs Brontosaurus" (academic paper, Fordham University), circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 3 Soldier of the 34th Illinois Volunteers, 1996
Box 1, Folder 4 Francis Messmore (Army papers), 1950
Box 1, Folder 5 "Live to be 100", 1963
Box 10, Folder 1; Box 1, Folder 6 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1925-1996

Image(s)
Series 2: Business Files, 1918-1997

This series is divided into two subseries: Subseries 1, Messmore and Damon, Inc. and Subseries 2, Messmore, Inc.

Subseries 2.1: Messmore and Damon, 1918-1988 consists of corporate identity materials, certificate of incorporation, employee information, correspondence, financial statements and reports, and sales information. The corporate identity materials contain business cards, letterhead, blank forms, press kit folders, and envelopes branded with the Messmore and Damon, Inc. company name. There is a list detailing all of the facilities and major equipment located at the 530 West 28th Street warehouse space. The employee information contains documentation about the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, a Division of Industrial Safety Service (New York State) requirement form (1951) requesting Messmore and Damon comply with a cover/guard for a lathe sand radial saw. Brief biographical sketches for some company employees are included.

There is some correspondence with other businesses for machines and machining services, as well as an agreement between Messmore and Damon and the Diaroma and Display Workers.

The rolodex maintained by the company provides insight into the “who” Messmore and Damon worked with. Typed or handwritten on an index card, and in some instances, a printed business card, the rolodex information is arranged alphabetically and provides a name, address, telephone number and other data, such as account numbers. Presumably maintained by Dorothy Messmore and other clerical staff, there are card index entries for theatres, attorneys, government officials and offices, repair services, funeral homes, electricians, plumbers, and lumber companies, and union organizations. Many of the index cards are annotated reflecting updated and/or edited information. The notation “deceased” is used.

The correspondence, 1918-1988, is arranged chronologically and consists of letters to Messmore and Damon, many of which are testimonials expressing gratitude and praise for the company’s work on parade floats. These include, but are not limited to, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, Central Asiatic Expeditions, the Miss America Pageant, the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, Canada’s Victory Loan, and President Gerald Ford.

The inquiries, 1991-1995, include correspondence with individuals and organizations who contracted or sought to contract with Messmore and Damon for their services.

The financial statements, 1989-1997, consist of bound statements prepared by Konigsberg Wolf and Co., certified public accountants. These statements detail Messmore and Damon’s balance sheet and do not constitute an audit or review.

The “Valuation Opinion of John W. Hanes, Jr.” is a typescript document from 1986 discussing the financial health of Messmore and Damon, presumably in preparation for selling the company. In addition, there are several copies of Report and Analysis of Messmore and Damon. These documents provide an overview of the company’s work, problems it faces, competitors, and client lists.

The sales information includes order books and revenue information. The sales orders include correspondence, licensing agreements, receipts, purchase orders, faxes, and other documents that are arranged chronologically.

The outgoing shipments documentation consists of typescript shipping labels arranged in a notebook chronologically. The labels are annotated with a brief description of what shipped, the date, cost, and size. The quotes for work include correspondence and typescript and handwritten estimates for work to prospective clients.

Subseries 2.2: Messmore, Inc includes stock certificates, the first board meeting minutes (November 1977), a distributorship agreement with Unitrade Ltd., to manufacture and sell the cardiology patient
simulator, certificate of dissolution (1989), and by-laws. A 1956 copy of the articles of incorporation for Messmore and Damon, Inc. is also included.

Subseries 2.1: Messmore and Damon, Inc., 1918-1997

Box 1, Folder 7  Corporate identity, undated
Box 1, Folder 9A  Facilities and major equipment (inventory), undated
Box 1, Folder 10  Employer identification number and unemployment insurance, 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 10A  Employee information (resumes), undated
Box 36  Rolodex, undated
Box 1, Folder 11  Correspondence, 1918-1954
Box 1, Folder 12  Correspondence, 1977, 1973, 1986
Box 1, Folder 13  Correspondence, 1988
Box 1, Folder 14  Atlantic Machinery Exchange, 1952
Box 1, Folder 16  Globe Machinery Company, 1952
Box 1, Folder 16  Diorama and Display Workers Local Union 829 committee report, 1952
Box 1, Folder 17  Inquiries, 1991
Box 1, Folder 18  Inquiries, 1992
Box 1, Folder 19  Inquiries, 1993
Box 1, Folder 20  Inquiries, 1995
Box 1, Folder 21  Inquiries, 1997
Box 1, Folder 22  Financial statements, 1988-1989
Box 1, Folder 23  Financial statements, 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 24  Financial statements, 1992-1993
Box 1, Folder 25  Financial statements, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 26  Financial statements, 1996-1997
Box 1, Folder 27  Valuation opinion (of John W. Hanes, Jr.), 1985
Box 1, Folder 28  Report and Analysis of Messmore and Damon, Inc., 1988 June
Box 1, Folder 29  Report and Analysis of Messmore and Damon, Inc., 1985 April
Box 1, Folder 30  Report and Analysis of Messmore and Damon, Inc., 1989 January
Box 5, Item 1  Sales order book, 1990-1992
Box 5, Item 2  Sales order book, 1992-1994
Box 1, Folder 31  Sales orders notebook, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 32  Sales revenues (includes client lists), 1988
Box 1, Folder 33  Agreement (standard), undated
Box 1, Folder 34  Stockholder meeting, 1997
Box 1, Folder 35  Stock certificates (copies), 1971, 1964
Box 1, Folder 36  Bond Parade Floats, 1995-1998
Box 1, Folder 37  Orders, 1996
Box 1, Folder 38  Pay rates for employees, undated
Box 2, Folder 1  Outgoing shipments (notebook), 1986-1991
Box 2, Folder 2  Outgoing shipments (loose materials from notebook), 1986
Box 2, Folder 3  Quotes for work, 1992
Box 2, Folder 4  Quotes for work, 1993
Box 2, Folder 5  Quotes for work, 1994

Subseries 2.2: Messmore, Inc., 1971-1989
Box 1, Folder 9  Certificate of dissolution, 1989
Box 1, Folder 8  Corporate documents (articles of incorporation, by-laws, and minutes), 1971-1989
Series 3: Patents, 1892-1952

This series consists of issued patents, correspondence, notes, and drawings for inventions.

Box 10, Folder 2  Head movement for a device simulating a dinosaur (US Patent 1,898,587 and British Patent 387,199), 1931 - 1933

Box 2, Folder 6  Intervisual mural (US Patent 2,135,968), 1938

Box 2, Folder 7  Mechanical horse and display stands, 1892, 1938, 1935, 1932, 1927

Box 10, Folder 3  Sliding door for truck bodies, 1937 - 1938

Box 10, Folder 4  Mechanical display, 1938

Box 2, Folder 8  Laminated gangway (US Patent 2,380,060), 1943

Box 2, Folder 9  Smoking character figures, 1952

Box 2, Folder 10  Cobweb machine, undated
Series 4: Projects/Exhibitions, 1924-1997

This series contains documentation about specific projects and/or exhibitions Messmore and Damon developed and built. The materials primarily consist of correspondence, printed publications, notes, financial materials, photographs, exhibit scripts, press kits, ephemera, and newspaper clippings. The materials are arranged chronologically.

The transportation radio show talks (ten minutes in duration) consist of typed scripts specially written for Messmore and Damon by Russell E. Smith of Cleveland, Ohio. The talks are part of the Old Timers Talk, a radio show broadcast in New York City. The talks are arranged numerically.

Additional materials in this series include the World's Fair building code (1939) and two publications, How to draw horses for commercial art (1946) and How to make posters that will help you win the war (1940s). The miscellaneous folder contains some excellent examples of ephemera. Highlights include a Bird's Eye View of the Panama Canal Map (1915), You Can Defend America (1941); a booklet on the occasion of Nikita S. Khrushchev's visit to the United States (1959); and Designs for Dining by Dorothy Draper and Co., Inc. (1965).

Box 2, Folder 11  World's Fair (1939) building code, 1937 July 28
Box 2, Folder 12  How to draw horses for commercial art, 1946
Box 2, Folder 13  How to make posters that will help win the war, [1940s?]
Box 2, Folder 14  Transportation in America, 1930
Box 2, Folder 14A  Transportation (radio talks)
Box 2, Folder 15  History of American Transportation (New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles), 1931
Box 2, Folder 16  Washington Bicentennial, 1932
Box 2, Folder 17  The History of Torture (text by Leon Morgan), 1933
Box 2, Folder 18  The World a Million Years Ago (reptile group), 1933
Box 2, Folder 19  The World a Million Years Ago (development), 1924-1932  Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 20  The World a Million Years Ago (construction plans), 1930s
Box 10, Folder 6;  Box 2, Folder 21  The World a Million Years Ago (newspaper clippings), 1933  Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 22  The World a Million Years Ago (text by Leon Morgan), 1933  Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 23  The World a Million Years Ago, Not a Motion Picture, 1934 - 1934
Box 2, Folder 24  The World a Million Years Ago (sheet music), 1936
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 25 The World a Million Years Ago, 1935, 1939, 1953
Box 10, Folder 5 The World a Million Years Ago (photostats and captions), 1947
Box 2, Folder 26 The Amazing Biography of a Cow (Lady Aiken Ina Ormsby-Holstein cow), 1934
Box 2, Folder 27 Texas Centennial Exposition (includes history of world's fairs), 1936
Box 2, Folder 28 The Adventures of Flash Gordon in the World of Tomorrow, [1930s]
Box 2, Folder 29 Barnum's Museum, 1939
Box 2, Folder 30 Old New York, 1939
Box 2, Folder 31 American Thruway Exhibit, 1951
Box 2, Folder 32 Toy Town, Children's World, [1951?]
Box 2, Folder 33; Box 10, Folder 7 Cosmorama (Venezuelan World's Fair), 1960
Box 2, Folder 34 Atoms for Peace, [1960s]
Box 2, Folder 35 Hemisfair '68, Texas World's Fair, 1968
Box 2, Folder 36 Founding Fathers, the Birth of the Republic Exhibit, 1982, 1990 - 1991
Box 11, Item 2 The Formation of the Union (facsimile packet based upon an exhibit at the National Archives), undated
Box 2, Folder 37 Minorities in the Military (proposed exhibit), 1991-1993
Box 2, Folder 38 University of Buffalo, 1997
Box 2, Folder 39 The Awakening, undated
Box 2, Folder 40 Law, Outlaw, undated
Box 2, Folder 41 Victory in Europe and Japan, undated
Box 2, Folder 42 Romance on Venus, undated
Box 10, Folder 8 Project Vanguard, [1960s?] 
Box 2, Folder 43 Final Report and EDPA Study of Tradeshows Decision Making, 1989 February
Box 2, Folder 44 Miscellaneous ephemera, 1933-1959

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Series 5: Parades, 1960-1997

This series consists of correspondence, faxes, liability insurance, solicitation letters, drawings, lists detailing contacts, quotes, contracts sent and payments, agreements, invoices, purchase orders, parade routes, parade schedules, accident reports, notes, and cancelled checks. In the 1950s, Messmore and Damon began specializing in Labor Day parade floats, most of which were for trade unions. Labor Day parades are well represented here as well as the Puerto Rican Gay Pride Parade.

Box 3, Folder 1  Correspondence, 1960
Box 3, Folder 2  Solicitation letters, 1989-1996
Box 3, Folder 3  Blank form letters, 1992-1995
Box 3, Folder 4  Correspondence, 1994
Box 3, Folder 5  Accident, 1997
Box 3, Folder 6  Contracts and cancelled checks, 1997
Box 3, Folder 7  Labor Day Parade, 1992
Box 3, Folder 8  Labor Day Parade, 1993
Box 3, Folder 9  Labor Day Parade, 1995
Box 3, Folder 10 Puerto Rican Gay Pride, 1992
Box 3, Folder 11 Puerto Rican Gay Pride, 1993
Box 3, Folder 12 Puerto Rican Gay Pride , 1995
Box 3, Folder 13 Puerto Rican Gay Pride , 1996
Box 3, Folder 14 Puerto Rican Gay Pride , 1997
Box 3, Folder 15 Veteran's Day, 1995
Box 3, Folder 9A Labor Day, 1996
Box 3, Folder 9B Labor Day, 1997 July
Box 3, Folder 9C Labor Day, 1997 August
Box 3, Folder 9D Labor Day, 1997 September-1997 October
Box 3, Folder 16 Sam Adams Wall Street float, 1995
Box 3, Folder 17 Floats--various, 1996
Series 6: Product Literature, circa 1930s-1992

This series contains product literature for Messmore and Damon products and competitors. Materials include price lists, detailed descriptions and images of products, and services building exhibits and displays.

Box 4, Folder 1  Dark Ride Stunts, [1960s?]
Box 4, Folder 2  Amusement displays, [1960s]
Box 4, Folder 3  Papier mache, [1930s?]
Box 4, Folder 4  Product literature, [1960s?]
Box 4, Folder 5  AVG, Inc., 1988-1992
   Image(s)
Box 4, Folder 6  Designs for Dining, 1963, 1965
Box 4, Folder 7  Hahne and Company, undated
Box 4, Folder 8  Don Post Studios, Inc., 1972-1975
Box 4, Folder 9  Ephemera for Messmore and Damon, undated

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Francis B. Messmore and Michael Gordon developed a patient simulator/teaching device in 1972 (US Patent 3,662,076) for use in simulating various normal and abnormal cardiac conditions in the human body. The University of Miami entered into an agreement with Messmore and Damon to manufacture the heart patient simulator, known initially as "Harvey" (named after Dr. W. Proctor Harvey, a Georgetown University medical School cardiologist and teacher. The simulator would later become known as "George" named after George H. Messmore. " Francis Messmore also patented a cardiac training mannikin in 1985 (US Patent 4,601,665).

This series consists of correspondence, product literature, drawings, and patent-related materials surrounding the development, manufacture, and sales of the patient simulator.

Box 4, Folder 10  Cardiac training mannikin (US Patent 4,601,665), 1986
Box 4, Folder 11  Licensing agreement, 1982
Box 4, Folder 12  George, the heart patient simulator (brochure), undated
Box 4, Folder 13  Correspondence, 1977 - 1979, 1989, 1983
Box 4, Folder 14  Correspondence, 1991
Box 4, Folder 15  Correspondence, 1992
Box 4, Folder 16  Correspondence, 1993
Box 4, Folder 17  Correspondence, 1994
Box 4, Folder 18  Correspondence, 1995
Box 4, Folder 19  Correspondence (includes history of patient simulator), 1996 - 1997
Box 4, Folder 20  Correspondence, 1998
Box 4, Folder 21  CAE Electronics (product literature), 1994
Box 4, Folder 22  Gordon, Michael (doctor), 1980 - 1981
Box 4, Folder 23  Miskin, Howard C. (patent attorney), 1998
Box 4, Folder 24  Drawings, photographs (copies), 1990
Box 4, Folder 25  Mannikin "George", 1990
Box 4, Folder 26  Cardionics, Inc., 1991
Box 4, Folder 27  TKB International, 1991
Box 4, Folder 28  Solicitation materials, 1990 - 1992
Box 4, Folder 29  Solicitation materials, 1993
Box 4, Folder 30  Solicitation materials, 1991
Box 4, Folder 31  Solicitation materials, 1992
Box 4, Folder 32  Solicitation materials, 1993
Box 4, Folder 33  Solicitation materials, 1994
Box 4, Folder 34  Solicitation materials, 1995
Box 4, Folder 35  Pace University School of Nursing, 1998

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## Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1925-1947

The scrapbooks consist primarily of newspaper clippings, magazine articles, photographs, correspondence, transcripts of radio talks, and other ephemera related to work by Messmore and Damon, Inc. One of the scrapbooks contains news clippings and comics related to World War II. In some instances, newspaper clippings were photocopied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8, Folder 1-3</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1922-1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, Folder 4-5</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, Folder 1-5</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1925-1932</td>
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<tr>
<td>6, Folder 6-13</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1930-1934</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, Folder 1-4</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1930-1941</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, Folder 5</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1930-1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, Folder 6-9</td>
<td>Scrapbook (World War II-related), 1933-1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, Folder 6-7</td>
<td>Scrapbook (A World A Million Years Ago), 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, Folder 8-9</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1932-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9, Folder 1-3</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1933-1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>9, Folder 4-5</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11, Item 1</td>
<td>Messmore and Damon, Inc., New York, (empty binder), undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, Item 1</td>
<td>Messmore and Damon, Inc., New York (empty binder), undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 9: Photographs, 1900 - 1997

The photographs consist of black-and-white and color prints, slides, negatives, and transparencies documenting the Messmore family, parades, float and display construction, and other World's Fairs.

The series is arranged topically into five subseries: Subseries 9.1: Family; Subseries 9.2: Subjects; Subseries 9.3: Chronological; Subseries 9.3: Chronological; Subseries 9.4: Miscellaneous, and Subseries 9.5: Postcards; Subseries 9.6: Negatives.

The majority of the photographs are family-related images and depict the Messmore family traveling, in their home, and celebrating holidays and birthday parties, especially children's birthdays. Some of the earlier family photographs, circa 1900-1930, contain portraits of various family members. In some instances, individual photographs were removed from albums.

Many of the subjects relate to specific projects undertaken by Messmore and Damon, Inc. such as their History of Federal Hall Exhibit. This subseries is arranged alphabetically. The Century of Progress photographs include a nudist wedding.

Many of the parade/float photographs depict completed floats on parade routes, especially Labor Day Parades, and in some instances depict the employees/display makers constructing floats and other elements in the shop. The Labor Day Parade photographs contain patriotic themes such as "Build a Stronger America" and placards on floats such as the "Clinton/Gore" campaign. Many of the parade floats were designed for various labor unions. Streetscapes of various U.S. cities are also included and presumably were taken for planning parade routes.

Subseries 9.1: Family, 1900 - 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Portraits, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Family, 1900s-1930s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Family, circa 1920s-circa 1930s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family, circa 1940s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Family, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Family, 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Family, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15</td>
<td>Family, 1955-1957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 17</td>
<td>Children's birthday parties, circa 1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 17</td>
<td>Family, 1960s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 17</td>
<td>Family, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 17</td>
<td>Family, 1964-1967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 17  Family, 1968
Box 17  Family, 1969 October
Box 17  Family, 1979
Box 17  Family, 1983-1985
Box 17  Family, 1985 June
Box 17  Family, 1985 June
Box 17  Family, 1987 June
Box 17  Family, 1987
Box 17  Family, 1987 October
Box 17  Family, unidentified, undated

Box 18  Family, unidentified, undated

**Subseries 9.2: Subjects/Topics, 1930 - 1995**

Box 23  Airline seating
Box 33  Atoms for Peace
Box 33  AT & T Display, 1970
Box 33  Auto Lite Display, 1952
Box 23  Barnum
Box 23  Brandenberg Gate, Germany
Box 37; Box 25; Box 38  Brussels, 1958
Box 23  Buddha
Box 23  Buffalo
Box 23  Builders/Mechanics
Box 23  Buildings (miscellaneous)
Box 23  Chastity belt
Box 23  Car Show
Box 14, Folder 1  Cat and the Fiddle; Mother Goose and Peter Piper

*4 Photographs*
Box 24  Century of Progress, 1933
Box 24  Children's Department (at a department store)
Box 24  Christmas/Santa
Box 24  [Civil War?] exhibit
Box 24  Coronation carriage of Karl VI, First Liberty Loan
Box 10, Folder 10  Coronation carriage of Karl VI, First Liberty Loan [diorama?], undated
Box 24; Box 14, Folder 3  Cosmorama
Box 24  Cows
Image(s)
Box 14, Folder 4  Court jesters and woman on horseback, undated
Box 24  Danbury Fair, 1948
Box 24; Box 10, Folder 14  Dinosaurs, 1933
Image(s)
[Staged nudist wedding on a parade float with a mechanical dinosaur: black and white photoprint], ca. 1930-1950
1 Item (10.5" x 8.5")
Image(s): [Staged nudist wedding on a parade float with a mechanical dinosaur: black and white photoprint].
Messmore and Damon Company, Collector
Photographer unidentified.
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
Silver gelatin on paper.
Local Numbers
04084604.tif (AC Scan)
In Box 6.

Topic: Dinosaurs
       Nudism
       Nudity
       Parade floats
       Sculpture
       Weddings

Genre/ Form: Photographs -- 1930-1950 -- Black-and-white
             photoprints -- Silver gelatin
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 26</th>
<th>Displays/Exhibits (construction of), 1973-1988</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 27</td>
<td>Displays/Exhibits, 1987-1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24</td>
<td>Earhart, Amelia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24</td>
<td>Elephants</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24</td>
<td>Exhibits, New York’s World’s Fair (copies), 1964</td>
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<td>Box 22</td>
<td>Exhibits, made by Messmore and Damon (copies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 13</td>
<td>Fairy Tales (Little Red Riding Hood, Mother Goose, Little Miss Muffet), undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24</td>
<td>FAO Schwartz , 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 12</td>
<td>Float construction (includes Jersey cow), circa 1930s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Founding Fathers, 1989 March</td>
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<td>Box 33</td>
<td>General Electric (exhibit), circa 1960s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>George (heart patient simulator), 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Gorillas, undated</td>
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<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Goulet, Robert, undated</td>
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<td>Box 14, Folder 7</td>
<td>Grain Neutral Spirit Still (whiskey), undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Grand Central Terminal , undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Harvey (patient simulator), circa 1980s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 33</td>
<td>Hemis Fair, Texas World's Fair, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>History of Federal Hall (exhibit)</td>
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<td>Box 25</td>
<td>Hilla Dancer, undated</td>
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<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Horses</td>
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<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Israel (exhibit), 1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Israel [trip?]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Italy, undated</td>
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<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Kennedy, John F., 1960</td>
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<td>Box</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Laminated Gangways, 1943</td>
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<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Lincoln Inaugural Carriage, 1984</td>
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<td>Box 29</td>
<td>Logan, John D. (G.A.R./Michigan Soldiers Home), undated</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Madison Square Garden</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>MacArthur, Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Magic Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 33</td>
<td>March of Dimes, 1959-1960, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 33</td>
<td>Mechanical displays</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Messmore and Damon (office building)</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Miami</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Models (small scale of animals)</td>
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<td>Box 33</td>
<td>New York World's Fair, 1939</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Noah's Ark, circa 1920s</td>
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<td>Box 14, Folder 5</td>
<td>Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America , 1937 June</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Nudes</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Old New York, 1939</td>
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<td>Box 33</td>
<td>Otis Elevator Display, circa 1970s</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>Paintings (unidentified landscapes), 1988</td>
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<td>Box 19</td>
<td>Parades, 1948-1959</td>
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<td>Box 20</td>
<td>Parades, 1971-1988</td>
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<td>Box 28</td>
<td>Parades, circa 1930s-circa 1960s</td>
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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 21</td>
<td>Labor Day Parade, 1984</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>People (unidentified)</td>
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<td>Box 30</td>
<td>People's 45th Celebration</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Pepsi (at Comiskey Park, Chicago; at Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan; at Municipal Stadium, Cleveland, Ohio)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Piels Island, 1957</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Pleasure Island, Massachusetts, undated</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Political</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Potter, Beatrix (transparencies of animal characters), undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Presidential Inauguration Parade (Richard Nixon), 1973</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Scotti Muffler</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Sesame Place, 1987 November</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Seattle Fair, 1969</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Smokey the Bear, 1959</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Sorenson Power Supply, undated</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>The Spiral Show, circa 1960s</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Statutes, undated</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Storefront Displays, circa 1930s</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Torture, 1933</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Transparencies (interiors of homes), undated</td>
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<td>14, Folder 6; 32</td>
<td>Transportation in America, 1930</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>United Parcel Service (UPS), circa 1980s</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>United States Rubber</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>U.S.I.A. Space Program (exhibit), circa 1960s</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>U.S. Science (exhibit), 1969</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Victory Arch, undated</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Washington Bicentennial, 1976</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Wood (animal figures), undated</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>World a Million Years Ago (postcards), 1933</td>
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</table>
Box 32  World's Fairs (various)
Box 32  Wright Brothers (exhibit)

**Subseries 9.3: Chronological, 1957 - 1985**

Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1957 January
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1958 July
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1958 September
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1959 April
Box 37  [Korea?], 1972 September
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1975 June
Box 37  Slides, unidentified, 1975 August
Box 37  Slides, unidentified, 1981 June
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1982
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1984 August
Box 37  Photographs, unidentified, 1985 August
Box 34  Photograph Album, circa 1960s

**Subseries 9.4: Miscellaneous, unidentified, undated**

*Box 37 and 39*

**Subseries 9.5: Postcards, undated**

*Box 35*

**Subseries 9.6: Negatives, undated**

*Box 35*
Series 10: Oversize Materials, 1930-1989

This series consists of blueprints, posters, drawings, sketches, and floor plans related to work done by Messmore and Damon Company. The bulk of the materials consists of exhibition drawings, most of which are copies. The materials range in size from 8” x 10” to 22.5” x 42.5.”

Box 9, Folder 6 Mechanical elephant, undated

Box 9, Folder 6 Fine Line features (parade float), undated

Box 9, Folder 6 Buffalo head, undated

Box 9, Folder 6 [Mime heads?], undated

Box 9, Folder 6 Clown face, undated

Box 14, Folder 2 Clown renderings, undated

Box 9, Folder 7 Labor Day Parade drawings (Miller, A & P, Pepsi, Borden, and Hunts), 1984

Map-folder 1 Messmore and Damon, Inc., building floor plans (includes specifications), 1968 August 16

Map-folder 1 6 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 1 Messmore and Damon, Inc., papier mache display decorations posters, undated

Map-folder 1 Messmore and Damon, Inc., synthetic cows that work for you day and night , circa 1930s

Map-folder 1 1 Poster

Map-folder 1 Messmore and Damon, Inc., Easter Bulletin A, 1947

Map-folder 1 Messmore and Damon, Inc., designers and builders , circa 1950s-1960s

Map-folder 1 1 Poster

Map-folder 1 Kiddie Land Park Attractions , undated

Map-folder 1 1 Poster

Map-folder 1 Tiny Tot Town , undated

Map-folder 1 1 Poster

Map-folder 1 Joyland Animated Superfeatures , undated

Map-folder 1 1 Poster

Map-folder 1 Newspaper and magazine clippings and reprints (includes reprint of The Graphic from 1882), 1930-1958

Map-folder 2 Messmore and Damon, George Washington Bicentennial, 1732-1932 , 1932

Map-folder 2 1 Poster

Map-folder 2 Messmore and Damon, Torture Chamber, Century of Progress, Chicago , 1933
13 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 2  Messmore and Damon, Torture show auction house layout, [1970s?]
1 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 2  Messmore and Damon, Study for general plan, Century of Progress, Chicago, 1932-1933
1 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 2  Messmore and Damon, Direct from New York World's Fair, P.T. Barnum American Museum, 1939
1 Poster

Map-folder 2  An Illustrated Map of the World from the Golden Geography, 1952

Map-folder 2  Messmore and Damon, The World a Million Years Ago, 1972, 1932
7 drawings (visual works)

1 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 3  Messmore and Damon Lone Star Hall of Texas History, Lone Star Brewing Company Hemisfair, 1968 July 27
1 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 3  Messmore and Damon, Dark Ride Stunts, [1960s?]
4 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 3  Messmore and Damon, George Drucker, Toyko, Japan project, 1972 December 22
11 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 3  Messmore and Damon, Puerto Rico (parade float), 1989
1 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 4  I Love a Parade! (parade float), undated
1 paintings (visual works)

Map-folder 4  Unidentified [Ave Naris Stella?] parade float rendering, undated
1 paintings (visual works)

Map-folder 4  Indian Pony Drag, Conestoga Wagon, Stage Coach, and Kitty Hawk, undated
4 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 4  INT Blacksmith Shop, undated
1 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 4  Circus-related, 1947 April 23
10 drawings (visual works)

Map-folder 4  Haunted Mansion lettering, undated
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<tr>
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<td>Map-folder 4</td>
<td>Founding Fathers, 1982</td>
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<td>2 drawings (visual works)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 4</td>
<td>Airplane-related, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 4</td>
<td>Defense map of the United States, 1940s</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Map</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map-folder 4</td>
<td>Newsclippings, 1949, 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 11</td>
<td>Miscellaneous drawings and sketches, undated</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Subseries 11.1: Audio Discs, 1933-1937

27 sound discs

Box 14A, Item 1-2  
170689, The Re-Enactment of the Laying of the First Stone Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933  
2 discs  
2 copies

Box 14A, Item 3-5  
CSS-425-B, The Re-Enactment of the Laying of the First Stone Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933  
3 discs

Box 14A, Item 6  
Symphonia March 2. The Big Cage. Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 7-8  
Carousel, Beneath the Chapel Tower, undated  
2 discs

Box 14A, Item 9  
Old King Cole Medley March, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 10  
Fosterettes March. Spring Beautiful Spring. Broadway One-Step and Royal Decree, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 11  
Major Records. Country Fire Alarm. Klaxon Horn. Burglar Alarm Bell. Siren (Prison Type); Drum Corp; Trapeze Effect Drum Roll and Cymbal Crash; Cymbal Roll and Crash Execution Drums and Volley of Rifles, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 12  
Major Records. Missile Sounds.  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 13  
Major Records. Gun Shots and Rocket Barrage, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 14  
Major Records. News Effects, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 15  
Cappy Barra Band, 1937  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 16  
Major Records. Westminster Chimes and Jet Plane  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 17  
Major Records. Christmas Carols, undated  
1 disc

Box 14A, Item 18  
Major Records. Rocket Ship and Music Bridges and Fanfare, undated
1 Disc

Box 14A, Item 19  Major Records. Thunder and Rainfall and Excited Crowd Voices, undated
1 Disc

Box 14A, Item 20  Major Records. Rifle Shots and Marching Feet and Racing Cars, undated
1 Disc

Box 14A, Item 21-22  Major Records. "Carousel," "We Did It Before and We'll Do it Again," and
"Umbrella Man", undated
2 Discs

Box 14A, Item 23  Major Records. Fanfares and End Title Music; Continuous Machine Gun Burst;
Single Machine Gun Burst; Single Whistling Shell; and Continuous Whistling Shells
1 Disc

Box 14A, Item 24-25  Decca. Medieval Tortures (India)
2 Discs

Box 14A, Item 26-27  Decca, The World a Million Years Ago , 1933 - 1933
2 Discs
Transcription discs.

Subseries 11.2: Moving Image, 1997

Box 13, Video MV 846.1  The World a Million Years Ago (Beta Cam SP), 1997
1 videocassettes (betacamsp) (Duration 15:00. )
Track one includes World A Million Years Ago, 1933 and Santa Visits Messmore and Damon, Inc. Workshop.

Track two includes Pathe Newsreel of mechanized animals--gorillas, dinosaurs, tigers and elephants.

Track three includes Paramount News reel of Stoneage on Broadway, Sleep Tight Kiddies (Chicago World's Fair), and Weirdest Mastodon Comes to Life (includes mechanical cow).

Box 13, Disk DVD 846.1  The World a Million Years Ago , 1997
1 electronic discs (dvd)
Track one includes World A Million Years Ago, 1933 and Santa Visits Messmore and Damon, Inc. Workshop.

Track two includes Pathe Newsreel of mechanized animals--gorillas, dinosaurs, tigers and elephants.

Track three includes Paramount News reel of Stoneage on Broadway, Sleep Tight Kiddies (Chicago World's Fair), and Weirdest Mastodon Comes to Life (includes mechanical cow).