



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to Jackson & Sharp Car Co. Records and American Car & Foundry Co. Collection, 1884-1948

NMAH.AC.0156

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Bibliography.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Records, 1885 - 1948.....	4
Series 2: Photographs, undated.....	5

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Jackson & Sharp Car Company Records and American Car & Foundry Company Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0156
Date:	1884-1948
Extent:	2.5 Cubic feet (6 boxes, 21 volumes)
Creator:	American Car and Foundry Co. (Jackson & Sharp Car Co.) Jackson & Sharp Car Co. Transportation, Division of, NMAH, SI.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Transportation in 1979.

Related Materials

The Delaware State Archives contains a collection of approximately 3,000 negatives and photographs from Jackson and Sharp and American Car & Foundry. These include views of ships, electric railway cars, and railroad equipment. A description of the Delaware State Archives' collection can be found in the control file for coll. #156 and a copy of the microfiche listing of these photos is available in the Archives Center's microfiche cabinet. The Archives also holds over 160 drawings and blueprints for cars and ships, dating from 1881 1937 The Hagley Museum and Library of Wilmington, Delaware, contains several collections of Jackson & Sharp records. These include historical materials; contracts for car orders, 1898 1905; and drawings and blueprints, 1895 1930. A smaller body of Jackson & Sharp records is in the Historical Society of Delaware, in Wilmington.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Harding, 1984

Preferred Citation

Jackson and Sharp Car Co. Records and American Car and Foundry Co. Collection, 1884-1948, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Special care required in handling photographs, as the bound volumes are in poor condition.

Conditions Governing Use

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

Biographical / Historical

The Jackson and Sharp Car Company, a manufacturer of railroad passenger cars, street railway cars, and ships, was incorporated in Delaware on February 24, 1869, as the successor to the partnership of Jackson & Sharp. Job H. Jackson (1833-1901), a tinsmith and mechanic, and Jacob F. Sharp (ca. 1815-1888), an experienced car builder, opened a small car building shop in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1863. Wilmington was a major center for the manufacture of railroad passenger cars prior to the development of Pullman, Illinois, in 1881. Sharp retired from the business in 1870. Soon after, Jackson erected the larger Delaware Car Works facility at the foot of 8th Street. A shipyard was added in 1875. By the late 1880s, the company was turning out about 400 cars per year, as well as sash work and panelling for buildings.

The American Car & Foundry Company purchased Jackson and Sharp in 1901 when Jackson died. American Car & Foundry, incorporated in New Jersey in 1899, was a typical late 19th century merger of many small car building companies. The Jackson and Sharp plant in Wilmington was used primarily for the construction of railroad cars for export orders until around 1920. From the end of World War One until 1938, the plant was kept open by building small pleasure boats. During World War Two the plant produced minesweepers. The plant was closed around 1945.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains order books, including design details of a wide variety of passenger, freight and specialty cars (including self-propelled electric cars), and cost accounts for the production department. Also included are 21 volumes of photographs of finished cars, arranged by lot number. These have separate indexes arranged alphabetically and by photograph number.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series.

Series 1: Records,

Series 2: Photographs

Bibliography

Hagley Museum and Library. Finding aids for collection.

Hoffecker, Carol. Wilmington, Delaware Portrait of An Industrial City 1830 1910. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1974.

White, John. "Railroad Car Builders of the United States." Railroad History, 138 (Spring, 1978).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Railroads -- Cars

Types of Materials:

Account books

Albumen prints

Cost account books

Lists -- Photographs

Order books

Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver albumen -- 1850-1900

Names:

Transportation, Division of, NMAH, SI.

Geographic Names:

Delaware

Container Listing

Series 1: Records, 1885 - 1948

Box 1, Folder 1	Electric cars orders, 1894-1900
Box 1, Folder 2	Electric cars orders, 1899-1909
Box 2, Folder 1	Electric cars, detailed specifications, 1898-1905
Box 3, Folder 1	Order Books, 1885-1891
Box 4, Folder 1	Order Books, Vol. 10 A, 1907-1914
Box 5, Folder 1	Order Books, 1913-1917
Box 5, Folder 2	Order Books, 1918-1922
Box 5, Folder 3	Order book, 1922-1925
Box 6, Folder 1	List of equipment photographs, 1884-1948
Box 6, Flat-file 2	List of equipment photographs, 1907-1912
Box 6, Folder 3	Production costs record, 1899-1908
Box 7, Folder 1	Order Book, Vol. 10, 1907-1914

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Photographs, undated

Volume 1-4	Jackson & Sharp Co. Electric Equipment
Volume 5	American Car & Foundry Co. Electric Equipment
Volume 11-12; Volume 14-26; Volume 8	American Car & Foundry Co. Railroad Equipment

[Return to Table of Contents](#)