



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Timken Roller Bearing Company Collection

NMAH.AC.0380

Don Darroch

October 11, 1990

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Timken Roller Bearing Company Collection
Date:	1925-1957
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0380
Creator:	Timken Roller Bearing Company (Creator) Pauly, Frank G. United States. Bureau of Mines (Creator)
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History, on September 25, 1990, by Frank G. Pauly. Mr. Pauly had been employed as a Sales Engineer in Timken's Railroad Division, working out of the Chicago Sales Office, which was closed in 1966.

Processing Information

Processed by Don Darroch, volunteer, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, 1990.

Preferred Citation

Timken Roller Bearing Company Collection, 1925-1927, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

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 Timken Roller Bearing Co., of Canton, Ohio, produced its first tapered roller bearings in the 1890s. The bearings were first used in horse drawn vehicles and later in automobiles. As automobiles improved in design, power, and endurance, Timken made improvements in its bearings to compensate. The company soon realized that the only way to ensure quality in its product was through the production of its own special alloy steel. It organized the Timken Steel & Tube Company to supply both itself and other manufacturers with high grade steel. In the late 1920s, the company entered the railroad equipment supply market with special tapered bearings for use in locomotives. Timken continued to supply components for use in the railroad rolling stock, automotive, and other manufacturing industries. It set high standards for such products, both in engineering and materials quality.

Biographical / Historical

The Timken Roller Bearing Co., Canton, Ohio, produced its first tapered roller bearings in the 1890s. The bearings were first used in horse-drawn vehicles and later in automobiles. As automobiles improved in design, power, and endurance, Timken made improvements in its bearings to compensate. The company soon realized that the only way to ensure quality in its product was through the production of its own special alloy steel. It organized the Timken Steel & Tube Company to supply itself and other manufacturers with high-grade steel. In the late 1920s, the company entered the railroad equipment supply market with special tapered bearings for locomotives.

Scope and Contents

Primarily technical papers by Timken engineers, presented in journals and meetings of professional societies. The papers concern the use of Timken roller bearings and other products in locomotives and other rolling stock on U.S. railroads and rapid transit systems. Also articles from trade magazines and brochures advertising Timken products, and a 1925 U.S. Bureau of Mines study of friction in mine-car wheels.

Scope and Contents

The material in this collection primarily consists of technical papers written by Timken engineers which were presented in journals and meetings of professional societies. The papers all deal with the use of Timken roller bearings and other products in locomotives and other rolling stock on U.S. railroads and rapid transit systems. In addition to professional papers, there are also articles from trade magazines and brochures advertising Timken products. A 1925 U.S. Bureau of Mines study of friction in mine car wheels is also included.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Bearings (Machinery)
- Friction
- Locomotive industry
- Locomotives
- Mine railroads
- Mining equipment
- Railroad equipment industry
- Railroads -- Cars -- Bearings
- Railroads -- Equipment and supplies
- Railroads -- Rolling-stock
- Roller bearings
- Steel alloys
- Transportation

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 20th century
- Pamphlets
- Professional papers

Technical reports

Places:

Canton (Ohio)
Ohio

Container Listing

Box 1	Volume: Timken Papers on Railway Engineering, 1929-1945
Box 1, Folder 1	Timken Equipped Locomotives, 1930-1957
Box 1, Folder 2	Bureau of Mines Bulletin 20: "Mine-car Friction", 1925