



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Messmore and Damon, Inc. Company Records

NMAH.AC.0846

Alison Oswald

2014

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Messmore and Damon Company Records
Date:	1892 - 1998
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0846
Creator:	Messmore, George Harold (Creator) Messmore and Damon Company (Creator) Damon, Joseph (Creator)
Extent:	16 Cubic feet (40 boxes)
Language:	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 Tobiason, granddaughter of George H. Messmore, in 2003.

Provenance

Six (6) drawings by Williard G. Levitas were transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Cultural and Community Life in 2022.

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 Tobiason 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 Archives Center staff.

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.

Joseph A. Damon, born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, attended art school in St. Louis. A scenic artist by training he worked at Lee Lash Studios and built floats for the Hudson/Fulton Celebration in 1909. Damon married Olga Schaufelberger and had one daughter named Olga C. Damon (1922-2000).

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 7: Heart Patient Simulator Materials, 1977-1998

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

Series 11: Audiovisual Materials, 1933-1937, 1997

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

Container Listing

Series 1: Background/Biographical Materials, 1925-1996

Scope and Contents: 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

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Series 2: Business Files, 1918-1997

Scope and Contents: 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
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Box 1, Folder 8

Corporate documents (articles of incorporation, by-laws, and minutes), 1971-1989

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Series 3: Patents, 1892-1952

Scope and Contents: 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

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Series 4: Projects/Exhibitions, 1924-1997

Scope and Contents: 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
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
Box 2, Folder 22	The World a Million Years Ago (text by Leon Morgan), 1933
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

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 Tradeshow Decision Making, 1989 February

Box 2, Folder 44

Miscellaneous ephemera, 1933-1959

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Series 5: Parades, 1960-1997

Scope and Contents: 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 10, Folder 9; 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
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Box 3, Folder 17	Floats--various, 1996
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Series 6: Product Literature, circa 1930s-1992

Scope and Contents: 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
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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Series 7: Heart Patient Simulator Materials, 1977 - 1998

Scope and Contents: 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

Scope and Contents: 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.

Box 8, Folder 1-3	Scrapbook, 1922-1934
Box 8, Folder 4-5	Scrapbook, 1930
Box 6, Folder 1-5	Scrapbook, 1925-1932
Box 6, Folder 6-13	Scrapbook, 1930-1934
Box 7, Folder 1-4	Scrapbook, 1930-1941
Box 7, Folder 5	Scrapbook, 1930-1936
Box 7, Folder 6-9	Scrapbook (World War II-related), 1933-1942
Box 8, Folder 6-7	Scrapbook (A World A Million Years Ago), 1935
Box 8, Folder 8-9	Scrapbook, 1932-1947
Box 9, Folder 1-3	Scrapbook, 1933-1949
Box 9, Folder 4-5	Scrapbook, 1939
Box 11, Item 1	Messmore and Damon, Inc., New York, (empty binder), undated
Box 12, Item 1	Messmore and Damon, Inc., New York (empty binder), undated

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Series 9: Photographs, 1900 - 1997

Scope and Contents: 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

Box 15	Portraits, undated
Box 15	Family, 1900s-1930s
Box 15	Family, circa 1920s-circa 1930s
	Family, circa 1940s
Box 15	Family, 1945
Box 15	Family, 1947
Box 15	Family, 1954
Box 15	Family, 1955-1957
Box 38; Box 16	Family, 1956-1977
Box 17	Children's birthday parties, circa 1960s
Box 17	Family, 1960s

Box 17	Family, 1961
Box 17	Family, 1964-1967
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, 1987 June
Box 17	Family, 1987
Box 17	Family, 1987 October
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
Box 14, Folder 4	Court jesters and woman on horseback, undated
Box 24	Danbury Fair, 1948
Box 24; Box 10, Folder 14	Dinosaurs, 1933

[\[Staged nudist wedding on a parade float with a mechanical dinosaur : black and white photoprint\], ca. 1930-1950](#)

1 Item (10.5" x 8.5")

Collector: Messmore and Damon Company

Language: English.

Notes: 04084604.tif (AC Scan)

Silver gelatin on paper.

In Box 6.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Photographer unidentified.

Topic: Sculpture
Dinosaurs

Nudity
Nudism
Parade floats
Weddings
Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1930-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints --
Silver gelatin

Box 26	Displays/Exhibits (construction of), 1973-1988
Box 27	Displays/Exhibits, 1987-1995
Box 24	Earhart, Amelia
Box 24	Elephants
Box 24	Exhibits, New York's World's Fair (copies), 1964
Box 22	Exhibits, made by Messmore and Damon (copies)
Box 10, Folder 13	Fairy Tales (Little Red Riding Hood, Mother Goose, Little Miss Muffet), undated
Box 24	FAO Schwartz, 1986
Box 10, Folder 12	Float construction (includes Jersey cow), circa 1930s
Box 29	Founding Fathers, 1989 March
Box 33	General Electric (exhibit), circa 1960s
Box 29	George (heart patient simulator), 1988
Box 29	Gorillas, undated
Box 29	Goulet, Robert, undated
Box 14, Folder 7	Grain Neutral Spirit Still (whiskey), undated
Box 29	Grand Central Terminal, undated
Box 29	Harvey (patient simulator), circa 1980s
Box 33	Hemis Fair, Texas World's Fair, 1968
Box 29	History of Federal Hall (exhibit)
Box 25	Hilla Dancer, undated

Box 29	Horses
Box 29	Israel (exhibit), 1984
Box 29	Israel [trip?]
Box 29	Italy, undated
Box 29	Kennedy, John F., 1960
Box 29	Laminated Gangways, 1943
Box 29	Lincoln Inaugural Carriage, 1984
Box 29	Logan, John D. (G.A.R./Michigan Soldiers Home), undated
Box 30	Madison Square Garden
Box 30	MacArthur, Douglas
Box 30	Magic Show
Box 33	March of Dimes, 1959-1960, undated
Box 14, Folder 5	Mastadon, undated
Box 33	Mechanical displays
Box 30	Messmore and Damon (office building)
Box 30	Miami
Box 30	Models (small scale of animals)
Box 33	New York World's Fair, 1939
Box 30	Noah's Ark, circa 1920s
Box 14, Folder 5	Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America, 1937 June
Box 30	Nudes
Box 30	Old New York, 1939
Box 33	Otis Elevator Display, circa 1970s
Box 30	Paintings (unidentified landscapes), 1988

Box 19	Parades, 1948-1959
Box 20	Parades, 1971-1988
Box 28	Parades, circa 1930s-circa 1960s
Box 21	Labor Day Parade, 1984
Box 30	People (unidentified)
Box 30	People's 45th Celebration
Box 30	Pepsi (at Comiskey Park, Chicago; at Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan; at Municipal Stadium, Cleveland, Ohio)
Box 30	Piels Island, 1957
Box 30	Pleasure Island, Massachusetts, undated
Box 30	Political
Box 30	Potter, Beatrix (transparencies of animal characters), undated
Box 30	Presidential Inauguration Parade (Richard Nixon), 1973
Box 31	Scotti Muffler
Box 31	Sesame Place, 1987 November
Box 31	Seattle Fair, 1969
Box 31	Smokey the Bear, 1959
Box 31	Sorenson Power Supply, undated
Box 31	The Spiral Show, circa 1960s
Box 31	Statutes, undated
Box 31	Storefront Displays, circa 1930s
Box 31	Torture, 1933
Box 32	Transparencies (interiors of homes), undated
Box 14, Folder 6;	Transportation in America, 1930

Box 32	
Box 32	United Parcel Service (UPS), circa 1980s
Box 32	United States Rubber
Box 33	U.S.I.A. Space Program (exhibit), circa 1960s
Box 33	U.S. Science (exhibit), 1969
Box 32	Victory Arch, undated
Box 32	Washington Bicentennial, 1976
Box 32	Wood (animal figures), undated
Box 33	World a Million Years Ago (postcards), 1933 Notes: Includes AC Scan: AC0846-000024.tif (Box 33)
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 (photographs)

Box 39 (photographs)

Subseries 9.5: Postcards, undated

Box 35

Subseries 9.6: Negatives, undated

Box 35

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Series 10: Oversize Materials, 1930-1989

Scope and Contents: 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 14, Folder 8	Proposed Labor Day Parade Float, "Zip Your Lip" and "Battle of the Atlantic", ship with head of Adolph Hitler, undated 1 Watercolor (11" x 13 1/2") Notes: Drawing by Williard G. Levitas.
Box 14, Folder 8	Proposed Labor Day Parade Float, "VJ Day, August 14, 1945", 1945 1 Watercolor (11" x 13 1/2") Notes: Drawing by Williard G. Levitas.
Box 14, Folder 8	Proposed Labor Day Parade Float, "Rosie the Riveter, We Can Do It", undated 1 Watercolor (11" x 13 1/2") Notes: Drawing by Williard G. Levitas.
Box 14, Folder 8	Proposed Labor Day Parade Float, "Normandy", undated 1 Watercolor (11" x 13 1/2") Notes: Drawing by Williard G. Levitas.
Box 14, Folder 8	Proposed Labor Day Parade Float, "Corregidor, Bataan, Midway, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Coral Sea, Guam, undated 1 Watercolor (11" x 13 1/2") Notes: Drawing by Williard G. Levitas.
Box 14, Folder 8	Proposed Labor Day Parade Float, "Labor," 'Give em both barrels, His life is in your hands", undated 1 Watercolor (11" x 13 1/2") Notes: Drawing by Williard G. Levitas.
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

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 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 1 Poster
Map-folder 1	Kiddie Land Park Attractions, undated 1 Poster
Map-folder 1	Tiny Tot Town, undated 1 Poster
Map-folder 1	Joyland Animated Superfeatures, undated 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 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)
Map-folder 3	Kooky Kastle, by Amusement Display Associates, Inc., 1967 October 7

	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
Map-folder 4	Founding Fathers, 1982 2 Drawings (visual works)
Map-folder 4	Airplane-related, undated
Map-folder 4	Defense map of the United States, 1940s 1 Map
Map-folder 4	Newsclippings, 1949, 1956
Box 10, Folder 11	Miscellaneous drawings and sketches, undated

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Series 11: Audiovisual Materials, 1997, 1933-1937

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 Notes: 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 Notes: 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.) Notes: 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) Notes: 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).

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