



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company Records

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company Records
Date:	1917-1968 (bulk 1925-1954)
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0996
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
Creator:	Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company.
Extent:	3.2 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company started in 1903 by John F. Lorimer. The company produced diesel engines for a variety of machines, including marine vessels, locomotives, and farm equipment. The collection includes background and historical information on the company, instruction manuals, marketing literature, corporate records, and drawings and photographs.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Ralph S. Lorimer.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred from Division of Work and Industry, 2006.

Processing Information

Processed by Sara Wheeler, intern, August 2017; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company Records, circa 1917-1968, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

The Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company was an Oakland, California, manufacturer of marine propulsion machinery. The company was founded in 1903 by John Lorimer in San Francisco, California. In 1916 it merged with Imperial Gas Engine Company. The company produced various diesel engines for a variety of uses, including marine vessels, tractors, and locomotives. In 1950, Atlas Imperial was acquired by National Supply Company, however, Atlas Diesels were manufactured up to 1957 at which point the National Supply Company sold their diesel engine division to White Motor Company and was renamed as White Diesel Engine Division.

Scope and Contents

These records include information on Atlas's products, and include trade literature, blueprints, advertising, bulletins, specifications, catalogs, operators manuals, proposals, correspondence, photographs, and historical articles on the company and on engines.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series.

Series 1: History of Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine, 1917-1966

Series 2: User Instructions and Manuals, circa 1920-1952

Series 3: Marketing Literature, circa 1918-1954

Series 4: Corporate Records, circa 1921-1968

Series 5: Drawings and Photographs, circa 1920-1959

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Diesel engines
- Engines
- Heavy machinery
- Marine engines
- Mechanical engineering
- Propulsion systems
- Steam-engines

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements

Blueprints
Correspondence -- 20th century
Instructional materials
Leaflets
Pamphlets
Photographs -- 20th century
Proposals
Specifications
Trade catalogs

Names:

Imperial Gas Engine Company.
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Container Listing

Series 1: History of Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine, 1917 - 1966

Scope and Contents: Series 1 contains articles, reports, and notes about the development and history of Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine. It also contains articles related to the general history of diesel engines.

Box 1, Folder 1	News articles and notes, 1917 - 1951
Box 1, Folder 2	General articles on diesel solid-injection for reference, 1919 - 1924
Box 1, Folder 3	Draft of "Location of the Atlas", circa 1959
Box 1, Folder 4	Notes on development, 1963 - 1966
Box 1, Folder 5	Diesel History by Ralph S. Lorimer, 1965
Box 1, Folder 5A	History of the Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine by Ralph S. Lorimer, 1958 - 1967
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs of John W. Lorimer and Ralph S. Lorimer, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Background on diesel oil and injection systems, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Development of diesel engines, undates
Box 1, Folder 9	Background of various engines, undated

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Series 2: User Instructions and Manuals, 1920 - 1952

Scope and Contents: Series 2 contains instruction manuals and operating instructions for various engine models.

Box 1, Folder 10	Operator's instructions, circa 1920-1930
Box 2, Folder 1	Instruction manual for model DB, circa 1928
Box 2, Folder 2	Instruction books for four-cycle mechanical injection diesel engines, circa 1928-1930
Box 2, Folder 3	Instruction manual for stationary diesel engines, type PTD, 1942
Box 2, Folder 4	Operator's manual for TC 54 and TC 1386, circa 1946-1947
Box 2, Folder 5	Instruction manual for stationary diesel engines, types PTD-PTDS, 1947
Box 2, Folder 6	Lubrication instruction manual, 1948
Box 3, Folder 1	Instruction manual for White Diesel Engine Division, circa 1952
Box 3, Folder 2	Instruction manual for main propulsion engine, 1952
Box 3, Folder 3	Instruction manual including care, operation, and parts information, 1952
Box 4, Folder 1	Fuel injection systems maintenance manual, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Operator's instruction book for 4M and 18(S), undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Instructions for engines 6 1/2 x 8 1/2, 7 1/2-8-10 1/2, 9 x 12, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	Operating instructions, undated

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Series 3: Marketing Literature, 1918 - 1954

Scope and Contents: Series 3 contains pamphlets, leaflets, brochures, catalogues, and bulletins about the products offered by Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company. It also includes price lists, published product guides, and specification sheets for customers.

Box 4, Folder 5	News articles and brochures , 1918 - 1922
Box 4, Folder 6	Mechanical injection engine guide book, 1922
Box 4, Folder 7	Pocket catalogues, 1925
Box 4, Folder 8	Bulletin leaflets about individual models, circa 1926-1934
Box 4, Folder 9	Pocket catalogue, 1928
Box 4, Folder 10	Mechanical injection four-cycle engines product information, 1928 - 1932
Box 4, Folder 11	New releases and bulletins, circa 1930-1935
Box 5, Folder 1	Brochures on full diesel engines, 1930
Box 5, Folder 2	Marine diesel engine brochure, 1932
Box 5, Folder 3	Price list, 1939
Box 5, Folder 4	Lorimer Division product guides and specifications, circa 1948
Box 5, Folder 5	Photo catalog of parts , circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 6	Parts catalog for reference use only, circa 1951
Box 5, Folder 7	National Supply Company bulletins, 1952 - 1954
Box 5, Folder 8	Stationary engines product guides, undated
Box 5, Folder 9	Marine engines brochures, undated
Box 5, Folder 10	Brochures for various engines, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Specifications and dimensions for 6 cylinder mechanical injection diesel engine, undated
Box 5, Folder 12	Parts catalog for reference use, undated
Box 5, Folder 13	Descriptive leaflets, undated

Box 5, Folder 14

Specification sheets for various engines, undated

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Series 4: Corporate Records, 1921 - 1968

Scope and Contents: Series 4 contains correspondence related to the general business of Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company, along with proposals, agreements, performance reports, and bibliography records and notes.

Box 6, Folder 1	Alteration record for engine number 8002, 1921 August
Box 6, Folder 2	Correspondence with price lists and specifications sent to customers, 1934
Box 6, Folder 3	G. Cella proposals and agreements, 1936
Box 6, Folder 4	Vulcan Rail proposals and agreements, 1936 - 1937
Box 6, Folder 5	Patent records and warranty records, 1936 - 1955
Box 6, Folder 6	Report to the shareholders, 1945 November
Box 6, Folder 7	Report on the type and performance tests with Navy Bureau of Ships specifications, 1952
Box 6, Folder 8	Department of Defense installations, 1963
Box 6, Folder 9	Correspondence and photos, 1965 - 1968
Box 6, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1966 - 1967
Box 8, Folder 1	Correspondence with related notes, 1966 - 1967
Box 8, Folder 2	Bibliography records and notes, undated

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Series 5: Drawings and Photographs, 1920 - 1959

Scope and Contents: Series 4 contains photographs of various types of engines, technical drawings, and photographs of marine vessels and farm equipment using Atlas Imperial's engines.

Box 7, Folder 1	Photo of a Caterpillar with first diesel engine fully designed for tractor use, circa 1927-1928
Box 7, Folder 2	Photo of a Caterpillar with first diesel engine fully designed for tractor use, circa 1927-1928
Box 8, Folder 3	Photographs of marine vessels with Atlas engines, circa 1920-1930
Box 8, Folder 4	Diagrams and images of parts, circa 1921-1930
Box 8, Folder 5	Photographs of various engines, 1922 - 1928
Box 8, Folder 6	Negatives of engines, 1922 - 1958
Box 8, Folder 7	Photographs of various engines, 1922 - 1958
Box 8, Folder 8	Reversible type of marine diesel engine drawing, 1925
Box 8, Folder 9	Photographs of the first tractor powered by an Atlas engine, 1928
Box 8, Folder 10	Diesel engine technical drawings, 1929 - 1930
Box 8, Folder 11	USNM Atlas diesel at time of shipment from Chris Lauritzen, 1959 April
Box 8, Folder 12	Slides of Plymouth locomotive with Atlas, undated
Box 8, Folder 13	Performance diagram of diesel hydraulic locomotive, undated
Box 8, Folder 14	Photographs of engines, undated
Box 8, Folder 15	Photographs of Superior Engines, undated
Box 8, Folder 16	Technical drawings of various engines, undated

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