



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Burton-Humphreys Oil Production Collection

NMAH.AC.1102

Vanessa Broussard Simmons

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	1
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Notebooks, 1909-1912, undated	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Burton-Humphreys Oil Production Collection
Date:	circa 1912-1920
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1102
Creator:	Amoco Oil Company.
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Amoco Oil Company to the National Museum of American History's (then called the National Museum of History and Technology) Department of Arts and Manufactures, Division of Manufactures and Heavy Industries in 1963.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred from the Division of Work and Industry to the Archives Center in 2007.

Preferred Citation

Burton-Humphreys Oil Production Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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 Note

Amoco Company scientists William Burton and Robert Humphreys patented the Burton-Humphreys process in 1912. This thermal cracking process doubled the yield of gasoline from crude oil while improving the octane rating. It proved to be of great advantage during World War I, and is credited with avoiding a gasoline shortage.

Scope and Contents

Photographs of refineries, flow charts, lab notebooks, and other materials relating to the Burton-Humphreys oil cracking process.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Oil
- Petroleum -- Prospecting
- Petroleum industry

Types of Materials:

- Laboratory notebooks
- Notebooks
- Photographs -- 1910-1920
- Sketches

Names:

- Burton, William
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Container Listing

Series 1: Notebooks, 1909-1912, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	F. M. Rodgers, 1909-1910
Box 1, Folder 2	F. M. Rodgers, 1910-07-1911-05
Box 1, Folder 3	F. M. Rodgers, gasoline experiments, number 8, 1912-02-1912-04
Box 1, Folder 4	F. M. Rodgers, gasoline experiments, number 9, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	F. M. Rodgers, gasoline experiments, number 10, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	F. M. Rodgers, gasoline experiments, number 11, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	F. M. Rodgers, gasoline experiments, number 12, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	F. M. Rodgers, gasoline experiments, number 13, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Experimental pressure gun, 1912-07-1912-08
Box 1, Folder 10	Experimental naphtha still, number 1, 1912-08-1913-01
Box 1, Folder 11	Experimental naphtha still, number 2, Hydroxy Works, 1913-01-1913-03
Box 1, Folder 12	Pressure Still Runs, Experimental House, number 2, 1912
Box 1, Folder 13	Pyrogenous Naphtha, 1912
Box 1, Folder 14	Gauhes, Stills, Ignitors, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	[About stills?], undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Box 2, Folder 1	Ledger, 1912-03-10-1914-04-04
Box 2, Folder 2	Contents from ledger, 1908-1910
Box 2, Folder 3	Whiting Refinery, Whiting, Indiana, circa 1920

	2 Photographs
Box 2, Folder 4	Burton Training Still, Whiting Refinery, Whiting, Indiana, undated 1 Photograph
Box 2, Folder 5	Burton Cracking Facilities, undated 1 Sketch
Box 3, Folder 1	Gravity sheets, 1896-1913
Box 3, Folder 2	Gravity sheets, 1897-1913
Box 3, Folder 3	Charts for stills and runs, Standard Oil Company, 1913-01-19-1913-02-27