



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Burton-Humphreys Oil Production Collection

NMAH.AC.1102

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Collection Overview

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

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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
- Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

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
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 <i>2 Photographs</i>

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- Box 2, Folder 4 Burton Training Still, Whiting Refinery, Whiting, Indiana, undated
1 Photograph
- Box 2, Folder 5 Burton Cracking Facilities, undated
1 Sketche
- 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