



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Kleinschmidt Teletype Records

NMAH.AC.1259

Holly Nelson

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Kleinschmidt Teletype Records
Date:	1915-1930
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1259
Creator:	Morton, Sterling, 1885-1961 (Creator) Goodspeed, Charles B. (Creator) Teletype Corporation (Creator) Kleinschmidt, Edward E., 1876-1977 (Creator) American Telephone and Telegraph Company (Creator) Morkrum-Kleinschmidt Corporation (Creator) Kleinschmidt Electric Company
Source:	Pigott, Janet (Donor)
Extent:	0.6 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection largely contains correspondence regarding the Kleinschmidt Teletype, as well as financial records and newspaper clippings regarding the Teletype Company.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives Center by Janet Pigott in 2011.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Holly Nelson.

Preferred Citation

Kleinschmidt Teletype Records, 1915-1930, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Kleinschmidt Teletype was invented by Edward E. Kleinschmidt, a German-American inventor and businessman. He invented a high-speed stock ticker, an automatic fishing reel, a railroad signaling device, and a high-speed teletype that "revolutionized the communications industry." The Kleinschmidt Teletype was considered a breakthrough in world communication, replacing Morse code transmission and reception with typewriters and printers. Kleinschmidt, Howard Krum, and Sterling Morton jointly obtained a patent for this technology in December 1928. Teletype Corporation was sold to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for \$30 million in 1930.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence kept by Charles B. Goodspeed, a major stockholder in Kleinschmidt Electric Company. It relates to internal workings of the company and the telegraphic typewriter it developed, as well as the merger with Morkrum and the purchase of the company by AT&T. Many of the letters are from Sterling Morton, president of the Teletype Corporation.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1915-1930

Series 2: Financial Statements, 1929

Series 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1915-1930

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Communication
- Inventions -- 20th century
- Inventors -- 20th century
- Telecommunication
- Telegraph -- History
- Telegraph, Wireless

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 1900-1950

Names:

- Krum, Howard
- Pigott, Janet

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1915-1930

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1915-1930
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1915-1930
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1915-1930

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Series 2: Financial Statements, 1929

Box 2, Folder 2

Financial Statements, 1929

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Series 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1915-1930

Box 2, Folder 3 Newspaper Clippings, 1915-1930

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Box 2, Folder 4 Miscellaneous, Clipboards, 1915-1930