



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Edgcraft Corporation Records

NMAH.AC.1382

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Company Records, 1984-1993, undated	4
Series 2: Product Materials, 1984-2016, undated.....	6

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Edgecraft Corporation Records
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1382
Date:	1984-2016, undated
Extent:	2 Cubic feet (3 boxes, 1 map-folder)
Creator:	Smith, Jeff, 1939-2004 Child, Julia, 1912-2004 Guthrie, Janet, 1938- Edgecraft Corporation Friel, Daniel D. Claiborne, Craig Yan, Martin, 1948-
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents the development and marketing of the Chef's Choice brand of knife sharpeners.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by the Edgecraft Corporation, 2016.

Related Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Julia Child Award Winners Collection NMAH.AC.01371

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Associates, Resident Associate Program, Accession 03-086

Processing Information

Processed by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, supervisory archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Edgecraft Corporation Records, 1984-2016, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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 / Historical

EdgeCraft Corporation, founded by Daniel Denwood Friel (1920-2012), introduced the Chef's Choice brand to the consumer market in 1984. Chef's Choice brand's first product was the electric knife sharpener which debuted in 1985. The electric knife sharpener was the invention of Friel, a retired chemical engineer. Born to Samuel Edward Whiting Friel and Martha Reynolds Friel in Queenstown, Queen Anne's, Maryland, Friel received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1942. He began his career on the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago in 1943. Mr. Friel's career path continued with thirty-nine years of experience as a chemical engineer with the DuPont Company. His retirement from DuPont was short lived as he turned his attention to the development of his new company, EdgeCraft Corporation, and an ever-increasing line of products. EdgeCraft Corporation, located in Avondale, Pennsylvania, continues to manufacture a large selection of electric and manual knife sharpeners, kettles, electric food slicers, waffle makers, electric grills, grinders, and hot beverage makers.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the development, marketing, and sales of the Chef's Choice brand of knife sharpeners to a home-based consumer market. Materials include both American and foreign print advertisements, press releases, press kits, point-of-purchase displays, magazine articles, catalogs, photographs, trade literature, audiovisual materials including VHS recordings of demonstrations, design drawings, business records, and scrapbooks. Of interest is the materials relating to chefs and food service industry professionals and EdgeCraft Corporation's evolution from serving the home cook to manufacturing products for commercial use. The collection is arranged in two series: Series 1, Company Records, 1984-1993, undated and Series 2, Product Information, 1984-2016, undated.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Company Records, 1984-1993, undated

Series 2, Product Materials, 1984-2016, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Cutlery trade
Kitchen utensil industry
Kitchen utensils
Knife sharpening
Knives

Types of Materials:

Advertisements -- 20th century
Articles -- 20th century
Articles -- 21st century
Audio cassettes -- 20th century
Business records -- 20th century
Catalogs -- 20th century
Clippings -- 20th century
Correspondence -- 20th century
Design drawings -- 20th century
Financial records -- 20th century
Photographs -- 20th century
Point-of-purchase displays -- 20th century
Press releases -- 20th century
Videocassettes -- 20th century

Container Listing

Series 1: Company Records, 1984-1993, undated

Materials consist of correspondence, business records, and photographs relating to well-known people in the culinary trade including American cooking teacher, author, and television personality Julia Child (August 15, 1912- August 13, 2004); cookbook author and host of The Frugal Gourmet Jeff Smith (January 22, 1939-July 7, 2004); French-born American chef, author, culinary educator, television personality, and artist Jacques Pepin (December 18, 1935-); Chinese American chef and food writer Martin Yan (December 22, 1948-); meat expert Merle Ellis (January 12, 1934-January 20, 2010) and others. There is a small amount of material relating to the founder of EdgeCraft Corporation Daniel Friel including biographical information, photographs, and correspondence. A photograph album documenting company events and trade fairs, photographs of the company's exterior building, a quest book, and promotional materials from San Francisco gourmet shows are also found among the materials. In addition, there is a file relating to Israeli American violinist, conductor, and music teacher Itzhak Perlman (August 31, 1945-). Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1	Photograph album, unbound, 1984-1992
Box 1, Folder 2	Daniel Friel biographical information, 1986-1991
Box 1, Folder 3	Culinary Institute of America file, 1986
Box 1, Folder 4	Jeffery Smith file, 1986-1988
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs of Merle Ellis visit, 1986-1987
Box 1, Folder 6	San Francisco gourmet shows, 1987-1988
Box 1, Folder 7	Julia Child file, 1988-1996
Box 1, Folder 8	Martin Wannberg file, 1988-2016
Box 1, Folder 9	Craig Claiborne file, 1988-1998
Box 1, Folder 10	File relating to the butcher program featuring Merle Ellis, 1989
Box 1, Folder 11	Daniel Friel correspondence, 1989-1994
Box 1, Folder 12	Jacques Pepin file, 1990-1998
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographs, 1990, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Martin Yan file, 1992-1995

Box 1, Folder 14	Itzhak Perlman file, 1993
Box 1, Folder 15	Photographs of exterior building, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Guest book, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Photographs of Daniel Friel, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Product Materials, 1984-2016, undated

Documents the manufacture, marketing, sales, and distribution of EdgeCraft products. Materials include images consisting of first concept illustrations, design drawings, and photographs of products. Print advertisements, catalogs, and trade literature introduce products to the retail market to drive sales. Promotional and publicity materials include press releases, press kits, point-of-purchase displays, video recordings of demonstrations, and training guides. In addition, there are a few scrapbooks, interviews with Merle Ellis and Craig Claiborne, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 19	Diamond Hone sharpener, model 100, first concept drawings, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs of model 100, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 21	Chef's Choice, scrapbook, part one, 1986-1995
Box 2, Folder 1	Chef's Choice, scrapbook, part two, 1986-1995
Box 2, Folder 2	Chef's Choice, Diamond Hone sharpener, scrapbook, 1986-1987, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Newspaper clippings, 1986-2003
Box 2, Folder 4	News Journal advertising information, 1986
Box 3, Video OV1382.1	Mastering the Art of Carving, Merle Ellis, 1987 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 53 minutes)</i>
Box 3, Cassette OV1382.9	Narsai and Company, Merle Ellis, 1988
Box 2, Folder 5	Owner registration card, 1989
Box 3, Cassette OV1382.10	Claiborne interview, 1990-06-15 <i>10 Cassette tapes (Total Running Time: Side 1: 45 minutes, Side 2: 15 minutes)</i>
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs of shows, 1991
Box 3, Video OV1382.2	EdgeCraft Corporation, Chef's Choice, Trizor professional, 110X cutlery, training guide with Daniel D. Friel, Sr., 1992 <i>2 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 15 minutes, 5 seconds)</i>
Box 3, Video OV1382.3	EdgeCraft Corporation, Chef's Choice, Trizor professional, 110X cutlery, 1992 <i>3 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 60 minutes, 40 seconds)</i>
Box 2, Folder 7	Dress kits, 1995-1998

Box 2, Folder 8	Catalog, 2016
Box 2, Folder 9	Knif-n-Easy sharpener, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Line drawing of sharpener, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Photograph of sharpener, model 100-34, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Point of purchase displays, undated
Box 3, Video OV1382.4	EdgeCraft, model 10, training tape, undated <i>4 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 10 minutes)</i>
Box 3, Video OV1382.5	EdgeCraft Corporation, Merle Ellis, Chef's Choice, Diamond hone sharpener, model 300, undated <i>5 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 1 hour)</i>
Box 3, Video OV1382.6	EdgeCraft Corporation, Merle Ellis, Chef's Choice, Diamond Hone sharpener, undated <i>6 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 1 hour)</i>
Box 3, Video OV1382.7	EdgeCraft Corporation, Craig Claiborne, Chef's Choice, Diamond Hone sharpener, model 110, undated <i>7 Videocassettes (VHS) (Total Running Time: 1 hour)</i>
Box 3, Video OV1382.8	Merle Ellis interview, South Texas Sunrise, undated
Box 4, Folder 1	Print advertisement, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Knife, model 100, line drawing, undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Cutaway, model 100-15, line drawing, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	Point of purchase displays, undated
Box 4, Folder 5	Knife, model 100-110, photograph, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)