Finding Aid for

FORD MOTOR COMPANY, LTD. COLLECTION, 1903-1990
(BULK 1925-1965)

Accession 1790

Finding Aid Published: August 2014
OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1790

CREATOR: Ford Motor Company, Ltd.

TITLE: Ford Motor Company, Ltd. collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1903-1990

BULK DATES: 1925-1965

QUANTITY: 30.8 cubic ft. and 13 oversize boxes

LANGUAGE: The materials are primarily in English.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The collection is open for research.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).


RELATED MATERIAL: Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Additional Ford Motor Company Ltd. records include Accessions 225, 261, 478, and 604.

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 1790, Ford Motor Company, Ltd. collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

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**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Ford Motor Company entered the British automobile market in 1904 when the Ford Model A was presented at the Cordingly Auto Show. In 1907, Perry, Thornton & Schrieber, Ltd. gained the license to distribute Ford automobiles including the soon to be released Model T. The vehicles were shipped to Great Britain disassembled, or knocked down, and assembled in England. Ford Motor Company, (England) Ltd. was established on March 11, 1911 and produced the first British built Model T in October, 1911 at Trafford Park near Manchester. In addition to automobiles and trucks, Henry Ford established Henry Ford & Son, Ltd. in Cork, Ireland to manufacture tractors.

In order to meet growing demand for automobiles after World War I, Ford Motor Company (England), Ltd. began purchasing land for a new factory northeast of London in 1924. In 1928, the English company was reorganized as Ford Motor Company, Ltd., and groundbreaking ceremonies for the new plant near the village of Dagenham were on May 16, 1929. The first Model AA truck was produced in October, 1931. The Dagenham plant was the largest automobile manufacturing facility in Europe and modeled after Ford's Rouge River Plant in Michigan. Ford's European operations were centered at Dagenham through the end of World War II. Sales and manufacturing facilities in Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Sweden were managed from offices at Dagenham through World War II.

The post-war restructuring of Ford's international operations led to the establishment of the Ford International Division in 1946 and the realignment of foreign operations back to the United States. Automobile and truck manufacturing remained at Dagenham until February 2002 when Ford Motor Company announced that automobile production would cease, leaving diesel engine production as the primary manufacturing operation.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Ford Motor Company Ltd. collection is comprised of four series.

The **United Kingdom series** consists of seven subseries. The **Advertising subseries**, 2.8 cubic ft., 1905-1990, includes advertising samples, tear sheets, and reprints of Ford's English products including cars, commercial trucks and vans, tractors, and product sales literature. The **Briggs Body Works subseries**, 0.4 cubic ft., 1953-1959, consists of equipment disposition reports, inventories, production schedules, and plant floor plans of machinery and equipment held by Briggs Body Works, Ltd. when Ford Motor Company, Ltd. purchased Briggs in 1953. The **Burgess-Wise Research Files subseries**, 0.8 cubic ft., 1963-1990, is comprised of the office files and research material created by David Burgess-Wise during his career at Ford Motor Company, Ltd. The records relate to various company history projects headed by Burgess-Wise including regional histories of Dagenham, the Henry Ford Centennial, Ford Motor Company 75th Anniversary, biographies of Ford Executives including Sir Percival L. D. Perry, long-time chairman of Ford in England and Sir Patrick Hennessy, Perry's successor, as well as press releases, and clippings. The **Correspondence subseries**, 0.8 cubic ft., 1909-1964, includes
correspondence from offices and departments covering general operations and procedures, contract negotiations with London power providers, customer service, customs and excise tax issues, and styling review committee minutes. The **Dealer Agreements subseries**, 0.4 cubic ft., 1932-1942, consists of sample copies of various types of dealer contracts covering passenger cars, commercial vehicles, and tractors. The **Production and Sales subseries**, 0.4 cubic ft., 1928-1961, contains working papers, summary and detail reports illustrating Ford production in England and across Europe. The **Public Relations subseries**, 2.8 cubic ft., 1911-1982, consists of original and reprinted publicity material of Ford's English products, company history, product promotions, production milestones, Dagenham plant construction, body styles, and press releases.

The **Other Countries series** is made up of four subseries. The **Asia-Pacific subseries**, 0.2 cubic ft., 1930-1935, consists of advertising samples, general correspondence, dealer promotional material, and clippings from Ford operations in China, India, and the Philippines. The **Europe subseries**, 1.2 cubic ft., 1914-1982, is comprised of advertising samples, correspondence, and promotional material from Ford operations in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The **Mediterranean Region subseries**, 0.2 cubic ft., 1932-1939, consists of advertising samples, correspondence, and publicity material from Ford operations in Ceylon, Egypt, Greece, Malta, and Turkey. The **North America and South America subseries**, 0.8 cubic ft., 1926-1980, includes correspondences, procedure and operations letters, accounting letters and instructions, and press releases from Ford operations in Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

The **Photographs series** is comprised of three subseries. The **Glass Plate Negatives subseries**, 2 oversize boxes, circa. 1930-1950, consists of glass plate negatives documenting operations, product promotions, public demonstrations, and company events primarily at the Dagenham plant. The **Photograph Albums subseries**, 17 cubic ft., 1927-1964, is comprised of photograph albums documenting construction and plant renovation programs at various Ford facilities in Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Switzerland. Of special interest are the 42 albums that document the construction of the Dagenham plant from ground breaking to completion. The **Photographic Prints subseries**, 3 cubic ft., 1911-1972, includes prints of construction, renovation projects, and operations at Ford plants throughout England.

The **Scrapbooks series**, 5 oversize boxes, 1935-1970, consists of scrapbooks of photographs and newspaper clippings, covering Ford operations, employee parties, war production, damage to plants, and relief operations in London during World War II.

Researchers should note that oversize material is listed at the end of this finding aid.
ARRANGEMENT

The Ford Motor Company Ltd. collection is comprised of four series:

- United Kingdom series
  - Advertising subseries
  - Briggs Body Works subseries
  - Burgess-Wise Research Files subseries
  - Correspondence subseries
  - Dealer Agreements subseries
  - Production and Sales subseries
  - Public Relations subseries
- Other Countries series
  - Asia-Pacific subseries
  - Europe subseries
  - Mediterranean Region subseries
  - North America and South America subseries
- Photographs series
  - Glass Plate Negatives subseries
  - Photograph Albums subseries
  - Photographic Prints subseries
- Scrapbooks series

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate
- Burgess Wise, David
- Hennessy, Patrick
- Perry, Percival L. D. (Lea Dewhurst), 1878-1956.
- Briggs Body Works, ltd.
- Ford Motor Company
- Ford Motor Company ltd.
- Ford Motor Company ltd.--History.
- Ford Motor Company--History.
- Ford Motor Company--Public relations.
- Ford Motor Company ltd.--Public relations.
- Henry Ford & Son, Ltd.

Subjects
- Advertising--Automobiles.
- Rallye automobile Monte Carlo.
- Automobiles--Design and construction
Subjects continued:
Automobiles--Maintenance and repair
Automobile dealers
Automobile industry and trade
Automobile industry and trade--Belgium.
Automobile industry and trade--Brazil
Automobile industry and trade--Canada
Automobile industry and trade--Sri Lanka.
Automobile industry and trade--China
Automobile industry and trade--Denmark.
Automobile industry and trade--Egypt.
Automobile industry and trade--England--Dagenham.
Automobile industry and trade--Finland.
Automobile industry and trade--France
Automobile industry and trade--Germany
Automobile industry and trade--Greece.
Automobile industry and trade--India
Automobile industry and trade--Ireland.
Automobile industry and trade--Italy.
Automobile industry and trade--Malta.
Automobile industry and trade--Netherlands.
Automobile industry and trade--Norway.
Automobile industry and trade--Philippines.
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Automobile industry and trade--Switzerland.
Automobile industry and trade--Turkey.
Automobile industry and trade--United States
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Automobile racing
Automobiles, Racing
Sales reporting
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Consul automobile
Corsair automobile.
Cortina automobile
Escort automobile
Ford automobile
Ford Model A automobile
Ford Model T automobile
Lincoln automobile
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Pilot automobile.
Prefect automobile
Popular automobile
Mercury Zephyr automobile
Zodiac automobile
Bus industry
Fordson tractors
Thames truck.
Trucks--Design and construction
Truck industry
Press releases
Ford Zephyr automobile
Lincoln Zephyr automobile
Production reports

Genre and Form
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Contracts
Design drawings
Glass negatives
Photograph albums
Photographs
Publications
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