

LIBR 289 e-Portfolio
Fall 2008

Evidence for Competency F

LIBR 256 – Archives and Manuscripts

Finding Aid Assignment

December 3, 2007

The Papers of Edward F. Fisher Collection

Papers, 1902-1972

2 linear feet
2 storage boxes

Acquisition Number 792

Acquisition This collection of the personal and professional papers of Edward F. Fisher was donated by General Motors Fisher Guide Division to the Detroit Public Library National Automobile Collection.

Access Access to the collection is unrestricted

Copyright The collection is owned by the Detroit Public Library National Automobile Collection since General Motors transferred copyright through a donor agreement.

Processing This collection was processed by Mildred Arencibia on November 29, 2007

Collection Summary

One of seven brothers, Edward F. Fisher was born on February 23, 1891 in Norwalk, Ohio. He attended the Andrew F. Johnson Body Drafting School in Norwood, Ohio and began a career as a draftsman in his oldest brothers Fred and Charles' new Fisher Body Corporation—a successful automobile body manufacturing company holder of several U.S. patents—in 1909.

In May 6, 1916 he married Adeline Wink. The union bore three daughters: Sarah Jane Fisher Smith, Olivia Jane Fisher, and Belinda Jane Fisher Ford.

Fisher worked for thirty five years at the Fisher Body Corporation, in various tenures. In 1925 he became the vice-president in charge of production. In 1932 the company became a division of General Motors. Shortly after his brother's Charles retirement, Edward became the division general manager in 1934. In 1937 he founded The Fisher Body Craftsman Guild and in 1938 he created the national coach building competition sponsored by the Fisher Body Division. He became the vice-president of General Motors in 1940, finally retiring in 1944. From 1942 until 1969, he also served in General Motors' board of directors. He passed away on January 17, 1972.

He was an active member of Detroit's society, participating in clubs and association such as the Detroit Athletic Club, the Bloomfield Hills Country Club, the Detroit Golf Club and the Recess Club. His creative side came to be known when he authored or co-authored several books on the history of Fisher Body Corporation and Fisher Body Division.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Edward F. Fisher collection consists of a rich variety of resources. They have been initially classified according to their subject nature: business or personal. The business portion (box 1) contains:

- Annual Reports
- Correspondence
- Correspondence regarding speaking engagements
- Faxes
- Invoices
- Journal articles
- Meeting minutes
- Newspaper clippings
- Patents
- Published writing
- Trade articles
- Transcripts of speeches
- Transcripts of interviews
- Unused letterhead

The personal portion (box 2) contains:

- Cards
- Correspondence
- Journals
- Obituary of Edward F. Fisher
- Personal letters
- Telegrams

Files are then arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Non-manuscript Materials

Several photographs have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection.

Related Collections

Charles Fisher Papers

Fisher Family Photographic Collection

Louis Chevrolet Papers Collection

The Papers of Fred Fisher

Container List

Box 1

1. Annual Report, General Motors, n.d.
2. Annual Report, General Motors, 1966
3. Annual Report; General Motors, 31 Dec 1972
4. Articles; Journal, "A Coach for Cinderella," n.d.
5. Articles; Journal, "Boys \$85,000 in Awards," n.d.
6. Articles; Journal, misc., n.d.
7. Articles; Journal, "The Desire to Know," n.d.
8. Articles; Newspaper, "Boys 12 to 20 Old Can Enter Competition," n.d.
9. Articles; Newspaper, "General Motors Magazine Tells Story of Hamilton," n.d.
10. Articles; Newspaper, misc., n.d.
11. Articles; Trade
12. Books, misc., n.d.
13. Books; Fisher Body Corporation, "Fisher Body 1948-1962," n.d.
14. Books; Fisher Body Corporation, "Fisher Body Craftsman's Guide: Instructor's Guide," n.d.
15. Books; General Motors, "Management Council," n.d.
16. Books; General Motors, "The Story of the Fisher Body," n.d.
17. Correspondence; Business, Opel, Adam, 13 Mar 1900
18. Correspondence; Business, Opel, Adam, 11 May 1903
19. Correspondence; Faxes
20. Correspondence; Speaking Engagements
21. Correspondence; Unused letterhead, Kohlenberg Cadillac-Oldsmobile, Inc., n.d.
22. Correspondence; Unused letterhead, Pacific GMC Limited, Douglas Oldsmobile Company, n.d.
23. Invoice; Adam Opel Rüsselsheim a. M., 9 May 1902
24. Invoice; Note, Adam Opel, 5 Sep 1904
25. Marketing; Ad, Automobile, misc., n.d.
26. Marketing; Ad, "A," n.d.
27. Marketing; Ad, Fisher Body Division, "Body by Fisher," n.d.
28. Marketing; Ad, "Enter Victory Quiz," n.d.
29. Marketing; Ad, General Motors, "Fisher No Draft Ventilation," 1933
30. Marketing; Ad, Contest, Sendek, Edward, "Ed Sendek Received His First Mechanical Training as an Entrance in the Craftsman's Guild and for His Efforts Was Awarded a \$5,000 Scholarship With Which He Chose to Attend Notre Dame University," n.d.
31. Marketing; Ad, Contest, "Only Members of the Craftsman's Guild Who Take Real Pride in Their Ability and Craftsmanship Become Winners of the Awards," n.d.
32. Marketing; Ad, Contest, "The Napoleonic Coach Competition," n.d.
33. Marketing; Ad, Contest, "Their Competitions Also Offer Excellent Opportunity For You to Start Training For a Worthwhile Future. Just Look at The Success Other Members of the Craftsman's Guild Have Earned," n.d.
34. Marketing; Banner, misc., n.d.
35. Marketing; Chart, "1970 Buick," 1970

36. Marketing; Chart, "1970 Chevrolet," 1970
37. Marketing; Chart, "1970 Oldsmobile," 1970
38. Marketing; Chart, "1970 Pontiac," 1970
39. Marketing; Illustrations, misc., n.d.
40. Marketing; Illustrations, "Body by Fisher," n.d.
41. Marketing; Illustrations, "Protected by Body by Fisher," n.d.
42. Marketing; Manual, n.d.
43. Marketing; Map, "Brentwood Site Plan," n.d.
44. Marketing; Map, "Fisher #004," n.d.
45. Marketing; Map, "Grand Blanc," n.d.
46. Marketing; Map, "Mansfield Metal fabricating Plant," n.d.
47. Marketing; Map, misc., n.d.
48. Marketing; Signs, Building, "Body by Fisher, Fleetwood Plant: Division of General Motors," n.d.
49. Marketing; Signs, Building, "Welcome, Body by Fisher: General Motors," n.d.
50. Marketing; Signs, Street, "Body by Fisher," n.d.
51. Marketing; Signs, Street, "Fisher Body," n.d.
52. Meeting minutes; n.d.
53. Patents; Body by Fisher, n.d.
54. Patents; Fisher, misc., n.d.
55. Patents; "Fisher," n.d.
56. Photos; Contest, misc., n.d.
57. Transcripts; Interviews
58. Transcripts; Speeches

Box 2

1. Correspondence; Cards
2. Correspondence; Letters
3. Correspondence; Telegrams
4. Journals
5. Obituary of Edward F. Fisher, 17 Jan 1972