



Finding Aid for

**SIDNEY OLSON *AMERICAN ROAD* MANUSCRIPT, circa 1953-1963**

**Accession 64.167.979**

Finding Aid Published: 23 September 2019

Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA  
[research.center@thehenryford.org](mailto:research.center@thehenryford.org) · [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)

## OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
www.thehenryford.org  
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 64.167.979

CREATOR: Olson, Sidney

TITLE: Sidney Olson *American Road* Manuscript

INCLUSIVE DATES: circa 1953-1963

QUANTITY: 1.0 cubic ft. (1 box)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Sidney Olson conducted independent research in the Ford Archives, with the intention of writing a series of books on Henry Ford. His manuscript was published in 1963 under the title *Young Henry Ford*. The Sidney Olson *American Road* Manuscript contains Olson's manuscript for the book, including photographic prints of the images to be reproduced. Also included is a photocopy of the finished work.

## 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).
- ACQUISITION:** Donated to The Henry Ford, 1964.
- ALTERNATE FORMS:** Selected material from this collection has been digitized and is available online at:
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
-Sidney Olson Research Notes on Henry Ford, Accession 512  
-Sidney Olson Public Relations Project Files, Accession 716  
-Sidney Olson "The Peaceful Revolution" Manuscripts, Accession 812
- Related collections beyond The Henry Ford:  
-Sidney A. Olson papers, 1957, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.  
<https://www.worldcat.org/title/sidney-a-olson-papers-1957/oclc/27521704>
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 64.167.979, Sidney Olson *American Road* Manuscript, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, November 2011.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by staff of the Ford Motor Company Archives, circa 1964.
- Finding aid prepared by Benson Ford Research Center staff, November 2011, and updated in September 2013. Revised by Janice Unger, September 2019, and published in September 2019.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Sidney Olson (1908-1996) was a journalist, war correspondent, and a senior editor at *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune* magazines before joining Kenyon & Eckhardt, an advertising agency, in 1951. The firm was hired by Ford executives to market Ford Motor Company's fiftieth anniversary. While working on the project, Olson spent many hours with material in the Ford Motor Company Archives.

After retirement, Olson conducted independent research in the Archives, focusing for five years on a project he called *The American Road: A Picture History of the Life and Times of Henry Ford, 1863-1947*. Olson's original intent was to write several volumes telling the story of Henry Ford "plainly" and utilizing primary source documents as much as possible. His manuscript was published in 1963 by Wayne State University Press under the title *Young Henry Ford: A Picture History of the First Forty Years*.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Sidney Olson *American Road* Manuscript (1.0 cubic ft.) is comprised of Olson's typewritten manuscript for his book, *The American Road*, as well as the 8x10 photographic images that were to be included in the final product. Also included is a photocopied version of the book *Young Henry Ford* that was published in 1963.

Researchers should note that there are 4 collections of Sidney Olson materials that had previously been combined on one finding aid and collectively known as the Sidney Olson Papers, PP 004. In addition to this collection, researchers may also want to consult: the Sidney Olson Research Notes on Henry Ford, Accession 512; the Sidney Olson Public Relations Project Files, Accession 716; and the Sidney Olson "The Peaceful Revolution" Manuscripts, Accession 812.

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Olson, Sidney

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943

Ford family

Ford Motor Company--History

### Subjects

Automobile industry and trade

Ford automobile

### Genre and Form

Photographic prints

## CONTAINER LIST

<b>Box no.</b>	<b>Description</b>
----------------	--------------------

---

### **Box 1**

*American Road* manuscript

Binder 1, chapters I-VI (3 folders)

Binder 2, chapters VII-XI (4 folders)

Binder 3, chapters XII-XIV (3 folders)

Binder 4, chapters XV-XVI (2 folders)

Binder 5, chapters XVII-XVIII (2 folders)

*Young Henry Ford* manuscript, photocopy, divided by chapters (2 folders)