



Finding Aid for

E. Paul du Pont Papers, 1917-1972
Accession 1736

Finding Aid Published: February 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1736

CREATOR: Du Pont, E. Paul (Eleuthère Paul), 1887-1950

TITLE: E. Paul Du Pont papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1917-1972

BULK DATES: 1919-1950

QUANTITY: 7 linear ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: E. Paul du Pont founded the du Pont Motors, which produced marine engines and later automobiles. In 1930 du Pont purchased the Indian Motorcycle Company. The collection contains the business records of du Pont Motors, Inc., Indian Motorcycle Co., and Indu Corporation, as well as personal papers of du Pont.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The papers are 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:** The papers were donated to The Henry Ford in 1989 by the family of E. Paul du Pont.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1736, E. Paul du Pont papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of The Henry Ford.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list and finding aid prepared by staff of The Henry Ford.
- Finding aid reformatted, with overview, administrative, and subject terms added, in February 2011.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Within the Benson Ford Research Center see:
- Automotive Product Literature collection, Accession 187, for literature on du Pont Motors
 - Trade Catalog collection for literature on Indian Motorcycles

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

E. Paul du Pont, an electrical and mechanical graduate engineer from the University of Pennsylvania, established a motor works in Wilmington, Delaware just prior to America's entry into World War I for the purpose of building marine engines. At the end of hostilities, this company, du Pont Motors, Inc. began manufacturing automobiles. The first du Pont model was introduced at the International Salon in New York City in 1919. Over a twelve-year period more than 600 automobiles were produced before du Pont Motors fell victim to the Depression in 1932. Will Rogers, Jack Dempsey, Eugene O'Neil, and Mary Pickford were among those notables who purchased du Pont cars.

In May 1930, E. Paul du Pont purchased the Indian Motorcycle Company of Springfield, Massachusetts and moved his engineering department there to be closer to Merrimac, producer of many du Pont automobile bodies. Indian Motorcycle was a major American producer of motorcycles and the Indian operations could easily produce parts for the du Pont automobiles in a more cost effective manner. Management problems had left Indian Motorcycle in financial trouble. Merging with du Pont Motors eased cash problems and provided new management for the company as E. Paul du Pont served as president. Indu Corporation was formed to handle the transfer of stock and funds, and to act as a holding company for du Pont Motors and Indian Motorcycle. Indu Corporation also handled many financial matters for du Pont family members who were major stockholders in both companies.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains the business records of du Pont Motors, Inc., Indian Motorcycle Co., and Indu Corporation, as well as personal papers of E. Paul du Pont.

Series I, du Pont Motor Company, contains correspondence, minute books, production cards, financial records and information concerning the sale to Indian Motorcycle Company. **Series II, Indian Motorcycle Company**, consists of correspondence, financial statements, subsidiaries, annual reports and minutes of Board of Directors meetings. **Series III, Indu Corporation**, contains correspondence, financial statements, stock information, minute books, and cash books. **Series IV, Squirrel Run Hill Company**, contains information of real estate holdings of du Pont Motors Inc. and other properties owned by the company and family members.

Series V, Personal Papers, contains correspondence, a sketch book, manuscripts of E. Paul du Pont as well as of his wife Jean Kane Foulke du Pont. **Series VI, Photographs**, contains photos of du Pont automobiles and the E. Paul du Pont family.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in six series and one group of oversize material:

- Series I: du Pont Motor Company
- Series II: Indian Motorcycle Company
- Series III: Indu Corporation
- Series IV: Squirrel Run Hill Company
- Series V: Personal Papers
- Series VI: Photographs
- Oversize Material

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Du Pont, E. Paul (Eleuthère Paul), 1887-1950
Du Pont, Jean Kane Foulke, 1891-1985
Delaware Marine Motors Company
du Pont Motors, Inc.
Indian Motorcycle Company
Indu Corporation
Squirrel Run Hill Company

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade.
Automobiles
Motorcycle industry

Geographic

Springfield (Mass.)
Wilmington (Del.)

Genre and Form

Business records
Correspondence
Photographic prints

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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du Pont Motors, Inc.

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Minute Book, Volume II, 1920-1923
Minute Book, Volume III, 1923-1930

Box 2

Minute Book, Volume IV, 1930
Cash Book, 1919-circa 1940
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Stock Ledger, undated

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OVERSIZE MATERIAL

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The Sunday Morning Star, 25 January 1925