



Finding Aid for

HENRY FORD II EUROPEAN TRIP COLLECTION, 1948

Accession 11

Finding Aid Published: April 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 11

TITLE: Henry Ford II European Trip collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1948

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box

LANGUAGE: Materials are in English, French, German, Dutch, and Swedish.

ABSTRACT: In February of 1948, Henry Ford II and his advisor Graeme K. Howard undertook a fact-finding trip to survey the condition of the company's assets in Europe. Among the collection materials that document this trip are clippings, photographs, speeches, and dinner menus.

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 by the Ford Motor Company Archives in 1964.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Henry Ford II clippings series. Accession 1880.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 11, Henry Ford II European Trip collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff circa 1960.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff and published circa 1964.
- Finding aid written by staff of The Henry Ford, and published in November 1996. Reformatted by Brian Wilson, March 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In February of 1948, Henry Ford II and his advisor Graeme K. Howard undertook a fact finding trip to survey the condition of the company's assets in Europe. The postwar demand for automobiles in Europe seemed unlimited and Henry II was anxious to begin production at the major Ford plants at Dagenham (England), Poissy (France) and Cologne (Germany). As they toured these plants as well as those in the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, the men inspected the facilities and talked with the managers about the labor situation, government controls of materials and the general political climate. While there, they took the time to meet with dealers and local officials in London, Paris, Cologne, Stockholm and the Netherlands.

The situation appeared hopeful in all countries that production could get under way quickly. The British government was particularly anxious to provide materials to assist the Dagenham plant in beginning immediate production. As a result of the trip, Henry II determined to tighten ownership and control of the European operations.

On April 15, 1948 Howard became vice-president and director of the newly created International Division (For a more detailed explanation of this trip and its effects see Nevins and Hill: Ford: Decline and rebirth. 1933-1962. Pages 389-405).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists primarily of newspaper clippings (in their original language) and photographs about Henry Ford II and his wife Ann as they traveled around England and Northern Europe in February and March of 1948 meeting with Ford dealers and local officials. Also included are dinner menus, seating arrangements and speeches given at social functions honoring the Fords and advisor Howard.

ARRANGEMENT

The folders are arranged in geographical and chronological order according to the locations visited.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Henry, 1917-1987

Ford, Anne Mc Donnell

Ford family

Ford Motor Company – Presidents

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade

International travel

Genre and Form

Clippings

Photographs

Scrapbooks

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box no. **Description**

Box 1

Travel material
 Itinerary
 Pan American Airline tickets
 Queen Mary passenger list
Clippings
 London, February 1948
 Paris, February 1948
 Antwerp / Amsterdam / Copenhagen, March 1948

Box 3 Oversize

Copenhagen (scrapbook), March 1948

Box 1 (continued):

Cologne / Berlin, March 1948
Stockholm, March 1948

Box 2

Social Events
 London, 11 February 1948
 Dinner Menu
 Guest List and Seating Arrangement
 Paris, 24 February 1948
 Dinner Menu
 Seating Arrangement
 Speech (in French)
 Brussels, 28 February 1948
 Dinner Menu
 Seating Arrangement
 Speeches (by Henry Ford II and Count van der Burch)
 Antwerp and Amsterdam, 27 February 1948 and 21 March 1948
 Dinner Menus
 Guest Lists and Seating Arrangements
 Speeches (by Henry Ford II and others)
 Copenhagen, 5 March 1948
 Dinner Menu
 Seating Arrangement
 Speech (by Henry Ford II in Danish)
 Stockholm, 8 March 1948
 Menu and Seating Arrangement
 Speech (by Henry Ford II)

Box 3 Oversize (continued):

Photographs

Great Britain (scrapbook including portrait photo of Henry Ford II)

Box 2 (continued):

Paris

Poissy Plant

Press Conference

Dealer Lunch

Copenhagen

Germany (scrapbook)