



Finding Aid for

CARL EDVARD JOHANSSON RECORDS, 1916-1927
Accession 214

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 214

CREATOR: Johansson, C. E. (Carl Edvard), 1864-1946

TITLE: Carl Edvard Johansson records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1916-1927

QUANTITY: 3.6 cubic ft. and 2 oversize boxes

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Carl Edvard Johansson was a Swedish inventor who pioneered the concept of universal measuring standards in industry with his invention of gauge blocks. He formed his own company in 1917 and worked for Ford Motor Company from 1924 to 1936. His records include financial records, trade catalogs and exhibit designs.

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:** Ford Motor Company donation, 1964
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 214, Carl Edvard Johansson records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, October 1956.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Ford Motor Company Archives staff in October 1956.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, November 2011, and published in November 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Carl Edvard Johansson, Swedish inventor and scientist, was born March 15, 1864. In 1888, while employed as an armor inspector by the state arsenal, he became interested in the tools used for measuring parts for the rifles being produced. He became convinced that an elaborate series of blocks could be devised for universal use. Johansson was granted his first Swedish patent, called "Gauge Block Sets for Precision Measurement", in 1901. By 1906, his gauges provided an accuracy approaching one thousandth of a millimeter, and in 1908 the accuracy was one ten-thousandth of a millimeter. He formed the Swedish company CE Johansson AB on March 16, 1917. The first CEJ gauge block set in America was sold to Henry Martin Leland at Cadillac Automobile Company around 1908. The first manufacturing plant in American for his gauge block sets was established in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1919. By 1923, his business in the United States was on the verge of bankruptcy. After explaining his predicament to Henry Ford, Ford offered Johansson facilities for his business in Ford's new Engineering Laboratory in Dearborn, Michigan, where he worked for 12 years until retiring to Sweden in 1936. Ford Motor Company sold "Jo-blocks" to a multitude of customers over the years, reaching its peak during World War II. Johansson is credited with making it possible for manufacturing companies around the world to work from a universal measuring standard, thus facilitating the transition to the industrial era.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Carl Edvard Johansson records include canceled checks for 1917 to 1923, cash books for 1916 to 1925, financial statements for 1920 to 1923, income tax returns for 1917 to 1922, operating reports for 1923 to 1927, payroll records for 1923, trade catalogs, a folder of correspondence which includes lists of Swedish employees at Ford Motor Company, a few blueprints of exhibit cases built to display gauges, and several newspaper clippings.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Johansson, C. E. (Carl Edvard), 1864-1943

C. E. Johansson, Inc.

Ford Motor Company. C. E. Johansson Division

Ford Motor Company

Subjects

Ford Motor Company--Employees

Automobile industry and trade

Affiliated corporations

Costs, Industrial

Financial statements

Gage blocks

Gages

Income Taxes

Measuring instruments

Payrolls

Subsidiary corporation

Genre and Form

Blueprints (reprographic copies)

Ledgers

Trade catalogs

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Cancelled checks, 1917-1923

Box 2

Cash books, 1916-1919 (2 bound volumes and 2 stapled packets)

Box 3

Cash books, 1923-1925

Box 4

Financial statements, 1920-1923 (bound volume)
Income tax returns, 1917

Box 5

Income tax returns, 1918-1922 (6 folders)

Box 6

Operating reports, 1923-1925 (10 folders)

Box 7

Operating reports, 1926-1927 (8 folders)

Box 8

Century of Progress, 1933-1934
Cleveland Great Lakes Exposition, 1936
American Standards Association, circa 1934
"Prüfungsschein" (Photostat), 1933-1935
Decimal values, draft, 1935
Weights and measures, 1933
Ford exhibition in San Diego, 1935
Ford Museum, circa 1929
Ford News, 1929, 1930, 1935
Patent copies, 1919-1930
U.S. Bureau of Standards
Gauges-Test results, 1927 – 1934
Correspondence, 1930-1933
Correspondence, 1934-1935

Box 9

Ford Motor Company Johansson Division trade catalogs, 1919-1947 (12 catalogs) (2 folders)
Swedish employees, 1924-1931

Miscellaneous, circa 1925-1935 (includes photo of Ford-Johansson label, packing labels for Johansson Gages, photo of exhibit layout and lists of exhibits for Texas Centennial and Cleveland Great Lakes Exposition, signed non-disclosure agreement for Eric Haul (?), and program for banquet and recognition ceremony for 35 year employees, 1946, brief biographical article on Johansson by Glenn Jenkins, newspaper clippings) (2 folders)

Box 10 (Oversize BB)

Trial balances, salaries, expenses (1 bound volume)
Swedish Gage Company Inc. (2 bound volumes)

Box 11 (Oversize C)

Payroll records, 1923