



Finding Aid for

**JAMES HUMBERSTONE PAPERS, 1916-1952 (bulk 1928-1936)
Accession 900**

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
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 900

CREATOR: Humberstone, James, 1909-

TITLE: James Humberstone papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1916-1952

BULK DATES: 1928-1936

QUANTITY: 1.2 cubic ft. and 1 oversize folder

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: James Humberstone worked for the Edison Institute and is among a select group who once lived in Greenfield Village. His papers include records from the Edison Institute, Ford Motor Company Apprentice School and the Henry Ford Trade School as well as Edison memorabilia and miscellaneous photographs.

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
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford: James Humberstone oral history, part of the Oral History subgroup, 1951-1961, Accession 65
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 900, James Humberstone papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, August 1979.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Benson Ford Research Center staff in August 1979.
- 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.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

While a senior at the Henry Ford Trade School in 1927, James Humberstone came to Henry Ford's attention through articles Humberstone wrote for the school newspaper, *The Artisan*. Less than a year later, he was curator of Ford's vast collection of antiques and Americana then in storage in the old Dearborn Tractor Plant. Although Humberstone had no training for such work, he was soon responsible for planning the layout and arrangement of the collection in the Edison Institute (now The Henry Ford).

Humberstone and his wife were the first inhabitants of Greenfield Village and belong to a very small and select group who can claim it as a one-time place of residence. They are further distinguished, however, as the parents of the only child ever born there. James Jordan Humberstone was born in the Sarah Jordan Boarding House in May 1929, and at Henry Ford's suggestion was named for his place of nativity.

Active for many years in Henry Ford Trade School alumni activities, Humberstone remained in Ford's employ until 1936, after which he served in the U.S. Army and became owner and publisher of the magazine, *The American Boy*. His son continued the family association with the Edison Institute, graduating from its high school in 1947.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Except for material in the oversized folder, which contains drawings and photographs of the Sir John Bennett Jewelry Store in London (later rebuilt in Greenfield Village), the James Humberstone papers are arranged alphabetically by subject. The material includes Thomas Edison memorabilia and photographs; an Edison Institute inventory and reports for 1932; interior and exterior photographs of the Ford Motor Company Dearborn Engineering Laboratory (later known as the Engine and Electrical Engineering Building or the EEE); a few Ford Motor Company Apprentice School papers; a FMC statistical survey of branches and plants in 1927; a few photographs of Greenfield Village; Humberstone's handwritten notes, most of which were likely created in preparation for an oral history; a history of companies that collected farm implements; the classification scheme used by the Edison Institute in 1928; lists of Edison Institute material in storage in 1933-1934; Henry Ford Trade School items such as an alumni list for 1931, class lists for 1919 to 1934, instructional material and syllabi, history, and a few photographs; and a number of miscellaneous photographs including one of Buffalo Bill Cody and several of Mickey Rooney.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Humberstone, James, 1909-

Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931

Rooney, Mickey

Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917

Henry Ford (Organization). Henry Ford Museum.

Henry Ford (Organization). Greenfield Village.

Henry Ford Trade School

Ford Apprentice Schools

Sir John Bennett Jewelry Store

Sir John Bennett Sweet Shop

Dearborn Engineering Laboratory (Dearborn, Mich.)

Engine and Electrical Engineering Building (Dearborn, Mich.)

Subjects

Ford Motor Company--Statistics

Industry and education

Schools--Michigan

Trade schools--Michigan

Vocational education--Michigan

Automobile industry and trade

Agricultural implements

Genre and Form

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

"The American Boy"
Edison, Thomas: photographs
Edison and Edisoniana: printed material
Edison Institute
 Correspondence, 1930
 Inventory, 1932
 Miscellaneous, 1930s-1940s
 Reports, 1932 (3 folders)
Engineering lab: photographs, 1925-1930
Engines and machines: photographs
Ford Motor Company
 Apprentice school, 1934
 Plant statistical survey, 1927
Greenfield Village: photographs
Guilds: printed materials

Box 2

Handwritten notes and memoirs, undated (2 folders)
Henry Ford Museum
 Agricultural implements
 Classification scheme, circa 1928
 Expenses, 1929-30
 Materials in storage, 1933-34
Henry Ford Trade School
 Alumni lists, circa 1931
 Artisan guild, 1931-32
 Class lists, 1919-1933
 Class lists, 1931-1934
 Class syllabuses, circa 1928
 "The Craftsman", 1935-37

Box 3

History
Instructional materials
Miscellaneous
Photographs
"Herald: 1934-1939
Inventory of the Inn at Clinton, circa 1927
Miscellaneous
Museum classification schemes: printed materials
Museums and museum collections: printed materials

Box 3 continued:

Photographs

Good Drivers' League, 1940

Miscellaneous

Mickey Rooney

Oversize folder

Sir John Bennett Jewelry Store (photographs and drawings)