



Guide to MSS-158, Inshield Die and Stamping Company Records, 1920-1995

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Finding aid written in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections
Title:	Inshield Die and Stamping Company Records
Identifier:	MSS-158
Date:	1920-1995
Physical Description:	2.5 Linear Feet
Language of Materials:	English
Container Information:	Box Box 1: [32887922499712] (Mixed Materials), Box Box 2: [32887922499704] (Mixed Materials), Box Box 3: [32887922499761] (Mixed Materials), Box Box 4: [32887922499696] (Mixed Materials)

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. Materials may be accessed by request at the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections on the fifth floor of the William S. Carlson Library on the main campus of the University of Toledo. Materials do not circulate.

Biographical / Historical

Skilled die-makers Roy Thal and Reuben Bitter formed a partnership in Toledo, Ohio, on August 16, 1920 known as the Thal and Bitter Machine Company. This company's primary purpose was to build tools and dies for the Willys-Overland (Jeep) and Electric Auto-Lite companies. During the "Harding Depression" of 1921, Mr. Thal invented the Inshield driving light, which fit against the inside of windshields on cars of the time. Throughout World War II, the Thal and Bitter Machine Company, now the Inshield Die and Stamping Company, manufactured munitions-related parts, including bomb carriers used by planes.

In 1946, Roy Thal and his family bought out Reuben Bitter's share of the company. Norman Thal, Roy's son, was elected president and his brother Irwin was elected Vice President. In 1948 the company constructed a new building located in the growing industrial area of Toledo. Norman Thal Jr. became President in 1975 and, with his background in computers, helped to modernize Inshield. In 1994, Inshield was sold by the Thal family to Branson Stampings, Inc. Today, Inshield manufactures products for various industries, such as automotive and electric.

Preferred Citation

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"[Collection Name], The Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, The University of Toledo Libraries"

Scope and Contents

The records of Inshield Die and Stamping are divided into two main series: Administrative and Financial. A third series, Artifacts, is also included in the records. The records provide nearly complete documentation of the company from its founding in 1920 until its sale in 1994.

The first series, Administrative, contains advertisements for the Inshield Spotlight, a movable light that could be attached to the inside of windshields of older closed cars. With the addition of this light to the automobile, the driver had better vision while driving at night, and the light produced no glare for oncoming traffic. Another component of this series is the company's history. A book by Alexander S. Carlson, entitled *Factory Hand to Executive: The Story of Ralph Divins*, describes the "rags-to-riches" life of Divins, who left school at an early age and eventually became the Vice President of Inshield. There is also a brief history of how the Inshield Spotlight came to be, and a sales brochure that gives a little background of the company. Former Inshield President Norman R. Thal Jr., in his manuscript *Inshield: Three Generations of a Small Business*, provides the last part of the company's history. This personal account details the people and events that made Inshield what it has come to be. Also in this series is an Environmental Site Assessment, and guestbooks listing persons who visited the company during special occasions. A major component of the Administrative records is the Company Minutes, which range all the way from 1920 to 1995. Lastly the Administrative records include photographs of the Inshield driving light and of the factory.

The Financial series contains chronologically arranged Audit Reports from 1920 to 1993. Also in this series are Bank Books from 1920 and 1924 to 1953, and a Trial Balance Book from 1929 to 1933. A Statement of Title issued in 1948 and the Sale and Purchase Assets from 1994, when Branson Stampings, Inc. bought Inshield Die and Stamping Co., can also be found in the Financial series. Another element of this series is the Stock Certificates that date from 1923 to 1992. Finally, a small clue as to how many people Inshield employed can be obtained by looking through the company's Weekly Time Records of the employees. However, these records only date from 1930 to 1940.

In this collection there is one artifact: the Inshield driving light. The idea for this innovative light came from Norman Thal Sr., who complained to his father, founder Roy Thal, about the treachery of driving along a certain road at night. The desire to produce a driving light more efficient and less cumbersome than the outside driving light also fueled its invention. Improvements were made to this high-quality product, and the Inshield Senior was born. This light took up less space and held a wider range of illumination than the original Inshield. Another feature of the Inshield was that it was easily installed and could be instantly detached and used as a handy trouble light when needed. Overall, the Inshield provided people with a safer, more enjoyable way to drive at night.

Conditions Governing Use

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Business and Commerce
- Toledo History

Collection Inventory

Administrative records, 1920-1995

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Advertisements/Articles, n.d.

Box Box 1; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Company History, n.d.

Box Box 1; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Environmental Site Assessment, n.d.

Box Box 1; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Guestbook, 1948

Box Box 1; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Guestbook, 1975

Box Box 1; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Guestbook, 1989

Box Box 1; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1920-1948

Box Box 1; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1949-1974

Box Box 1; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1975-1981

Box Box 1; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1975

Box Box 1; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1976

Box Box 1; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1977

Box Box 1; Folder 12 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1978

Box Box 1; Folder 13 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1979

Box Box 1; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1980

Box Box 1; Folder 15 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1981

Box Box 1; Folder 16 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1982

Box Box 1; Folder 17 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1983

Box Box 1; Folder 18 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1984

Box Box 1; Folder 19 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1985

Box Box 1; Folder 20 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1986

Box Box 1; Folder 21 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1987

Box Box 1; Folder 22 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1988

Box Box 1; Folder 23 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1989

Box Box 1; Folder 24 (Mixed Materials)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Minutes, 1990

Box Box 1; Folder 25 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1991

Box Box 1; Folder 26 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1992

Box Box 1; Folder 27 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1993

Box Box 1; Folder 28 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1994

Box Box 1; Folder 29 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Minutes, 1995

Box Box 1; Folder 30 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Photographs, n.d.

Box Box 1; Folder 31 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Financial records, 1920-1993

Physical 1.25 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1920-1924

Box Box 1; Folder 32 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1932-1933

Box Box 1; Folder 33 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1939-1944

Box Box 1; Folder 34 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1947-1952

Box Box 1; Folder 35 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1953-1959

Box Box 1; Folder 36 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1960-1966

Box Box 2; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1967-1972

Box Box 2; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1973-1977

Box Box 2; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1978-1981

Box Box 2; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1982-1987

Box Box 2; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Audit Reports, 1987-1993

Box Box 2; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Bank Book, 1920

Box Box 2; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Bank Books, 1924-1953

Box Box 2; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Statement of Title, n.d.

Box Box 2; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Weekly Time Records, 1930-1936

Box Box 2; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Weekly Time Records, 1936-1940

Box Box 2; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Sale and Purchase of Assets, n.d.

Box Box 3; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Stock Certificates, 1923-1966

Box Box 3; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Stock Certificates, 1966-1992

Box Box 3; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Trial Balance Book, n.d.

Box Box 4; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)

Physical 1 Linear Feet
Description:

Artifacts, n.d.

Physical 0.25 Linear Feet
Description:

Inshield Driving Light, n.d.

Box Box 2; Object 12 (Realia)

Physical 1 Artifact
Description: