Collection Summary

Title: Thomas T. Goldsmith Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1914-1991
Bulk Dates: 1956-1966
ID No.: MSS81980
Creator: Goldsmith, Thomas T. (Thomas Toliver), 1910-
Extent: 40,250 items
Extent: 115 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 46 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93081980
Summary: Physicist, electrical engineer, and television pioneer. Correspondence, annual reports, minutes, organization charts, patents, bids and proposals, contracts, research notes, schematics, catalogs, technical manuals, project files, and other papers pertaining chiefly to Goldsmith's career in television technology.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Bedell, Frederick, 1868-
Burt, Robert C.
Hess, Gary Newton.
Ruiter, Jacob H.
Zworykin, V. K. (Vladimir Kosma), 1888-

Organizations
Du Mont Broadcasting Corporation.
Du Mont Foundation.
Du Mont Television Network.
Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation.
Furman University--Faculty.
Metromedia, Inc.

Subjects
Cathode ray oscilloscope.
Cathode ray tubes.
Military electronics industry--United States.
Physics--Study and teaching.
Television--Research.

Occupations
Engineers.
Physicists.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Thomas T. Goldsmith, a leading physicist and electrical engineer during the early days of television, were given to the Library of Congress by Goldsmith in 1993.
Processing History

The Goldsmith Papers were processed in 1993 by T. Michael Womack with the assistance of Richard Urban. The finding aid was revised in 2006.

Transfers

Some books and printed matter have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

Records of the Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories are also housed in the Manuscript Division and contain material related to Goldsmith's association with that firm.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas T. Goldsmith is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thomas T. Goldsmith are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas T. Goldsmith Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1910, Jan. 9</td>
<td>Born, Greenville, S.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>B.S. in physics and mathematics, Furman University, Greenville S.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Ph.D. in experimental physics and applied electricity, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936-1953</td>
<td>Director of research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Married Helen Elizabeth Wilcox</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942-1960</td>
<td>Member, board of directors, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1955</td>
<td>Vice president, research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-1957</td>
<td>Vice president, government and research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-1986</td>
<td>Member, board of directors, Metromedia, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-1960</td>
<td>Vice president, engineering and research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Honorary degree, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1966</td>
<td>Director, research and development, Du Mont Military Electronics Department, Defense Products Division, Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp., Syosset, N.Y.</td>
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</table>
1966-1975  Professor of physics, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
1975-  Consulting physicist

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Toliver Goldsmith (1910- ) span the years 1914-1991, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1956-1966. The collection focuses on the contributions of Goldsmith in physics, electronics, and other scientific disciplines relating to television. From 1936 until 1960, Goldsmith served as director of research and development at Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories. In this capacity, he supervised and carried on developments in the fields of cathode-ray tubes, television systems, broadcasting apparatus, color television, cathode-ray oscillographs and measuring equipment, medical electronics, industrial and reconnaissance television, and navigational equipment. Goldsmith was an active participant in formulating standards for both black and white and color television with the Federal Communications Commission. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Du Mont television broadcasting facilities, including the first television station in Washington, D.C., Channel 5. The call letters of this station, WTTG represent Goldsmith's initials.

In June 1960, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories was acquired by Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation. In this transition, the former research and development division of Du Mont Laboratories became the Du Mont Military Electronics Department within the restructured Fairchild Corporation, with Goldsmith as director of the new department. From 1966 to 1975, Goldsmith was professor of physics at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

Included in the papers are correspondence, annual reports, minutes, organization charts, patents, bids and proposals, contracts, research notes, schematics, catalogs, technical manuals, project files, and miscellaneous material pertaining to Goldsmith's career and the development and application of cathode-ray tubes, oscilloscopes, and television. The papers are organized in five series: Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, Metromedia, Miscellany, and Oversize.

The first two series consist largely of the same types of materials. Both are divided into five sections bearing the same titles except that the research and development file in the Du Mont Laboratories series correlates to the Du Mont Military Electronics Department file in the Fairchild Corporation series. The administrative files consist of annual reports, minutes of the boards of directors, organization charts, and information on personnel matters and labor union activities. The financial records contain balance sheets and income statements, prospectuses, registration statements, and minutes of stockholder meetings. Among the miscellany are company publications, press releases, printed matter, and material from associated companies, i.e., subsidiaries of Du Mont Laboratories and Fairchild Corporation as well as companies with which they maintained joint ventures. The sales and advertising files contain advertisements, catalogs, product and sales information, and a large number of technical manuals for the maintenance operation, and service of electronic equipment manufactured by the two companies.

The research and development file in the Du Mont Laboratories series and the Du Mont Military Electronics Department section in the Fairchild Corporation series have four subsections in common. General correspondence is arranged in two parts, alphabetical and chronological, and primarily represents the exchange of information among customers, suppliers, and various divisions within the corporation. The miscellany subsections contain appointment books, calendar notebooks, and material on various scientific conferences. The patent files consist of copies of patents issued to Du Mont Laboratories and Fairchild Corporation and their competitors, correspondence, and material concerning license agreements and litigation. The production files contain bids and proposals, contract information, management proposals, research notes, reports and studies, schematics, and technical proposals and reports. One of the Du Mont company's major inventions, the electronicam, is documented in the research and development file. This series also contains a television broadcasting file with information on the Du Mont Broadcasting Network, Du Mont Television Network, television stations owned by Du Mont, the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Television System Committee to which Goldsmith made significant contributions.

Du Mont Laboratories was the first successful developer and manufacturer of television receivers. In order to provide programming for this new form of entertainment, Du Mont created the Du Mont Television Network. During the 1950s this pioneering broadcaster made several major contributions to the television programming format that are still in use in the 1990s. It later became Du Mont Broadcasting Corporation, which was in turn spun off as an independent corporation whose name, through several variations, ultimately became Metromedia. In the late 1980s, Metromedia further evolved into...
the Fox Network. The Metromedia series consists of materials received by Goldsmith during his tenure as a member of the firm's board of directors from 1955 to 1986. Included are annual reports, minutes, merger proposals, balance sheets and income statements, prospectuses, registration statements, minutes of stockholder meetings, newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, printed matter, and materials of associated companies.

The Miscellany series contains material documenting aspects of Goldsmith's personal life and professional activity outside the corporate sector. Individuals of note in the biographical file include Frederick Bedell, Goldsmith's advisor for his doctoral degree; Allen B. Du Mont, Goldsmith's longtime friend and employer; Vladimir Kosma Zworykin, pioneer in television research; and Goldsmith himself. During the 1970s and 1980s Goldsmith corresponded with Robert C. Burt, a wealthy California inventor, concerning experiments in automotive technology and fuel economy and Burt's primary invention, the air-drive car. Also in this series are materials on the Du Mont Foundation, on whose board of directors Goldsmith served, as well as records documenting Goldsmith's tenure as professor of physics at Furman University.

Photographs in the Miscellany series include numerous depictions of electronic equipments, both close-up and in demonstration, advertising stills, factory locations, field sites, and several groups chronicling various aspects of Du Mont history. There are also single and group shots of both Goldsmith and Allen B. Du Mont. Production shots of the Du Mont Television Network are of particular interest, especially those of the early television series, The Honeymooners.

The writings section of the Miscellany series is composed of two parts, one consisting of offprints of articles written by Goldsmith during the 1930s and 1940s in the field of television research, a reprint of his doctoral thesis at Cornell University, and an unpublished draft entitled “The History of Television from Smoke Signals to Satellite Transmission,” co-authored with Jacob H. Ruiter during the late 1980s. Writings by others include offprints of articles dealing with aspects of physics, electronics, and other scientific disciplines relating to television research, as well as several general histories of television. Included are works by Frederick Bedell, Allen B. Du Mont, and Jacob H. Ruiter, and a dissertation by Gary Hess entitled “An Historical Study of the Du Mont Television Network.” Writings by others may also include background material used by Goldsmith in his own research.

Oversize material consists of printed matter and a map.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968
- Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, 1958-1984
- Metromedia, 1955-1986
- Miscellany, 1914-1991
- Oversize, 1950-1954
Description of Series

Container  Series
BOX 1-50  Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968
- Annual reports, minutes, organization charts, personnel and financial records, press releases, printed matter, correspondence, patents and related material, bids and proposals, contracts, notebooks, reports and studies, research notes, schematics, technical proposals, television broadcasting information, advertisements, product and sales information, and technical manuals.
- Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 51-81  Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, 1958-1984
- Annual reports, organization charts, personnel records, correspondence, appointment books, patents and related material, management proposals, project files, reports and studies, research notes, schematics, technical proposals and reports, financial records, press releases, printed matter, catalogs, and technical manuals.
- Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 82-101  Metromedia, 1955-1986
- Annual reports, minutes, merger proposals, financial records, newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, and printed matter.
- Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and therein chronologically.

BOX 102-115  Miscellany, 1914-1991
- Address books, biographical files, subject files, newspaper and magazine clippings, personal correspondence, photographs, writings, and related material.
- Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX OV 1  Oversize, 1950-1954
- Printed matter and a map.
## Container List

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| **BOX 1-50** | **Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968**  
Annual reports, minutes, organization charts, personnel and financial records, press releases, printed matter, correspondence, patents and related material, bids and proposals, contracts, notebooks, reports and studies, research notes, schematics, technical proposals, television broadcasting information, advertisements, product and sales information, and technical manuals.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic or type of material and therein chronologically. |
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| **BOX 3** | Organization charts, 1949-1960  
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**BOX 4** | Listings, 1959-1960  
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Balance sheets and income statements  
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**BOX 6** | Miscellany, 1939-1959, undated  
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Prospectuses, 1939-1950  
(3 folders) |
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| BOX 8     | Stockholder meeting minutes, 1945-1960  
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| BOX 9     | Associated companies  
Canadian Aviation Electronics  
Correspondence  
1952-1954  
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| BOX 10    | Miscellaneous  
Newsletter, 1952-1957 |
| BOX 11    | Company publications  
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Oscillographer, 1937-1957  
Raster, 1945-1954  
(3 folders)  
Service News, 1951-1957  
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Press releases, 1955-1958  
Printed matter See also Oversize  
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(2 folders) |
| BOX 12    | “The War Effort of the Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc.,” 1945  
Research and development file  
General correspondence  
Alphabetical file  
“A-D” miscellaneous, 1946-1960  
(4 folders)  
Electronic tubes, 1959-1960  
“E-L” miscellaneous, 1959-1960, undated  
(6 folders)  
Military electronics, 1958-1959  
“M-Sp” miscellaneous, 1958-1960, undated  
(8 folders) |
| BOX 13    | “St-W” miscellaneous, 1959-1960  
(5 folders) |
Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968

Container | Contents
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(5 folders)

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(3 folders)

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Calendar notebooks (pocket-size), 1945-1958
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Symposium on oscillography, 1949

Patent file
Patents issued to Du Mont Laboratories
Color television, 1956-1959
(6 folders)

BOX 16

General
1929-1952
(5 folders)

BOX 17

1953-1960
(5 folders)

BOX 18

Patents issued to other companies (primarily Fairchild Corp.), 1943-1960
(5 folders)

Related material
Correspondence, 1956-1960
(2 folders)

BOX 19

Descriptions and summaries, 1959
License agreements
Domestic, 1959-1960
(4 folders)
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BOX 20

Litigation
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Reports and studies, 1947-1948
   (5 folders)
BOX 35  National Television System Committee, 1940
   Set A
      Nos. 1-6
         (9 folders)
BOX 36  Nos. 7-8
         (7 folders)
BOX 37  No. 9 and miscellaneous
         (4 folders)
   Set B
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         (2 folders)
BOX 38  Nos. 7-9
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BOX 39  Sales and advertising file
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BOX 40  Catalogs, 1946-1956, undated
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   Product and sales information
      1953
         (2 folders)
BOX 41  1954-1958, undated
         (8 folders)
BOX 42  Technical manuals
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BOX 43  1948-1950
         (8 folders)
BOX 44  1951-1952
         (8 folders)
BOX 45  1952-1954
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BOX 46  1954-1955
         (8 folders)
BOX 47  1955-1956
         (6 folders)
BOX 48  1956-1958
         (8 folders)
BOX 49  1959-1960, undated
         (7 folders)
BOX 50  Undated
         (6 folders)
BOX 51-81  Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, 1958-1984
   Annual reports, organization charts, personnel records, correspondence, appointment books,
         patents and related material, management proposals, project files, reports and studies,
research notes, schematics, technical proposals and reports, financial records, press releases, printed matter, catalogs, and technical manuals.
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

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| BOX 56    | 1962-1964  
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| BOX 57    | 1965-1966  
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            Appointment books, 1961-1965  
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            (2 folders) |
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| BOX 63    | (5 folders) |
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| BOX 67    | Reports and studies, 1960-1965  
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|          | Research notes, 1963-1965  
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| BOX 68    | Technical proposals, 1960-1965  
            (16 folders) |
<p>| BOX 69    | (10 folders) |</p>
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<td>BOX 82</td>
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**Technical reports, 1958-1965**

- Accounting, 1961-1964
- Expenses, 1960-1966
- Stockholder information, 1961-1963

**Miscellany**

- Associated companies
  - Fairchild/Du Mont/Emerson, 1964
  - Fairchild Weston Systems, 1983-1984
  - Thomas-CSF, undated
  - Winston Research Corp., undated
- Company publications, *Fairchild Views*, 1965
- Miscellaneous material, undated
- Press releases, 1963-1965
- Printed matter, 1960-1979 (2 folders)

**Sales and advertising file**

- Catalogs, 1960-1963, undated (6 folders)

**Technical manuals, 1961-1965, undated**

**Metromedia, 1955-1986**

Annual reports, minutes, merger proposals, financial records, newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, and printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and therein chronologically.

**Administrative file**

- Annual reports, 1957-1983 (6 folders)

**Board of directors**

- Audit committee minutes, 1973-1986 (2 folders)
- Minutes
  - 1955-1957 (5 folders)
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<td>BOX 87</td>
<td>1970-1975 (9 folders)</td>
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<td>1976-1979 (7 folders)</td>
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<td>1980-1981 (6 folders)</td>
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<td>1982-1983 (5 folders)</td>
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<td>1984-1986 (7 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 92</td>
<td>Merger proposals 1960</td>
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<td>BOX 93</td>
<td>1968, 1983-1984 (8 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 94</td>
<td>1984-1986 (4 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 95</td>
<td>Financial records</td>
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<td>BOX 96</td>
<td>Balance sheets and income statements 1958-1960 (2 folders)</td>
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<td>1961-1966 (7 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 98</td>
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<td>Interim reports, 1958-1983</td>
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<td>Prospectuses, 1962-1970 (4 folders)</td>
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<td>Stockholder meeting minutes 1956-1966 (3 folders)</td>
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<td>1969-1984 (10 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 100</td>
<td>Miscellany Associated companies</td>
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Metromedia, 1955-1986

Container Contents

BOX 84 1958-1960
   (8 folders)
BOX 85 1961-1964
   (9 folders)
BOX 86 1965-1969
   (8 folders)
BOX 87 1970-1975
   (9 folders)
BOX 88 1976-1979
   (7 folders)
BOX 89 1980-1981
   (6 folders)
BOX 90 1982-1983
   (5 folders)
BOX 91 1984-1986
   (7 folders)

Merger proposals
   1960

BOX 92 1968, 1983-1984
   (8 folders)
BOX 93 1984-1986
   (4 folders)

Financial records
   Balance sheets and income statements
      1958-1960
         (2 folders)
BOX 94 1961-1966
      (7 folders)
BOX 95 1967-1974
      (8 folders)
BOX 96 1975-1986
      (7 folders)

Interim reports, 1958-1983

BOX 97 Prospectuses, 1962-1970
      (4 folders)

Registration statements
   1960
      (2 folders)
BOX 98 1978-1985
      (4 folders)

Stockholder meeting minutes
   1956-1966
      (3 folders)
BOX 99 1969-1984
      (10 folders)

BOX 100 Miscellany
   Associated companies
### Container: BOX 101

- **Foster and Kleiser, 1962-1985, undated** (3 folders)
- **Harlem Globetrotters, 1976, 1979**
- **Ice Capades, 1972-1981, undated**
- **Newspaper and magazine clippings 1956-1984** (2 folders)

### BOX 102

- **1985-1986, undated**
- **Press releases, 1957-1986** (6 folders)
- **Printed matter, 1959-1984, undated** (4 folders)

### BOX 102-115

**Miscellany, 1914-1991**

Address books, biographical files, subject files, newspaper and magazine clippings, personal correspondence, photographs, writings, and related material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic or type of material and therein chronologically.

### BOX 102

- **Address books, undated**
- **Biographical file**
  - Bedell, Frederick, 1914, 1958
  - Burt, Robert C., 1979-1984, undated
  - Du Mont, Allen B.
    - Award and speech, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 1961
    - Biographical material, 1941-1951, undated
    - Correspondence, 1926-1961
    - Funeral service, 1965, Nov. 17
    - Miscellany, 1926-1959
    - Obituaries, 1965-1966
  - Du Mont, Allen B., Jr., undated
  - Goldsmith, Basil M., 1957-1958
  - Goldsmith, Thomas T., 1939-1985
  - Ruiter, Jacob H., 1956, undated
  - Zworykin, Vladimir Kosma, 1969
  - Burt air drive car
    - Conferences on automotive technology and fuel economy, 1977-1983
  - Correspondence
    - 1975-1978
    - (2 folders)

### BOX 103

- **1979-1984, undated** (2 folders)
- **Information packets, 1978, undated** (3 folders)
- **Miscellany, 1973-1984, undated** (2 folders)
- **Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1979**
- **Photographs, 1932, undated**
Scrapbook regarding production of first Burt air drive car (photocopy), 1932

BOX 104

Writings

Burt, Robert C.

“The Burt Air Drive Automobile,” 1978


(2 folders)

Du Mont Foundation

Certificate of incorporation, 1949

Correspondence

1949-1954

(3 folders)

BOX 105

1955-1966

(3 folders)

Educational television, 1951-1954, undated

(3 folders)

BOX 106

Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

Correspondence, 1958-1981, undated

Display Sciences grant for liquid crystal research, 1968-1971, undated

(5 folders)

BOX 107

Faculty communications, 1966-1971, undated

Miscellany, 1961-1981, undated

Physics class material, 1966-1971

Television equipment donated by Metromedia, 1964-1973, undated

(3 folders)

University policies and procedures, 1967, undated

BOX 108

General Electric, 1978

(3 folders)

Miscellaneous material, 1975-1983, undated

Montclair, N.J., Schools Science Committee, 1959-1960

(4 folders)

BOX 109

Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1937-1990, undated

(5 folders)

Personal correspondence, 1935-1987, undated

BOX 110

Photographs

Advertising

Electronicam, undated

Television receivers, 1945, undated

Collections

“The Du Mont Story,” undated

Du Mont Television center, 1954, undated

(2 folders)

“History of Du Mont,” undated

(2 folders)
<table>
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<td>Awards ceremonies, undated</td>
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<td>Demonstrations of electronic equipment, undated</td>
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<td>Miscellany, 1947, undated</td>
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<td>Parties, undated</td>
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<td>Single shots</td>
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<td>Du Mont Television Network, production shots</td>
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<td>Discussion with Du Mont, Goldsmith, and others, undated</td>
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<td>“The Honeymooners,” undated</td>
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<td>Electronic equipment</td>
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<td>Close-ups, undated</td>
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<td>Parties, 1958-1961, undated</td>
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<td>With Allen B. Du Mont, 1938, 1963, undated</td>
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<td>With Vladimir Kosma Zworykin, undated</td>
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<td>Locations (factories and field sites), 1949, undated</td>
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<td>Military and industrial television systems, undated</td>
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<td>Real estate records, 1951-1965</td>
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<td>Stationery samples, undated</td>
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<td>“A Field Survey of Television Channel 5 Propagation of New York Metropolitan Area” with R. P. Wakeman and J. D. O'Neill, 1949</td>
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<td>“A High-Frequency Sweep Circuit” with L.A. Richards, 1935</td>
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“The History of Television from Smoke Signals to Satellite Transmission” with Jacob H. Ruiter, Jr.
  Background material
  1930-1947

BOX 114
  1948-1991, undated
    (2 folders)
    Correspondence, 1984-1988, undated
    Drafts, undated
      (4 folders)

BOX 115
  “Pioneering in Television Receiver Engineering,” 1939
  “The Refractive Index of Water for Electromagnetic Waves Eight to Twenty-four Centimeters in Length,” 1936

Writings
  By Goldsmith
    “Television Broadcast Coverage” with Allen B. Du Mont, 1944
    “Television Interference–Engineering Problem,” 1946
    “Television Receivers Using Electrostatic Deflection,” 1940
  By others, 1927-1988, undated
    (5 folders)

BOX OV 1  Oversize, 1950-1954
  Printed matter and a map.

BOX OV 1
  Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories
  Miscellany
    Printed matter, 1954 (Container 10)
  Research and development file
    Television broadcasting file
      Federal Communications Commission
        Allocation material, 1950 (Container 31)