

Du Mont Laboratories Records
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012068>

Prepared by Daniel Gilham

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Collection Summary

Title: Du Mont Laboratories Records

Span Dates: 1930-1960

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1945-1960)

ID No.: MSS19109

Creator: Du Mont Laboratories

Extent: 41,000 items

Extent: 139 containers

Extent: 56 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78019109>

Summary: Firm organized by Allen B. Du Mont in 1935 devoted to electronic television and communications engineering; television receiver and manufacturing business sold to Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation in 1958; remainder of the firm merged with Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation in 1960. General correspondence, administrative files, interoffice correspondence, financial records, sales and advertising files, television and government hearing material, and miscellaneous records relating chiefly to the development and commercial use of the television cathode ray tube. Includes personal papers of founder Allen B. Du Mont.

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

Arnett, Keeton--Correspondence.

Cramer, Leonard Frederick, 1910-1987--Correspondence.

Du Mont, Allen B. (Allen Balcom), 1901-1965. Allen B. Du Mont papers.

Goldsmith, Thomas T. (Thomas Toliver), 1910-2009--Correspondence.

Lescarbourea, Austin C. (Austin Celestin), 1891- --Correspondence.

Loewi, Mortimer W. (Mortimer Warren), 1888-1967--Correspondence.

Marx, Ernest A.--Correspondence.

Poppele, Jack--Correspondence.

Roberts, William A. (William Allerton), 1900- --Correspondence.

Sarlin, Irving--Correspondence.

Steadman, Albert--Correspondence.

Taylor, Herbert E., Jr.--Correspondence.

Ware, Paul, 1893-1970--Correspondence.

Wheeler, Elmer, 1903- --Correspondence.

Witting, C. J. (Chris James), 1915-2005--Correspondence.

Organizations

Du Mont Laboratories.

Subjects

Cathode ray tubes.

Electrical engineering.

Electronics.

Engineering laboratories.

Telecommunication.

Television.

Provenance

The records of the Du Mont Laboratories were given to the Library of Congress by Allen B. Du Mont in 1965.

Processing History

The Du Mont Laboratories Records were processed in 1967. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [Thomas T. Goldsmith](#) .

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Allen B. Du Mont in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Du Mont Laboratories 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, Du Mont Laboratories Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History and Biographical Note

Du Mont Laboratories

Date	Event
1931	Founded by Allen B. Du Mont
1935	Incorporation of Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories
1938	Began manufacturing televisions
1946	Formation of Du Mont Television Network
1946	Du Mont Television Network sold to John Kluge and renamed Metromedia
1949	World's largest television assembly plant, part of Du Mont Laboratories, dedicated in East Patterson, N.J.
1958	Television manufacturing division sold to Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corp.
1960	Research laboratory sold to Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp.

Allen B. Du Mont

Date	Event
1901, Jan. 29	Born, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1916-1924	Worked summers as a licensed commercial radio operator on coastal and transatlantic ships
1924	B.A., electrical engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.
1924-1928	Engineer, Westinghouse Lamp Co., Bloomfield, N.J.

1928-1931	Employed by DeForest Radio Corp., Passaic, N.J., as chief engineer and director of research and experiment in the field of "sight and sound" broadcasting
1931	Organized a basement laboratory in his home in Upper Montclair, N.J., devoted to the development of a commercially practical cathode ray tube
1935	Incorporated Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories
1937-1938	Built and sold first television receivers
1941	Started experimental telecasting over W2XWV (later WABD), New York, N.Y.
1943	First president of Television Broadcasting Association
1946	Opened Wanamaker studios of station WABD, New York, N.Y. Established Du Mont Television Network with stations WABD, New York, and WTTG, Washington, D.C.
1951	Ranked first among America's most outstanding industrialists in radio and electronics in a poll conducted by <i>Forbes Magazine</i>
1956-1960	Chairman of the board, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc.
1960-1961	Group general manager, Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp.
1961-1965	Senior technical consultant, Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp.
1965, Nov. 15	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Du Mont Laboratories span years 1930-1960, with the bulk of the material dated between 1945 and 1960. The collection consists of correspondence, administrative files, financial records, sales and advertising material, files relating to television and government hearings, and miscellaneous records focusing on the development and commercial use of the television cathode ray tube. Included throughout are personal papers of the Du Mont firm's founder, Allen B. Du Mont. The collection is organized into nine series: [Administrative Files](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Interoffice Correspondence](#), [Financial Records](#), [Sales and Advertising File](#), [Production and Engineering File](#), [Television File](#), [Government Hearings](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Early records of the laboratories reflect Allen Du Mont's efforts to develop a commercially practical cathode ray tube. Photographs, schematics, and other technical records in the [Production and Engineering](#) series and [Television File](#) document his development of the cathode ray tube from a laboratory curiosity into the practical and indispensable "eye" of television, radar, and oscillographs. Other material in these files reflects the planning and organization by Du Mont and his laboratories to apply the technology used in developing the cathode ray tube to such fields as scientific and industrial measurement and to the transmission and reception of television.

The laboratory's corporate history is documented throughout the collection, but largest in breadth, scope, and significance are the [Production and Engineering File](#), [Television File](#), and [Government Hearings](#) file. Contained in these series are materials documenting the commercial application of cathode ray tubes and the growth of Du Mont's television manufacturing and broadcasting divisions. These larger series also relate to television transmission, reception, and frequency allocation, Federal Communications Commission, color television, educational television, stations, networks, programs, ratings, and profits and losses. In addition, in the Television File are materials pertaining to the 1955 division of Du Mont's television receiver manufacturing business and the merger of Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories with the Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation in 1960.

Prominent correspondents include Keeton Arnett, Leonard Frederick Cramer, Thomas T. Goldsmith, Austin C. Lescarbourea, Mortimer W. Loewi, Ernest A. Marx, Jack Poppele, William Allerton Roberts, Irving Sarlin, Albert Steadman, Herbert E. Taylor Jr., Paul Ware, Elmer Wheeler, and C. J. Witting.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Administrative File, 1935-1960](#)
- [General Correspondence, circa 1930-1960](#)

- Interoffice Correspondence, circa 1935-1960
- Financial Records, 1932-1960
- Sales and Advertising File, 1936-1960
- Production and Engineering File, 1932-1960
- Television File, circa 1935-1960
- Government Hearings, 1935-1937
- Miscellany, circa 1937-1960

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-9	<p><u>Administrative File, 1935-1960</u></p> <p>Awards, blueprints, charts, correspondence, industrial relations records, memoranda, minutes, newsletters, newspaper clippings, personnel records, photographs, printed matter, reports, surveys, telegrams, union materials, and miscellaneous administrative records.</p> <p>Arranged by subject and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 10-27	<p><u>General Correspondence, circa 1930-1960</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 28-36	<p><u>Interoffice Correspondence, circa 1935-1960</u></p> <p>Letters and memoranda.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 37-44	<p><u>Financial Records, 1932-1960</u></p> <p>Audits, balance sheets, budgets, correspondence, cost statements, financial reports, loan papers, price lists, product sheets, profit and loss statements, stock registration lists, tax records, telegrams, and miscellaneous financial records.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 45-49	<p><u>Sales and Advertising File, 1936-1960</u></p> <p>Advertisements, budgets, catalogs, conference materials, correspondence, lists, memoranda, newsletters, photographs, price lists, printed matter, proposals, reports, surveys, and miscellaneous material.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 50-67	<p><u>Production and Engineering File, 1932-1960</u></p> <p>Articles, awards, blueprints, charts, contracts, correspondence, diagrams, inventory lists, mechanical drawings, memoranda, notes, orders, patents, photographs, printed matter, product information sheets, proposals, reports, schedules, schematics, and specification sheets.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 68-104	<p><u>Television File, circa 1935-1960</u></p> <p>Articles, block diagrams, blueprints, briefs, brochures, catalogs, contracts, correspondence, exhibits, legal papers, licenses, maps, memoranda, minutes, newspaper clippings, organization charts, pamphlets, photographs, printed matter, program ratings, reports, schedules, schematics, statements, surveys, testimony, subject and miscellaneous materials.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 105-125	<p><u>Government Hearings, 1935-1937</u></p> <p>Correspondence, testimony, and hearings material.</p> <p>Arranged according to the hearing's sponsor, mainly the Federal Communications Commission and the House of Representatives and Senate.</p>

BOX 126-139

Miscellany, circa 1937-1960

Addresses, articles, biographical material, company publications, magazines, news releases, photographs, printed matter, speeches, writings, and miscellaneous material.
Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-9	Administrative File, 1935-1960 Awards, blueprints, charts, correspondence, industrial relations records, memoranda, minutes, newsletters, newspaper clippings, personnel records, photographs, printed matter, reports, surveys, telegrams, union materials, and miscellaneous administrative records. Arranged by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Annual reports, 1938-1958
BOX 2	Organization charts, 1935-1960
BOX 3	Management meetings, circa 1939-1960
BOX 4	Personnel circa 1938-1955
BOX 5	Industrial relations, 1950-1954
BOX 6	Surveys (management), 1948
BOX 7-9	Miscellany, circa 1938-1959
BOX 10-27	General Correspondence, circa 1930-1960 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and therein chronologically.
BOX 10	A
BOX 11	B
BOX 12-13	C
BOX 14	D
BOX 15	E-F
BOX 16	G-H
BOX 17	I-K
BOX 18	L-M
BOX 19	N
BOX 20	N-O
BOX 21-22	P
BOX 23	Q-R
BOX 24	R
BOX 25	S
BOX 26	T-V
BOX 27	W-Z
BOX 28-36	Interoffice Correspondence, circa 1935-1960 Letters and memoranda. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer and therein chronologically.
BOX 28	Allen-Cuff
BOX 29	DeFalco-Feldt
BOX 30	Geyelin-Goldsmith (1 folder)

Interoffice Correspondence, circa 1935-1960

Container	Contents
BOX 31	(1 folder)
BOX 32	Helt-Markwell
BOX 33	Marx-Muniz
BOX 34	Olson-Stickel
BOX 35	Taylor-Ware
BOX 36	Williams-Zorn
BOX 37-44	Financial Records, 1932-1960 Audits, balance sheets, budgets, correspondence, cost statements, financial reports, loan papers, price lists, product sheets, profit and loss statements, stock registration lists, tax records, telegrams, and miscellaneous financial records. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 37	1932-1945
BOX 38	1946-1949
BOX 39	1949-1950
BOX 40-41	1950
BOX 42	1951
BOX 43	1952-1955
BOX 44	1956-1960
BOX 45-49	Sales and Advertising File, 1936-1960 Advertisements, budgets, catalogs, conference materials, correspondence, lists, memoranda, newsletters, photographs, price lists, printed matter, proposals, reports, surveys, and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 45	1936-1945
BOX 46	1946-1950
BOX 47	1950-1952
BOX 48	1953-1957
BOX 49	1958-1960
BOX 50-67	Production and Engineering File, 1932-1960 Articles, awards, blueprints, charts, contracts, correspondence, diagrams, inventory lists, mechanical drawings, memoranda, notes, orders, patents, photographs, printed matter, product information sheets, proposals, reports, schedules, schematics, and specification sheets. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 50	Amplifiers, 1935-1936
BOX 50	Automatic testing, 1958
BOX 50	Cathantograph, 1933-1959
BOX 50	Cathode ray tubes, 1934-1960
BOX 51	Color encoding, 1955
BOX 51	Crosley production, 1949
BOX 51	Cyclographs, circa 1935-1946
BOX 51	"E" Award, 1944-1945
BOX 52	"E" Award, 1944-1945

Production and Engineering File, 1932-1960

Container	Contents
BOX 52	Electronic Image enhancer, 1955-1960
BOX 52	Electronic switch, 1939
BOX 52	Field tests, 1947
BOX 52	Frequency modulation, 1939
BOX 52	Instrument engineering, 1959
BOX 52	Inventory, 1934
BOX 53	Materials, circa 1940
BOX 53	Microscope, circa 1940
BOX 53	Military electronics, 1960
BOX 53	Missile checkout, 1957
BOX 53	Notes, engineering department)
BOX 53	1945-1946
BOX 54	1947-1950
BOX 54	Orders received, 1936
BOX 54	Oscillographs
BOX 54	1934-1945
BOX 55	1936-1960
BOX 55	Patents
BOX 55	1932-1948
BOX 56	1949-1960
BOX 57	Miscellany, 1940-1960
BOX 58	Photoelectric cells, circa 1940
BOX 58	Photosensitive devices, 1960
BOX 58	Product lines, 1959
BOX 58	Production, circa 1942-1950
BOX 58	Projects, 1937
BOX 58	Quality control, 1950-1957
BOX 59	Radar, circa 1942-1958
BOX 59	Relay system (Cuba), 1955
BOX 60-61	Reports
BOX 60-61	Engineering, 1942-1951
BOX 62-64	Research
BOX 62-64	1957-1958
BOX 65	1957-1958
BOX 65	Resonoscope, circa 1940
BOX 65	Scientific instruments, 1959
BOX 65	Signal generator, 1939
BOX 65	Sonar, 1956
BOX 65	Space allocations, 1955
BOX 65	Stock flow, circa 1940
BOX 65	Sweep circuit, 1934
BOX 65	Synchronizing signal, 1940-1946
BOX 66	Technical products, 1955-1956
BOX 66	Teleplotting system, 1946
BOX 66	Test equipment, 1947
BOX 66	Time base generator, circa 1941

Production and Engineering File, 1932-1960

Container	Contents
BOX 66	Time study, circa 1940
BOX 66	Transformers, 1936
BOX 66	Tubes circa
BOX 66	1938-1950
BOX 67	1945-1960
BOX 67	Tungsten, circa 1940
BOX 68-104	Television File, circa 1935-1960 Articles, block diagrams, blueprints, briefs, brochures, catalogs, contracts, correspondence, exhibits, legal papers, licenses, maps, memoranda, minutes, newspaper clippings, organization charts, pamphlets, photographs, printed matter, program ratings, reports, schedules, schematics, statements, surveys, testimony, subject and miscellaneous materials. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 68-70	Color television, 1949-1957
BOX 71-73	Educational television, 1949-1959
BOX 74	Electronicam system, 1954-1959
BOX 75-76	Network
BOX 75-76	WABD (W2XWV), 1941-1952
BOX 77	WBTW, 1949-1952
BOX 78	WTTG
BOX 78	1939-1946
BOX 79	1947-1955
BOX 79	KCTY (UHF), 1956
BOX 80	Boston, Mass., station application, 1954-1961
BOX 81	Wanamaker's studio, 1946
BOX 82	Programs, 1938-1954
BOX 83	Ratings, 1945-1951
BOX 84	Surveys (management), 1947-1955
BOX 85	Spinoff, 1955
BOX 86-87	Network miscellany
BOX 86-87	Organization
BOX 88	National Association of Radio and Television
BOX 88	Broadcasters, 1955
BOX 88	National Television System Committee, 1941-1956
BOX 88	Radio and Television Manufacturer's Association, 1950
BOX 89-90	Television Broadcaster's Association, 1950
BOX 91	Organization miscellany
BOX 91	Receivers
BOX 91	1939-1949
BOX 92	1950-1958
BOX 92	Reception 1948-1949
BOX 92	Reports 1937-1956
BOX 94-104	Miscellany (alphabetical: Accomplishments Zoomar), circa 1935-1960
BOX 105-125	Government Hearings, 1935-1937 Correspondence, testimony, and hearings material.

Government Hearings, 1935-1937

Container

Contents

Arranged according to the hearing's sponsor, mainly the Federal Communications Commission and the House of Representatives and Senate.

BOX 105-106	Federal Communications Commission
BOX 105-106	Correspondence, 1937-1956, undated
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BOX 109	1946-1947
BOX 110	1947-1948
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BOX 115	1950-1951
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BOX 117	1952
BOX 118	1952
BOX 119	1952-1953
BOX 120	1954
BOX 121	1954-1955
BOX 122	Miscellany
BOX 122	Printed matter
BOX 123	House of Representatives, 1951-1956
BOX 124	Senate
BOX 124	1949-1954
BOX 125	1954-1957
BOX 126-139	Miscellany, circa 1937-1960
	Addresses, articles, biographical material, company publications, magazines, news releases, photographs, printed matter, speeches, writings, and miscellaneous material.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 126-127	Biographical and personal file of Allen B. Du Mont, circa 1940-1960
BOX 128	Company publications
BOX 128	"Oscillographer"
BOX 128	"Raster" (1944-1954)
BOX 129	New releases
BOX 130-132	Photographs
BOX 133-138	Printed matter
BOX 139	Writings, addresses, articles, and statements of Allen B. Du Mont and others, circa 1940-1960