

# HANSWERNER SPEYER PAPERS, 1920-1956

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**Collection #**  
M 534

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Processed by  
Paul Brockman  
18 August 1989

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## **USER INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1920-1956

PROVENANCE: Purchased from William Rasdell, Indianapolis, IN, 15 March 1988

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 88.0322

NOTES:

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Hanswerner Speyer (1902-1986) was born in Freiberg, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1921

because of the political and financial conditions in his native country. His father owned a book and publishing business dealing almost exclusively with medical, chemical and mathematical books. Speyer desired a career in mechanical and electrical engineering and began working in a machinshop as a student upon graduation from the Gymnasium (the American equivalent of high school). He later worked for the largest German electrical concern, AEG (Allgemeine Elektrizit aetsgesellschaft), working on electrical installations.

Upon his arrival in New York, Speyer worked for the Kleinschmidt Typewriter Company. A short time later he went to Providence, Rhode Island where he worked as a toolmaker for several firms including the Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company. From there he went to Cleveland then to Detroit where he worked for Ford Motor Company from around 1923 to 1928 as a toolmaker in several departments. He then came to Indianapolis as a representative of the Dual Duty Company, a truck transport firm based in Alma, Michigan. He acquired his own truck freight business in Indianapolis around 1931. The company was first known as Contract Carriers, Inc., then apparently became Transportation Fuel and Supplies, Inc., then the Cincinnati, Eastern Indiana, and Indianapolis Motor Express Company, and finally AAA Transportation, Inc. The business continued into the middle 1950s.

Speyer also patented several inventions in several areas and wrote and translated articles for magazines in the United States and Germany.

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### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Speyer's personal correspondence, business and financial information, and articles and translations. Included in his personal correspondence are letters from his father and other relatives and friends in Freiberg and Berlin, Germany describing home life, business, and general conditions in the country, 1920-1941. There are also letters from his sister, Grete Hubler, and her family in Freital, East Germany, 1946-1947, describing life in the country and family conditions. There are also letters from friends and relatives in West Germany (Freiberg and Wuppertal) and Forbach, Moselle, France regarding family news and post-war conditions, 1945-1948. These letters are in German and most are written in German script.

There is also correspondence to Speyer from friends in the United States dealing with activities and general topics of conversation; correspondence with individuals requesting his help in obtaining visas for friends and relatives in Germany,

1938-1941; advice to recent German immigrants on surviving in the United States; letters to U.S. Government officials on developments in Germany; and letters from relatives in the United States regarding family in Germany. There are also copies of correspondence by Speyer and some responses to friends and authorities and agencies in the United States and Europe in attempt to locate his sister and her family (the Hublers) after World War II, 1945-1946. Approximately half of these letters are in German.

Also included are Speyer's business and financial papers dealing with attempts at employment and promotion, his trucking business, and personal finances. Among his truck business papers are letters regarding his employees and book keeping, a legal suit against the Indiana Public Service Commission (1941), and charges by the Divisional Code Authority regarding the sale of coal below the minimum price (1934). There are also drawings of his patents and other related information. In addition, there are copies of his literary writings and translations for magazines.

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### BOX AND FOLDER LIST

#### **BOX 1: Correspondence from Germany, 1920-1948 & n.d.**

##### **Folder**

1: Correspondence, 1920-May, 1921.

2: Correspondence, Jun-Oct, 1921.

- 3: Correspondence, Nov-Dec, 1921.
- 4: Correspondence, Jan-April, 1922.
- 5: Correspondence, May-Jul, 1922.
- 6: Correspondence, Aug-Oct, 1922.
- 7: Correspondence, Nov-Dec, 1922.
- 8: Correspondence, Jan-Feb, 1923.
- 9: Correspondence, Mar-Jul, 1923.
- 10: Correspondence, 1924-1925.
- 11: Correspondence, Jan-May, 1926.
- 12: Correspondence, Jun-Oct, 1926 & 1929.
- 13: Correspondence, 1934-1938.
- 14: Correspondence, 1939 & 1941.
- 15: Correspondence, 1945-Aug, 1946.
- 16: Correspondence, Sept.-Dec., 1946.
- 17: Correspondence, 1947-1948.
- 18: Correspondence, with Hubler family, 1946-1947.
- 19: Correspondence, n.d.

**BOX 2: Correspondence, 1921-1956 & n.d.; Business & Financial Records 1921-1955  
Folder**

- 1: Correspondence, 1921.
- 2: Correspondence, Jan-Apr, 1922.
- 3: Correspondence, May-Dec, 1922.
- 4: Correspondence, Jan-Apr, 1923.
- 5: Correspondence, May-Dec, 1923.
- 6: Correspondence, 1924.
- 7: Correspondence, 1925.
- 8: Correspondence, 1926-1928.
- 9: Correspondence, 1931-1937.

- 10: Correspondence, 1938.
- 11: Correspondence, 1939.
- 12: Correspondence, 1940.
- 13: Correspondence, 1941-1942.
- 14: Correspondence, 1945-Jun, 1946.
- 15: Correspondence, Jul-Sep, 1946.
- 16: Correspondence, Oct-Dec, 1946.
- 17: Correspondence, 1947 & 1954-1956.
- 18: Correspondence, n.d.
- 19: Business, financial, & legal papers, 1921-1939.
- 20: Business, financial, & legal papers, 1940-1955 & n.d.
- 21: Business Correspondence (carbon copies), 1922.
- 22: Inventions, 1921-1928.

**BOX 3: Writings & Translations, 1923-1940 & n.d.  
Folder**

- 1: Articles & Publications, 1923-1940.
- 2: Articles & Publications, 1924.
- 3: Articles & Publications, 1926.
- 4-11: Miscellaneous Writings & Translations, n.d.

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**CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: Speyer, Hanswerner, 1902-1986

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Speyer, Hanswerner, 1902-1986

Ford Motor Company

AAA Transportation Inc. (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Transportation Fuel and Supplies, Inc. (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Contract Carriers, Inc. (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Cincinnati, Eastern Indiana, and Indianapolis Motor Express Co.

Indiana. Public Service Commission  
Immigrants--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Immigrants--United States  
Emigration and immigration  
Immigrants--Indiana--Indianapolis--Family relationships  
Germans--Indiana--Indianapolis  
German Americans--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Business records--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Tool and die makers--Ohio--Cleveland  
Tool and die makers--Rhode Island--Providence  
Trucking--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Trucking--Michigan--Alma  
Automobile industry workers--Michigan--Detroit  
Translators--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Patents--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Immigrants' writings, German--Indiana--Indianapolis  
Freiberg (Germany)  
Berlin (Germany)  
Freital (Germany)  
Forbach (France)  
Indianapolis (Ind.)--Emigration and immigration  
Providence (R.I.)

END