

Collection #
M 0393
BV 2048–2073, 2075

A.D. COOK, INC. RECORDS, 1890–1955

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Processed by

Robert W. Smith
Paul Brockman, Supervisor
20 February 2004

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	8 boxes, 28 bound volumes, 1 photograph
COLLECTION DATES:	1890–1955
PROVENANCE:	Mr. and Mrs. John T. Gibson, Washington, D.C, 2 June 1983
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Cornelius O'Brien Papers (M 0597)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1983.0632

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

August D. Cook was born near Bremen, Germany, on 18 November 1847 and immigrated to the United States with his family who settled in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana. He founded the A. D. Cook Company in 1881 to manufacture tube well supplies and steam pumps. The company began in a small foundry and changed locations three times, each time moving to a larger facility. At the time of the third move in 1901, the company became the largest factory in the world devoted exclusively to the manufacture of deep-well pumps of the plunger type. A. D. Cook was also associated with his brother, H. F. Cook, who was president of The Cook Well Company in St. Louis, Missouri.

The A. D. Cook Company was incorporated on 14 March 1921. Two weeks later, A. D. Cook died and his son-in-law, Cornelius O'Brien (1883–1953) who had been with the operation since 1909, became the company's president. His wife, Anna Cook O'Brien, served as the company's secretary. O'Brien later became president of the People's National Bank in Indianapolis.

The company conducted actual well-drilling activities under the title of the A. D. Cook Water Development Division until it was discontinued in 1945. The A. D. Cook Company also manufactured a diverse line of deep-well steam-driven pumps, plunger pumps and turbine motor-driven pumps, shallow-well pumps, well supplies, and compression-type fire hydrants and pumps used in domestic water supply systems and power installations.

The A. D. Cook Company was sold on 2 September 1947 to All American Industries, Inc. of New York.

Sources:

Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is divided into three series. The first series consists of the O'Brien family's personal account books, 1914–55. Among the twenty-six bound volumes in this section are cash journal and ledgers of Cornelius O'Brien and his daughters, Anna Belle O'Brien and Mary Gibson O'Brien. There are also stock registers which lists accounts of preferred stocks and bonds held by Anna Belle and Cornelius O'Brien.

Series two comprises audit reports, catalogs, and pamphlets of the A. D. Cook Company. The audit reports cover the years 1929–38 and were prepared by Rice, Stanley, and Company of Cincinnati. The catalogs cover the years 1890–1940 and document the products manufactured by the company; they include pictures, dimensions, and prices for tube well supplies and steam, belt, and motor-driven well pumps. Also included are eight pamphlets, mostly from A. D. Cook, relating to water wells and pumps.

The third series contains correspondence, operational, and financial papers from the A. D. Cook Company, 1891–1948. Correspondence ranges from employee reports and letters from accountants to a set of letters discussing the company’s sale. Company inventories include estimated profit and loss sheets, balance sheets, indebtedness sheets, and profit/loss statements. Production-related records include charts of equipment tests and executive interdepartmental orders. There are also files on salesmen and engineers for the company.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: O’Brien Family Account Books, 1914–1955

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Anna Belle O’Brien, Cash Journal # 1, Jan. 1940–Sept. 1948	BV 2048
Anna Belle O’Brien, Cash Journal # 2, Oct. 1948–Sept. 1954	BV 2049
Anna Belle O’Brien, Stock Register, Dec. 1922–Nov. 1941	BV 2050
Anna Belle O’Brien, Stock Register, Feb. 1939–Sept. 1943	BV 2051
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 1, July 1914–Feb. 1916	BV 2052
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 2, Feb. 1916–Dec. 1917	BV 2053
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 3, Dec. 1917–Dec. 1917–Dec. 1922	BV 2054
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 4, Dec. 1922–Dec. 1929	BV 2055
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 5, Jan. 1930–Dec. 1935	BV 2056
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 6, Jan. 1936–Dec. 1940	BV 2057
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 7, Jan. 1941–Dec. 1943	BV 2058
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 8, Jan. 1944–Dec. 1950	BV 2059
Cornelius O’Brien, Cash Journal # 9, Jan. 1951–July 1953	BV 2060
Cornelius O’Brien, Stock Register, Jan. 1921–Jan. 1944	BV 2061

Cornelius O'Brien, Appraisal 13 June 1942	BV 2062a
Cornelius O'Brien, Appraisal 9 June 1942	BV 2062b
Cornelius O'Brien, Check Receipts and Deposits, Aug. 1929	BV 2063
Cornelius O'Brien, Farm Ledger # 1, 1938–44	BV 2064
Cornelius O'Brien, Livestock Inventory, 1938–48	BV 2065
Mary Gibson O'Brien, Cash Journal # 1, Jan. 1940–Dec. 1948	BV 2066
Mary Gibson O'Brien, Cash Journal # 2, Jan. 1949–June 1955	BV 2067
O'Brien Family Ledger # 1, 1914–17	BV 2068
O'Brien Family Ledger # 2, 1918–21	BV 2069
O'Brien Family Ledger # 3, 1922	BV 2070
O'Brien Family Ledger # 4, 1923–30	BV 2071
O'Brien Family Ledger # 5, 1930–39	BV 2072
O'Brien Family Ledger # 6, 1940–43	BV 2073
Family Photograph, Horse-Drawn Carriage in Winter, ca. 1910s	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 1

Series 2: A. D. Cook Company Ledgers and Catalogs, 1890–1948

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
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Audit Reports, 1930–31	Box 1, Folder 1
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Audit Reports, 1935–38	Box 1, Folder 3
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Catalogs, 1890, 1898–1904	Box 1, Folder 5
Catalogs, 1895–1900	Box 1, Folder 6
Catalogs, 1902–06	Box 1, Folder 7
Catalog, 1909	Box 2, Folder 1
Catalogs, Numbers 11 and 14, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 2

Catalogs, Numbers 15, n.d.; and July 1921 [?]	Box 2, Folder 3
Catalog Number 16, n.d.; Bulletins 30 and 30A	Box 2, Folder 4
Catalog Number 17, 1925; Bulletin 34; Professional Correspondence; Blueprint of Well, 1911	Box 2, Folder 5
Catalogs, 1935, 1937–39; Johnson Well Screens Catalog Number 534, 1936	Box 2, Folder 6
Catalog Number 340, 1936; Bulletin 31A, 1934	Box 2, Folder 7
Catalog “S,” 1934 with Supplements and Correspondence (1 of 2)	Box 3, Folder 1
Catalog “S,” 1934 with Supplements and Correspondence (2 of 2)	Box 3, Folder 2
Catalog “S,” 1938; Johnson Well Screens Catalog Number 538, 1938	Box 3, Folder 3
Catalog “S,” 1939; Bulletin 36, 1939	Box 3, Folder 4
Catalog 340-A, 1939; Bulletin 34 EJ, 1940	Box 3, Folder 5
“Outfitters For Wells,” n.d.; “Driller,” 1949; Bulletins Numbers 448, 448-W, 449, 1148; “25 Years of Water for Industry,” n.d.	Box 3, Folder 6
Pump and Water System Catalogs, 1935, 1948 and n.d.; Indianapolis Railways Annual Report, 1947	Box 3, Folder 7

Series 3: A. D. Cook Company, Operational and Financial Papers, 1891–1950

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Correspondence, 1921, 1947–50; Capital Stock Issued, 1944–45; Lists of Employees, 1923–28	Box 4, Folder 1
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Comparison of Payroll, 1937–38; Labor Costs/Wages, 1932–35	Box 4, Folder 3
Summary of Sales, Jan. 1891–Dec. 1922; Deep Well Pumps Figures, 1940; Rice-Stanley Correspondence, 1930s	Box 4, Folder 4
Profit-Loss Statements, 1938–40; Inventory, General File, 1914–40	Box 4, Folder 5
Inventory, 1929–33; Profit-Loss Statements, 1932–33	Box 4, Folder 6

Inventory and Profit-Loss Statements, 1934–36	Box 4, Folder 7
Inventory, 1937–37; Rice-Stanley Correspondence, 1936–37; Cook Company Debts, Sept. 1937–38	Box 5, Folder 1
Inventory and Tax Statements, Dec. 1938–Sept. 1943	Box 5, Folder 2
Inventory and Tax Statements, 1937–44; Balance Sheet, 1937	Box 5, Folder 3
Balance Sheet and Profit-Loss Statements, 1946–47; Correspondence, 1946	Box 5, Folder 4
Inventory (Profit-Loss Statements), 1946–47 (A)	Box 5, Folder 5
Inventory (Profit-Loss Statements), 1947–48 (B)	Box 5, Folder 6
Cornelius O'Brien Papers on Departmentalization, Sept. 1945	Box 5, Folder 7
Labor Elections, 8 Oct. 1945; Strike 9 Oct.–9 Nov. 1945	Box 5, Folder 8
Sale Expense Sheets, n.d.; Tax Information, 1942; Financial Statements, 1930s	Box 5, Folder 9
History of A. D. Cook Company and Newspaper Accounts	Box 6, Folder 1
Financial Statements, 1922–38	Box 6, Folder 2
Profit-Loss Information, 1936–44	Box 6, Folder 3
Chase Brass and Cooper Correspondence, 1927; General Correspondence, 1928; Johnson and Cook Comparison, 1938	Box 6, Folder 4
Experimental Dee Well Pump Tests; Type W. W. Strainer and Winding Wire Drawings	Box 6, Folder 5
Type W. W. Strainer; Correspondence/Orders, 1932	Box 6, Folder 6
Type W. W. Strainer, 1 July 1927 (Drawing); Memoranda/Orders March 1930–April 1932	Box 6, Folder 7
W. W. Strainer Memoranda/Orders, Feb. 1932–May 1933	Box 7, Folder 1
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Charts for Yield for Stratum and Sand Capacity of Strainers, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 6
Turbine Pump Tests, 1939; Correspondence, Memoranda, 1939	Box 7, Folder 7
Correspondence Regarding R. E. Sykes, 1940 and Robert Bird, 1939	Box 7, Folder 8
Correspondence Regarding Robert E. Slee, 1945	Box 7, Folder 9
Dunbar and Dunbar Correspondence, 1948	Box 8, Folder 1
Rockwell Manufacturing and Edward Valves Correspondence, 1946	Box 8, Folder 2
Company Papers: Thomas Simmons and A. R. Shinn Correspondence, 1947	Box 8, Folder 3
Company Papers: Credit Information and Correspondence, 1946–47	Box 8, Folder 4
Company Papers: Legal Papers and Correspondence, 1946–47	Box 8, Folder 5
Company Papers: Credit Information and Correspondence, 1946–47	Box 8, Folder 6
Company Papers: Trip to New York, 1946	Box 8, Folder 7
Business Papers, 1931, 1950	Box 8, Folder 8

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0393).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.