

Collection #
M 1152

DONALD J. ANGUS MATERIALS
CA. 1918–2010

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One half size manuscript box; 2 folders photographs

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1918–2010

PROVENANCE: Charles D. Angus, Spring Lake, Michigan, 2014

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: See also P 0496, the Robert B. Annis Collection housed in the IHS Archives.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2014.0110

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Donald J. (D.J.) Angus was a self-made engineer-inventor. Angus made a significant impact on science education in Indiana for generations. D.J. was born to parents John and May Angus in Wisconsin in 1887, followed by his brother Francis two years later. The young boys, lifelong companions, were exposed to hard work and engineering at a young age through their father who owned a farm and later worked for a tool company. A hands-on learner, D.J. left school at 16 to pursue a career and landed his first full-time job as a machine repairman. Although he never completed high school, he did attend, as an occasional student, engineering classes of his choice at the University of Wisconsin and Michigan State University.

After gaining invaluable work experience as an electrician and mechanic in Wisconsin and Michigan, D.J. moved to Indiana in 1910 to work on a new steam hydroelectric plant near Bedford, where he met engineer and professor John W. Esterline. One of his early major projects was design and installation of hydraulic plant and distributing system for the district at Williams, Lawrence County, Ind. (1909-1912). The entire Bedford Stone District of Indiana, one of the largest industrial electrifications in the United States, was managed by Angus for some time after the completion of the project. He became progressively expert on electrical measuring and recording devices, and was selected during World War I to design a totalizing meter for the Mississippi River Company plant at Keokuk, Iowa.

After a brief stint exploring the U.S. via motorcycle, D.J. returned to Indiana and created, in 1910, a business partnership with Esterline which resulted in the Esterline-Angus Instrument Company, an Indianapolis-based manufacturer of graphic recording meters. During his lifetime he was granted 47 patents on electrical and mechanical devices.

Shortly after moving to Indianapolis, D.J. joined with other engineers, architects, and scientists to form the Scientech Club of Indianapolis in 1918. The members met on a regular basis to exchange information and ideas on science and technology in relation to current events. D.J. was also active in the Radio Club of Indianapolis, where he met young student Robert B. "R.B." Annis in 1922. D.J. became a lifelong mentor and friend to Annis, even encouraging him to return to high school after he had dropped out.

Through their club associations D.J. and R.B. explored the U.S. through many camping trips and boating excursions aboard the *Angus*, the yacht D.J. had built in 1939. These trips often included D.J.'s younger brother Francis, who had settled in Grand Haven, Michigan with his wife and sons. D.J., with no children of his own, had a strong influence on his nephews John and Charles (Chuck), who later continued their family's interest in scientific innovation.

Before and during World War II, the Esterline-Angus Instrument Company was able to fulfill a need for military instruments that would help in defense and battle. Particularly helpful was the Esterline-Angus recorder and magnetometer which could locate submarines around the U.S. coasts.

As new computer technology began to affect all major industries, D.J. Angus and his executives decided to sell Esterline-Angus in 1960 and leave future owners to forge the path for computerizing graphic instruments. D.J. retired with the sale of the company and passed away in 1966, leaving much of his legacy with Grand Valley State University near his Spring Lake, Michigan home. His family papers, cherished photographs, and the *Angus* were among his gifts to the university. His hope was that these contributions would be of use for years to come.

To pay tribute to their dear friend and mentor, members of the Sciencetech Club formed the D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation in 1967. Chuck Angus was very involved in establishing and funding this organization. Among other projects, the foundation provided for the upkeep of the *Angus* and what would become Grand Valley State's Annis Water Resources Institute. D.J.'s nephew Chuck followed in his Uncle D.J.'s footsteps and carried on his family's interest in science and education.

Through hard work, modest living and dedication, D.J. Angus was able to achieve great success in his field while also influencing future generations of young scientists through his mentoring activities and his legacy. Numerous educational opportunities for students have been provided through the support of D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation and the R.B. Annis Educational Foundation. D.J. Angus' influence can still be seen today in Indianapolis and beyond in organizations such as the Indiana Historical Society, Annis Water Resources Institute, and The Children's Museum.

The materials in this collection were given to the Indiana Historical Society by D.J. Angus's nephew Charles (Chuck) D. Angus in 2014. A much larger Donald J. Angus Collection at Case Western Reserve University, Kelvin Smith Library, Cleveland, Ohio, was given to the Case Archive of Contemporary Science and Technology by Case Professor John C. Angus, nephew of Donald J. Angus, in June 1967. A few additional materials were loaned from Mr. Arthur J. Weber (Indianapolis) to be microfilmed for the collection. In July, 2011 former Esterline Angus Company employee, William E. Calbert, donated five notebooks kept by Donald J. Angus between 1935 and 1956. They contain electrical test results and instrumentation information recorded by Angus for several projects. Angus gave the notebooks to Calbert in the early 1960's.

Sources:

Indiana Historical Society "Journey" biographical materials.

Case Western Reserve University, Kelvin Smith Library, Special Collections Research information page on Donald J. Angus Collection.

Materials in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Although much of Donald J. Angus's personal papers and manuscripts are housed in the archives at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, his nephew Charles D. Angus has recently donated this small collection to the Indiana Historical Society. It includes about fifteen black and white photographs and some information about the company D.J. Angus helped to form, the Esterline-Angus Instrument Co., Inc. of Indianapolis, as well as some materials about his friend Robert W. Annis, who also owned an Indianapolis company, the R.B. Annis Co. IHS also has a photograph collection about Robert B. Annis (P0496). This collection is divided into seven series as follows:

Series One - consists of a biographical booklet about Donald J. Angus.

Series Two - consists of fourteen black and white photographs of D.J. Angus, his parents, Robert B. Annis, and others.

Series Three - This series contains four letters from or to D.J. Angus, including information about his part in developing atomic energy.

Series Four - consists of numerous newspaper and journal clippings about Esterline-Angus Instrument co., and/or D.J. Angus.

Series Five - contains several articles about the Esterline-Angus Instrument Co. and its history and products.

Series Six - consists of materials from Robert B. Annis and his company the R.B. Annis Co. of Indianapolis.

Series Seven - is made up of the initial inventory of the D.J. Angus collection donated to Case Western Reserve University in 1967 and a 2004 Finding Aid for the collection.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Biographical Materials

CONTENTS

Booklet "D.J. Angus: Practical Entrepreneur" by
Gordon Olson, 1990

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Photographs

CONTENTS

May Sibley Angus, mother of D.J. Angus, n.d.

CONTAINER

Photographs
Folder 2

D.J. Angus, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

D.J. Angus, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

Power plant, Bedford stone district, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

Robert B. Annis, 4 photos aboard D.J. Angus's boat
"Angus," 1961

Photographs
Folder 1

Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Angus, parents of D.J. Angus,
shelling walnuts, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

D.J. Angus, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

D. J. Angus receiving a pin, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

D.J. Angus (2nd row, far left), 50-year award, Murat
Shrine, 17 Dec 1962

Photographs
Folder 1

Unidentified men with car and tent, n.d.

Photographs
Folder 1

D.J. Angus with unidentified man, Craters of the
Moon, Idaho, n.d. (2 copies, 1 with border)

Photographs
Folder 1

Spring Mill, photo taken by D.J. Angus, Indianapolis, ca. 1918	Photographs Folder 1
D. J. Angus's boat, the "Angus," with D.J. standing on the side, n.d.	Photographs Folder 1
Robert B. Annis standing aboard the "Angus," using a stadimeter, 1961 (2 copies)	Photographs Folder 1

Series 3: Correspondence

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Letter from R.J. Kryter, The Esterline-Angus Co., Inc. to all Sales Agents, with diagram of "2 Dec 1942 Start-Up of First Self Sustaining Chain Reaction," dated 24 March 1947 (original and copy)	Box 1, Folder 3
Letter from D.J. Angus to "Anguses," with diagram of "2 Dec 1942 Start-Up of First Self Sustaining Chain Reaction," and a journal article about same, 8 Jan 1964 (2 copies)	Box 1, Folder 3
Letter from D.J. Angus to John, 23 Feb 1964, with copy of <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i> article dated 7 Dec 1957.	Box 1, Folder 3
Letter from Doug Furton, Assoc. Prof of Physics, Grand Valley State U., Allendale, Mich., to Charles D. Angus, 15 Dec 2010, with article about D.J. Angus's connection to first nuclear chain reaction	Box 1, Folder 3

Series 4: Newspaper Clippings

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
"Electronics Now Tell Inside Story On Human Body," from <i>The Indianapolis Star</i> , 28 Jan 1962	Box 1, Folder 4
"No Time Clock in M.R. Eastin's Plant," from unknown newspaper, 25 Feb 1963	Box 1, Folder 4
"Three 50-Year Awards Are Given Mason In Single Day," from <i>Bedford Times-Mail</i> , 5 June 1962	Box 1, Folder 4
"Scientific Products Thrive in Indiana," from <i>The Indianapolis Star</i> , 16 Jan 1964	Box 1, Folder 4

"Instruments Help," from unknown newspaper, 8 June 1965 and "Esterline Angus Plans New Westside Plant," from <i>The Indianapolis Star</i> , 21 Jan 1967	Box 1, Folder 4
Articles about painting equipment, from <i>products finishing</i> , Oct 1967	Box 1, Folder 4
Article "Men Making News," from <i>Production</i> , February 1968	Box 1, Folder 4
Article "EA HISTORY: Esterline Angus Founded 1902," from <i>The Circuit</i> , March/April 1984	Box 1, Folder 4
D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation article and timeline, Vol. 78 No 33, 27 Aug 2001	Box 1, Folder 4
Sciencetech Newsletter, Vol. 78 No 43	Box 1, Folder 4
John W. Esterline obituary, <i>The Indianapolis News</i> , ca. 1964 and two other articles about the Esterline-Angus Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
Facts about Esterline-Angus Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
John W. Esterline Biography from unknown newspaper	Box 1, Folder 4
EA Spotlight & History, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
Four articles referencing Esterline-Angus Co., Inc., n.d.	
"AI Systems Go Thanks to Esterline Angus., from unidentified newspaper, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
"Hoosier Hands Help Hurtle Gemini Up," from unidentified newspaper, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
"Esterline Angus Names Four Supervisors In Research and Development Expansion," from unidentified newspaper, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4
Two articles and one picture referencing Esterline-Angus Co., Inc., from unidentified newspaper, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 4

Series 5: Esterline-Angus Co., Inc. Materials

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Esterline-Angus, 1902–1977, The First Seventy-Five Years, company history	Box 1, Folder 5
"The Graphic," Esterline-Angus Co., Inc. Indianapolis, Bulletin Number 440, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
"The Graphic," Esterline-Angus Co., Inc. Indianapolis, Bulletin Number 640, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
"Graphic Instruments, The Meter With a Record," Esterline-Angus Co., Inc. Indianapolis, Catalog No. 406, 1926	Box 1, Folder 5
"Instructions for the Use of Esterline-Angus Model A.W. Graphic Instruments, Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A., Serial Number 124963, 25 Aug 1958	Box 1, Folder 5
The Quality Policy of Esterline-Angus Instrument Co., Inc., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
Postcard showing strip chart recording machines, Esterline-Angus Instrument Co., Inc. n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5

Series 6: Robert B. Annis Materials

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Letter from Ronald W. Ward to Robert Annis, 3 June 1970, regarding the D.J. Angus-Scientech Foundation	Box 1, Folder 6
Copy of a piece about "Three Great Men and a Boat," D.J. Angus, Robert B. Annis, and Ronald W. Ward, 2001	Box 1, Folder 6
Order blank from the R.B. Annis Co., Indianapolis	Box 1, Folder 6
Information sheets (3 pages) about the "Han-D-Mag," a "probe type" demagnetizer made by the R.B. Annis Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Information sheet about the "Han-D-Kit," a demagnetizer made by the R.B. Annis Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6

Information sheet about the "Han-D-Mag," a "probe type" demagnetizer made by the R.B. Annis Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Information sheet about the Annis Pocket Magnetometers made by the R.B. Annis Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Information sheet about Annis Demagnetizers made by the R.B. Annis Co., n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Brochure (2 copies) about the Annis Balancing Machines, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Loose-bound sales and information sheets about various R. B. Annis Products, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
"Water Resources Review," Grand Valley State University, Water Resources Institute, Fall 1997, Vol. 10, No. 2 (naming Institute after R.B. Annis)	Box 1, Folder 6
"Water Resources Review," Grand Valley State University, R. B. Annis Water Resources Institute, Fall 2002, Vol. 15, No. 2	Box 1, Folder 6

Series 7: Case Western Archive Information

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Donald J. Angus Collection Preliminary Inventory, July 1967	Box 1, Folder 7
Case Western Reserve University, Kelvin Smith Library Finding Aid for Donald J. Angus Collection, 31 Dec 2004	Box 1, Folder 7

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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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 1152).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.