

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0105 (KA0155, KA0667, KA0972)
BENSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY RECORDS

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 30 cubic feet.

The records contain research notes, reference materials, color sketches, drawings, and catalogs relating to lighting equipment and architectural details designed, manufactured, and distributed by the Benson Manufacturing Company. Also included are catalogs, technical publications, and articles. Additional materials include the personal files Leroy Campbell.

Johan "John" Albin Benson was born on February 26, 1870, in Sweden. By 1885, Benson emigrated from Sweden to the United States at the age of 16. Settling in Brooklyn, New York, Benson became an apprentice pattern maker for the Pullman Car Company. Benson moved to Kansas City, Missouri, around 1903 and began working for the Prier Brass Company. A year later, Benson established Benson Brass Works with a contract to produce an automatic branding iron; however, the business went under the following year. Undaunted, Benson soon founded the Star Brass Works and his eldest son, Arthur, began his career with the business as a lathe operator, errand boy, and "general flunky." The company made grease cups for locomotives and gradually expanded into parts for the newly popular "horseless carriages," as well as lighting fixtures and appliances. Added to the fixture business was ornamental work for decorating buildings, including metal doors.

By 1907, the changed its name to the Benson Brass Works. Benson's eldest sons, Ernest and Edward, joined their father and younger brother at the works just prior to the outbreak of World War I. During the war, Benson secured a defense contract to make veterinarian instruments. The developing aircraft industry after the World War I offered Benson and his sons' new areas of expansion. The company earned a national reputation for precision work in the aviation industry. By the 1930s, the company did roughly twenty-five percent of its overall work production for the aircraft industry.

Benson died at the St. Joseph Hospital, in St. Joseph, Missouri, on September 21, 1938, and is buried at the Mount Moriah Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri.

Donor Information

The records were donated to the University of Missouri by University of Missouri-Kansas City Miller Nichols Library on June 13, 1982 (Accession No. KA0155). An addition was made on January 16, 1992 by Leroy Campbell (Accession No. KA0667). An addition was made on November 3, 1997 by Leroy Campbell (Accession No. KA0972).

K0105 (KA0155)
BENSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY RECORDS

Copyright and Restrictions

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Location Note

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

Box 1

Castings precision; Chiller (anodize); Clad materials; Clean room; Cleaning, beer barrels; Cleaning, aluminum; Ceramics; Coatings, protective; Compressor; Cooling fan; Copper; Crene; Cryogenics; Cylinders; Degreaser; Diacro; Dies; Die sets; Dimpling; Dip braze; Aluminum dip braze

Box 2

Fasteners; fiberglass; Fluorescent lights; Forgings; Grinders; Fiberglass winding; Fins; Graphites; Flow; Floturning hydrosphen; Fluidicer; Fluidic's; Fluid forming; Forming die; Forming; Forming machines; Fuel tank; Fuel tank cap; Furnace brazing; Furnace brazing, aluminum; Gas laws; Galvanizing; Hardness testing; Heads, stainless steel; Heads; heading, cold stainless; Heat treat; Helium

Box 3

Heaters; Heat exchanger; Hydraulic presses; Hydro form; Hydro spin; Hydrocal (plaster); Impact extrusion; Joining dissimilar metals; Kirksite; Laser; laths; O-rings; Optical tooling; Machining

Box 4

Magnaform; Management; Maintenance; Molds; Milling machines; Nylon; Numerical control welding; Plastic tooling; Plastic dies; Plastic-coated metals; Plastic paint; Plastic tubing; Plastic; Plastic tanics; Plating; Press; Pressure vessels; Polyurethane; Punches; Punch press and metal stamp; Press brakes

Box 5

Draw die; Drop tanks; Drill/drill bushings; Miscellaneous, Acme, Personal, Leroy Campbell, correspondence, expenses, photograph, 1958-1967, Koln, Bound reports, Benson Manufacturing, 1950s-1960s

Box 6

K0105 (KA0155)
BENSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY RECORDS

Saws; Seam welders; Shear; Sheet metal; Shrinking machine; Silicone; Silicone rubber; silver; Sizing; Spinning; Spotwelder's aluminum; aluminum spotweld cleaner

Box 7

Presses and shears; Punch presses; Quality control; Radial drills; Refractories; ridgidtex metal; Research; Rivit shaver; riviters, automatic; Rivit machines; rivit squeezers; Router; Rolls; Salt bath; Sandwich construction; Saw, cutoff

Box 8

Stainless steel; Stainless steel stock; Stainless steel tubing; Stainless steel welding; Steel; Steel, tool; Steel rule die; Stress; Surface plates; Substation

Box 9

Spot welding; Stretch press; Steel; Sprays; Springback; Square holes; Stainless steel foil; Stainless weld resistance; Stainless steel fabrications; Stainless steel; Stainless steel welding

Box 10

Tanks; Tape control; Tappered tubing; Tapping machines; Testing; Tensile test machine, Riehle; Tolerance; Titanium plating; Ti-13v-11cr-3al; Titanium machining; T-155A; Titanium 6al-4v; Titanium 8al-1mo-1v; Titanium descaling; Titanium brazing; Titanium; Titanium-welding, brazing; Welding fixtures; Tube bending; Tubing, stainless; Turret laths; Urethane; Vanadium; Ultrasonic drilling; Ultrasonic testing; Ultrasonic welding; Vacuum braze; Vapor degreaser; Vibration finishing; Vibration machines; Vibration

Box 11

Waffle beading; Welding, stainless steel; Welding, aluminum; Welding, argon; Welding, CO₂; Weld positioner; Weld design; Welding, sonic; Welding; Heliwelding; Welding, aluminum; Welds, cryogenic; Welding, eutectric; Welding, gas; Welding, light metal; Welding, Peco foil; Welding symbols; Welding torches; Welding, stainless steel; Welding, thin gauges; Welding tubing; Welding, ultrasonic; Weld, Sigma; Wire, screen mesh; wire cloth; X-ray; Zipper tubing; Titanium; Miscellaneous Benson documents; Leroy Campbell, "special"; Fairway City Hall roster; Kulka Electric Corp.; Benson closeout; Leroy Campbell, personal, 1968, 1969, 1970

Box 12

ECI/NCR; ASM/ASTME; Estimated prices/estimating; Bell welding; Bendix KC; Government equipment; Sales backup – Talos missile; Rocketdyne; "Plasecki/Gi" (has to do with inertia); VTC-304L Tank; Bell Aircraft; Jack Schadt; Balancing machines; Boring heads; Acme Boring Mill; Boring mill, horizontal; Boring machines; Boiler; Boring mill

K0105 (KA0155)
BENSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY RECORDS

Box 13

Brazing; Broach; Chrome plating; Compressor; Contour attachments; Cutting tools; Design facilities; Magnesium dip brazing; Dip tanks (Boeing); Dip brazing; Drills, hand; Drill presses; Drill heads; Drop hammer; Duplicating equipment; Facilities

Box 14

Furnace vacuum; Grinder; Handling equipment; Heat exchanger; Hobbing machine; Horn press; Hydrotel; Inspection equipment; Jig borer; Investment casting; Keller; Laths; Lath turret; Leak detector; Metallurgical, Inc.; Monarch T-Lath; Vertical mill; Milling machinery profile; Horizontal mill; Numerical control; Spotweld oscilloscopes

Box 15

Paint booth; Phototemplate; Planer; Plastic tooling; Plastic kish; 400-ton S.S. press; Press, straight side; Press clearing; Rotary tables; Saws, band; Saw cutoff; Stitch welder; Stretcher presses; Tap control; Template and cam machine; Tensile testing machine; Test chamber; Tool grinder; Tumbling; Trimmer; Turret lath; Vacuum cleaner; Weld positioners; Welding jigs; Welding machines; X-ray

Box 16

X-ray; Estimating data; Apollo; Alvac; Materials and processes; High temp metal; Tank halves; Exotic metals; Aluminum

Box 17

Aluminum; Beryllium; Alloy metals, Columbian; Inconel; Ilium "PD"; Magnesium; Metals selector; Pert; Nickel base; Stainless steel; Metals data; rene 41; D6AC; Republic HP-9-4; HY-80, 100, 130, 140; Inconel; Stainless-N-155; PH-14-8MO; PH15-7MO; 17-4PH; Stainless (Maraging); 12% Chrome J.S.; Armco; Steel; Tantalum; Titanium, anodized; Titanium, alloys; Titanium, brazing

Box 18

Titanium; Stainless steel age hardening; Tungsten; Universal cyclops; Was phloy; Copper; Detaclad; Hooker Chemical; Danielson; Miscellaneous notes, 1970

Box 19

Hooker Chemical Co., including quotes, fabrications, 1960s-1970s

Box 20

K0105 (KA0155)
BENSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY RECORDS

Hooker Chemical Co., including DCA100 Cell Baker, quote, ducts (chiefly plans), 1960s-1970s

Box 21

Beer barrels, Pabst and others; Reaction motors; Capabilities, manufacturing; Stain steel beer barrel tools; Plant equipment; Benson plant. Air Force/Government/Department of Defense, includes facilities, forms, rentals, products manufactured

Box 22-25

Trade literature, including technical books, manuals, theory, some catalogs, 1950s-1970s

Box 26

Photographs of Benson brothers and plant; Technical proposals; Miscellaneous manufacturing publications; Benson facilities list (1957) and other publications; Aviation information; Calgon Corp.; Hooker Chemical Co.

Box 27

Beer barrels, repairs, cleaner, beading, stainless, aluminum; Bellows; Bending machines; Brake dies; Brazing dissimilar metals; Stainless brazing; Bulging; Burring; Carbon dioxide; Carbides; Drilling machines; Electro forming; Electrochemical machines; Electrocoating; Electrofilm; Electron beam welder; Electro grinding; Engineering and drafting; Expanding mandral; Explosive bonding; Explosive forming; Explosive welding; Extrusions; Fansteel; Fasteners

Box 28

Benson Manufacturing Company Catalogue ca. 1945 "Lensray: Fluorescent, incandescent and controlled illumination
Hardware catalogues, 1921-1938
Design sheets, catalogues of manufacturers and suppliers of hardware such as locks, latches, hinges, door handles, etc.
Scrapbooks and notes, "Catholic," 1927-1937, Clippings from magazines of architectural designs and details of Catholic churches (2 folders)
Scrapbooks and notes, "Protestant," 1924-1937, Clippings from magazines of architectural designs and details of Protestant churches (2 folders)
Drawings and samples, 1930-1941 (4 folders)
Illustrations and specification for items produced/distributed by Benson Manufacturing Company. Items were arranged in a letter box by type of illustration, doors, rails
Check desks and accessories
Entrances, doors, windows
Grille designs for windows, vents, transoms, bank gates
Light fixtures, wall, ceiling, hanging

K0105 (KA0155)
BENSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY RECORDS

Glass bulletin boards, building directories, announcements boards, mirrors, poster cases

Push bars, handles, rosettes, lock plates and bolts

Railing and accessories

Tablets, signs, grave markers, plaques, letters, name plates, panels

Cuspidors, sand urns, tree case, waste paper containers

Bank wickets, grilles, counter screens, counter screen posts, pilasters

Miscellaneous metal work/shapes, dies

Miscellaneous items fountain, flagpole, cocktail and game tables, vestibule enclosure,
clock

Photographs

Unidentified machine

Dip brazes

Parts including reservoir tanks and sub doors

Benson employee functions

Various equipment

Tanks, chambers

Equipment including airplane parts, furnace

Equipment for airplanes, missiles, rockets, gas turbines, welding tanks

Spinners/airplane

Missile components

Welding

Turbine, plenums and components

Fabrication and tools

Oversize

Leroy Campbell's Original Designs for Lighting Fixtures and Ornamental Bronzes for
Benson Manufacturing Co. 1928-1941