

REGISTER OF THE FORSTMANN COMPANIES (1904-1957) RECORDS, 1905-1959

Forstmann Companies (1904-1957) Records, 1905-1959

MSS 152

Extent: 35 cubic feet

4 document boxes and 110 oversize ledgers in 43 boxes

Introduction

Special Collections acquired the Forstmann Companies Records as part of the J.P. Stevens Collection, accession number 80-250. The American Textile Museum has the New York corporate records of the Stevens Company. The material provides information primarily on the financial aspects of the Forstmann Companies – Forstmann and Huffmann Company, later Forstmann Woolen Company, the Julius Forstmann & Company, Inc., and subsidiary companies. Brian Ford worked on the preliminary processing of this collection under the direction of Michael Kohl, with the processing completed and register prepared by Karen Ellenberg assisted by Pradeep Singh. There are no restrictions on the use of the collection.

Corporate History

Julius Forstmann (1871-1939) settled in the United States in 1904, initially working as a director and vice president of Botany Worsted Mills in Passaic, New Jersey. Shortly following, Forstmann founded the Forstmann and Huffmann Company, also in Passaic, named for the company in Germany he joined in 1897. The Forstmann family had been involved in the in the European woolen industry for generations. In 1931, Forstmann and Huffmann became Forstmann Woolen Company, a firm recognized as the “leading manufacturer of fine woolen and worsteds in America.” At that time, the Company operated 60,000 spindles and 1,000 broad looms. Forstmann designed his own fabrics, founded the National Quality Maintenance League, and was a sponsor of the “Truth-in-Fabrics” bill passed by Congress in 1940. The bill required manufacturers to list the content of fabric with the garment or other item produced. Forstmann provided educational opportunities for his employees and their families through a vocational institute named for Forstmann, funded largely by a foundation established in memory of his second son, Carl Edward Forstmann. While the Forstmann Woolen Company excelled in the manufacture of fine material, the Julius Forstmann & Company, Inc. was established as its fiscal and selling agent. While separate in purpose, these companies overlapped in that one family member might oversee the operations of both companies. Julius Forstmann served as chairman of the board of the Forstmann Woolen Company until 1938 and as president of the Julius Forstmann & Company, Inc. from 1938 until his death the following year.

When Julius Forstmann died in 1939, Curt Erwin Forstmann (1907-1950) assumed responsibility for the Woolen Company’s operations, serving as president until his death in 1950. In 1949, he became chairman of the board of directors. Under his direction, the company manufactured fabric for the U.S. Government during World War II. Julius George Erwin (1909-1962), a younger brother of Curt Erwin, served as a director of the company in 1933, vice president in 1934, and, following

Curt Erwin's death, was named president and chairman of the board of the Forstmann Woolen Company and served through 1957. Under his direction, the company acquired the Louis Gallet Knitting Mills in 1956. Other subsidiary companies include Super-Tex, Inc., Skaneateles Teasel Company, Garfield and Terminal Company, and the Credit and Investors Advisory Corporation, later the Economic Advisory Corporation. Julius George Forstmann also served as president, treasurer, and director of the Julius Forstmann & Company, Inc. until 1957 when both companies were acquired by J. P. Stevens. At that time, the Company marketed fine woolens and worsteds for women's coats, suits, dresses, hosiery, and sweaters, as well as men's wear. From 1957 until his death in 1962, Julius George Forstmann provided services as a consultant to the Stevens Company while continuing as chair of the Forstmann division until its liquidation in 1960.

Subsidiary Companies

While substantive information on the subsidiary companies is not readily available, some information can be gleaned from the ledgers in the collection. The Credit and Investors Advisory Corporation, later the Economic Advisory Corporation (1950-1953), was established in June 1946 and continued until June of 1953 with the purpose of providing investment and business advisory services. Julius Forstmann & Co., Inc. was the sole stockholder of the company. Garfield Warehouse & Terminal company operated out of New Jersey and was established in 1943; in 1955 the directors considered and accepted a vote to dissolve the company. Louis Gallet Knitting Mills, acquired by the Forstmann Companies in 1956, had been in operation since the late 1940s, initially as East Millsboro Gallet Knitting Mills. The Skaneateles Teasel Co. was incorporated on October 9, 1920 and dissolved October 11, 1927. The company was organized in Newark, NJ for the purpose of "trading and grading teasels used in cloth manufacture." Super-Tex., Inc. was organized in New York City in 1920 and dissolved in 1925. Forstmann and Huffmann acquired the assets of the company.

References:

Davison's Textile Blue Book. New York: Davison Publishing Company.

National Cyclopedia of American Biography. Clifton, NJ: J. T. White.

Scope and Content

The materials in the collection span from 1905-1959. The records consist mainly of ledgers, journals, and cashbooks for the Forstmann and subsidiary companies. Included in the general journals for the Forstmann and Huffmann Company is information on Botany Worsted Mills, the first company Julius Forstmann worked for when he came to the United States. The ledgers and journals contain information on cash transactions, income and expense accounts, advertising, payroll deductions, union dues, group insurance, and stock inventory. The correspondence

in the collection (1924-1925) is found primarily in the papers of Super-Tex, Inc. This correspondence concerns a lease with a real-estate firm, Sperry and Hutchinson, involving Super-Tex, Inc. and the Julius Forstmann & Co., Inc. The Super-Tex, Inc. material also includes the trade-mark registration granted to the company in 1923 as well as related correspondence (1923).

Personal ledgers of the Forstmann family include Julius Forstmann, his wife Mrs. Adolfine Forstmann, Elizabeth Forstmann, wife of Curt Erwin Forstmann, and the Orion Steamship cashbook. These personal financial journals record shares, interest earned, and expenses such as postage, charities, and wages for the chauffeur. The Orion Steamship was Julius Forstmann's diesel yacht in which Julius George Forstmann traveled around the world in 1929-1930. While the papers and ledgers provide a good source for surveying the financial operations of a twentieth-century textile manufacturing company and subsidiaries, they are less useful for studying the Forstmann family.

Container List Forstmann and Subsidiary Companies

Box	Folder	
1	1	Forstmann and Huffmann, Labels and Pages removed from Sample Booklet, Forstmann Woolens Credit and Investors Advisory Corporation
	2	Loose Pages from Journal, 1946
	3	Loose Pages from Minutes, 1946 Economic Advisory Corporation
	4	Bill and Tax receipts, 1951 - 1953
	5	Loose Pages from Minutes, 1952
	6	Loose Pages from Minutes, 1953 Garfield Warehouse and Terminal Company
	7	Loose Pages from Minutes, 1943-1950
	8	Loose Pages from Minutes, 1951-1953
	9	Louis Gallet Knitting Mills , Financial Statements, February 29, 1956 Skaneateles Teasel Company
2	10	Affidavit of Julius Forstmann, re: Ownership of Capital Stock
	11	Bill of Sale, Fry Chemical to Skaneateles, 1925
	12	Certificate of Surrender of Authority, Removed from Minute Book, 1928
	13	City Tax Receipts, Miscellaneous, Clifton, NJ
	14	Financial Statements, 1920
	15	Financial Statements, 1921-1922
	16	Financial Statements, 1923
	17	Financial Statements, 1924-1925
	18	Financial Statements, 1926-1927
	19	Liquidation, 1927
	20	Minute Book, 1920 - 1927

		Super-Tex, Inc.
3	21	By-Laws and related documents, 1920
	22	Correspondence, 1921-1922, re: Lease with Sperry and Hutchinson
	23	Correspondence, May 1924
	24	Correspondence, November 1924
	25	Correspondence, December 1924
	26	Correspondence, April 1925
	27	Dissolution of Company, 1924
	28	Documents, 1921-1922, re: Lease with Sperry and Hutchinson
	29	Documents, 1924
	30	Financial Statements, 1921 - June 1923
4	31	Financial Statements, July 1923-1925
	32	Incorporators, Stockholders, and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 1920-1924
	33	Report on Examination of Accounts, 1921-1924
	34	Shares Certificate Book, 1920
	35	Trade-Mark and Correspondence, 1922-1923

FORSTMANN AND HUFFMANN

Oversize

Box	Volume	
		GENERAL JOURNALS
1	1	1905 - 1910
1	2	1909 - 1914
2	3	1914 - 1920
2	4	1920 - 1922
3	5	1922 - 1926
3	6	1926 - 1930
4	7	1931 - 1939
		GENERAL LEDGERS
5	8	1905 - 1909
6	9	1909 - 1916
7	10	1916 - 1922
8	11	1922 - 1936
9	12	1922 - 1944
		PERSONAL JOURNALS
9	13	1921 - 1927

PERSONAL/PRIVATE LEDGERS

10	14	1905 - 1909
10	15	1909 - 1916
11	16	1914 - 1922
11	17	1916 - 1921
11	18	1921 - 1922
12	19	1922 - 1930
12	20	1922 - 1937
12	21	1930 - 1943

GENERAL CASHBOOKS

13	22	1905 - 1908
14	23	1908 - 1909
15	24	1909 - 1913
16	25	1913 - 1917
17	26	1917 - 1920
18	27	1920 - 1922
19	28	1921 - 1938
20	29	1922 - 1931

PURCHASE LEDGERS

21	30	1909 - 1908
22	31	1909
not boxed	32	1914 - 1924

PURCHASE CASHBOOKS

23	33	1916 - 1920
23	34	1922 - 1926
23	35	1926 - 1929

RECEIVING CASHBOOKS

24	36	1905 - 1912
25	37	1909 - 1911
26	38	1922

PURCHASE JOURNAL

27	39	1905 - 1907
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ACCOUNT BALANCES

28 40 1909 - 1917
28 41 1917 - 1922

VALUATION OF ASSETS

not boxed 42 1904 - 1909

FORSTMANN WOOLEN COMPANY

PRIVATE LEDGER

not boxed 43 1923 - 1944

GENERAL LEDGER

not boxed 44 1936-1949

JULIUS FORSTMANN & COMPANY, INC

GENERAL JOURNALS

29 45 1924 - 1929
29 46 1929 - 1934
29 47 1934 - 1941

GENERAL LEDGERS

not boxed 48 1918 - 1952
30 49 1924 - 1935
not boxed 50 1936 - 1957
not boxed 51 1936 - 1957
not boxed 52 1939 - 1950
not boxed 53 1940 - 1955

JOURNALS

31 54 1942 - 1950
not boxed 55 1942 - 1954
not boxed 56 1952 - 1954

PERSONAL/PRIVATE LEDGERS

32 57 1925 - 1938
32 58 1939 - 1946

32 59 1940 - 1954

GENERAL CASHBOOKS

33	60	1924 - 1928
34	61	1928 - 1931
35	62	1931 - 1935
36	63	1935 - 1939
37	64	1939 - 1942
not boxed	65	1942 - 1945
not boxed	66	1946 - 1948
not boxed	67	1946 - 1952
not boxed	68	1948 - 1951
not boxed	69	1951 - 1953
not boxed	70	1953 - 1956
not boxed	71	1956 - 1958

RECEIVED CASHBOOKS

not boxed	72	1925 - 1928
not boxed	73	1928 - 1930
not boxed	74	1930 - 1932
not boxed	75	1932 - 1934
not boxed	76	1934 - 1936
not boxed	77	1936 - 1938
not boxed	78	1938 - 1940
not boxed	79	1940 - 1941
not boxed	80	1942 - 1943
not boxed	81	1943 - 1944
not boxed	82	1944 - 1946
not boxed	83	1946 - 1947
not boxed	84	1947 - 1948
not boxed	85	1948 - 1949

EXPENSE BOOK

not boxed	86	1917 - 1952
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EXPENSES AND SALARIES BOOKS

not boxed	87	1918 - 1952
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PAYROLL

not boxed 88 1937 - 1952

ACCOUNTS

not boxed 89 1949 - 1959

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

LOUIS GALLET KNITTING MILLS CASHBOOK

not boxed 90 1955

SUPERTEX

GENERAL CASHBOOK

not boxed 91 1920 - 1925

GENERAL LEDGER

not boxed 92 1920 - 1925

JOURNAL

not boxed 93 1920 - 1925

**CREDIT AND INVESTORS ADVISORY CORPORATION/
ECONOMIC ADVISORY CORPORATION**

38 94 1946 - 1952
not boxed 95 1946 - 1953
38 96 1952 - 1953

GARFIELD WAREHOUSE AND TERMINAL CO.

39 97 1943 - 1950
not boxed 98 1944 - 1950
39 99 1951 - 1955

SKANEATELES TEASEL CO.

JOURNALS

40 100 1924 - 1927

LEDGERS

41 101 1920 - 1924
41 102 1924 - 1927

CASHBOOKS

40 103 1920 - 1924
40 104 1924 - 1927

FORSTMANN FAMILY PERSONAL LEDGERS

JULIUS FORSTMANN

42 105 1922 - 1937
42 106 1937 - 1940

MRS. ADOLFINE FORSTMANN

43 107 1935 - 1947
43 108 1947 - 1955

MRS. ELIZABETH FORSTMANN

43 109 1937 - 1955

ORION STEAMSHIP CASHBOOK

not boxed 110 1929 - 1933