IOWA

Ames, IA

57. Iowa State University

Special Collections Department
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Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-2140

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Hours: M-F 8 am–5 pm or by appt.

Contact person:
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Overview:
Subject area concentrations emanate from major research/education areas conducted at Iowa State University. They are documented through the identification and selection of rare and unique documentary materials created and accumulated by Iowa State University and its members as well as from individuals and organizations external to the university. Agriculture is a primary subject area.

Noteworthy collections:
  Iowa agriculturist, innovator, and founder of Garst and Thomas Hybrid Corn Company. Collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, news clippings, articles, and documents related to Garst’s company and farms. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev’s 1959 visit to the Garst home in Coon Rapids is documented through correspondence, photographs, gifts, news clippings, and publications. There are also materials concerning trade transactions with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and reports on grain production in South America and other regions of the world. Correspondents include John F. Kennedy, Henry A. Wallace, Walter Mondale, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives.
Hybrid seed corn company founded in Coon Rapids, IA, in 1931 by Roswell Garst and Charles W. Thomas. The Garsts bought out the Thomas partners in the business in 1982, renaming it the Garst Seed Company. The Garst Company was acquired in 1985 by the ICI Group, a chemical company with headquarters in the United Kingdom, and Garst Seed became ICI Seeds, Inc., in 1991. Collection includes correspondence and insurance, financial, and shipping records.


Meat packing company headquartered in Waterloo, IA, founded in 1891 by E. F. Rath. Records include public relations and advertising materials; employment and labor records, including payroll records and a large series of time-motion studies covering a number of years; photographs; films; and blueprints.

Lawyer and businessman of Mason City, IA. Collection includes loan folders containing application forms and other papers on farm loans negotiated through the Shepard Abstract Company; and correspondence, some relating to the Jefferson Highway Association (1925–1928) and to the effort to pave highways in Iowa and the Midwest.
Iowa City, IA

58. University of Iowa State

Special Collections
100 Main Library
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-1420

Phone: (319) 335-5921
E-mail: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/services/E-mailreference.html
Website: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/index.html
Hours: M-Th 8:30 am–5:30 pm; F 8:30 am–5 pm

Contact person:
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Overview:
Special Collections holds 200,000 rare books range in age from the fifteenth century to newly created artists’ books; over 800 manuscript collections, medieval to modern; 7,000 feet of records document university history. The department holds a number of collections directly related to businessmen and businesses that date from the late nineteenth century into the twentieth century. An effort in the 1960s to collect the historical records of Iowa businesses means that many of these collections are specific to Iowa. Records of businessmen include the papers of a number of people who went on to become politicians. Records of companies reflect a strong manufacturing industry in Iowa, and include the records of a locomotive manufacturer, an elevator company, a maker of moving image equipment, and a manufacturer of desks.

Noteworthy collections:
  Comprehensive records of a lumber manufacturer.
  Organized in 1904 as a regional grain marketing cooperative based in Des Moines, IA. Its function was to market grain for local country co-op elevators. By the mid–1940s it had acquired a soybean processing plant in Mason City, barge terminals and elevators in Muscatine and McGregor, elevators in Des Moines,
and more than 1000 railroad hopper cars. In 1979, FGDA changed its name to American Grain & Related Industries (AGRA).

  Founded in 1894 in Dexter, IA, by R. D. Hunt and L. V. Gaines. This washing machine manufacturing company moved to Fairfield, IA, in 1904. In 1936, it entered into partnership with the Ohio firm that manufactured the Nash-Kelvinator. Philco purchased the Dexter Company in 1954, at which time the company had just begun to manufacture clothes dryers as well as washing machines.

  In 1901, the W. W. Whitehead Company started manufacturing locomotives in Davenport, IA. These papers detail the business operations of the company, rather than the technical side of the business. There are minutes of the board of directors meetings 1927–1952, advertising materials, price lists, patent information, catalogs, letters and telegrams, tax information, employee records, job classification details, financial records, and other such matters that pertain to the operation of the business. There are scrapbooks with newspaper clippings about the plant and the people involved with it and there are some photographs.