



## Donald F. Carpenter papers 2159

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Manuscripts and Archives

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Wilmington, Delaware 19807

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Manuscripts and Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Carpenter, Donald F. (Donald Fell), 1899-1985
<b>Title:</b>	Donald F. Carpenter papers
<b>ID:</b>	2159
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1922-1984
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Donald Fell Carpenter (1899-1985) was general manager of the Film Department at the DuPont Company. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in engineering in 1922. Between 1927 and 1933 he held increasingly important managerial positions with the DuPont Viscoloid Company, and between 1933 and 1948 with the Remington Arms Company. In 1947 to 1948 he was a member of the Industrial Advisory Group to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Broadly speaking, the materials in this small collection of his papers cover Carpenter's entire career, from his senior thesis at MIT (the design for an addition to his father's tinsmithing shop) to his involvement with political and civic affairs during his retirement.

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## Biographical Note

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Donald Fell Carpenter (1899-1985) was general manager of the Film Department at the DuPont Company. Carpenter was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on September 24, 1899. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in engineering in 1922. Between 1927 and 1933 he held increasingly important managerial positions with the DuPont Viscoloid Company, and between 1933 and 1948 with the Remington Arms Company. In 1947 to 1948 he was a member of the Industrial Advisory Group to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and on March 1, 1948, he was appointed chairman of the Military Liaison Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission and deputy to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal on atomic energy matters. On September 22, 1948, he left the Military Liaison Committee to chair the Munitions Board. Carpenter resigned both government posts on June 30, 1949, and returned to DuPont, although he returned to government as a member of the Special Stockpile Advisory Committee in 1957 to 1958. From 1950 to his retirement in 1963, Carpenter was

general manager of the Film Department at the DuPont Company. He remained active in civic work, particularly with Wilmington hospitals and MIT. He died on September 28, 1985.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Donald F. Carpenter papers are a miscellaneous group of documents taken out of their original contexts and kept as mementos of various aspects of Carpenter's career and of the many prominent people with whom he had come in contact. Most of the pieces are of a ceremonial nature, such as letters of appointment and congratulations or programs and souvenirs of conferences, presidential inaugurations, and other special events.

Broadly speaking, the materials cover Carpenter's entire career, from his senior thesis at MIT (the design for an addition to his father's tinsmithing shop) to his involvement with political and civic affairs during his retirement. There are separate files on his work at DuPont, at Remington Arms, and for each of his government appointments. The Remington Arms file includes Carpenter's report on that company, which was badly run down at the time of DuPont's purchase. There is a small amount of correspondence with President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1952 to 1968.

The principal outside interests represented in the papers are Carpenter's long involvement with MIT and the consolidation of the three Wilmington public hospitals into the Wilmington Medical Center. There are also files on the Eighth and Ninth International Management Conferences to which Carpenter was a delegate, including programs and copies of papers.

Two memoirs, "World War II Incidents (at Remington Arms)" and "Recollections of Washington," are among the most useful pieces in the collection. The first contains Carpenter's perspective on his participation in the wartime command economy, intercut with family anecdotes and stock accounts of the war's main events. The second is a relatively full account of his activities in the immediate postwar years, including his assessments of various political and military personalities, the formation of the Defense Department and interservice rivalry, and the debates over the control of America's nuclear program.

Publications in the collection include a 50th anniversary history of Phi Beta Epsilon fraternity at MIT, a 1950 edition of the "DuPont Fact Book," a pamphlet tribute biography to Gus P. Backman of Utah, and two series of booklets produced by the Pan American Union, one on each of the Latin American countries, and one on major industries and exports.

Of two oversized scrapbooks, the first contains clippings, letters, photos, and other mementos of Carpenter's government service, and the second documents celebrations at MIT in 1949.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

Laurie Sather 2020

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

### Existence and Location of Originals

Edmund N. Carpenter papers, originals at: Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 49 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 18701.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

Donald F. Carpenter photographs (Accession 2003.203), Audiovisual Collections and Digital Initiatives Department, Hagley Museum and Library.

### Related Materials

Donald F. Carpenter memoirs (Accession 1177), Manuscripts and Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library.

Papers of Donald F. Carpenter as chairman of the U.S. Munitions Board are located at: Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Mo.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Nuclear weapons industry
- World War, 1939-1945
- Personal narratives
- Business and politics
- E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company. Film Department
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Remington Arms Company

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Atomic Energy Commission/Industrial Advisory Group, undated	box 1
Bush, Vannevar, 1956-1958	box 1
Carpenter, Donald F., biography, undated	box 1
Carpenter, Edmund N., diaries, 1900-1907	box 1

### Scope and Contents

Begins with a lengthy description of a prospecting venture to the Alaska gold fields on behalf of a New York-based syndicate in 1900 and continue through similar trips through Idaho, Colorado, South Dakota, Utah, Nevada and Labrador. They end with a brief visit to a New Mexico sanatorium in 1906, when Carpenter was misdiagnosed with incipient tuberculosis. Carpenter describes the many people he encounters on his travels, literature he reads, and the entertainments to be found in frontier theaters and music halls.

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Carpenter, Edmund N., letters, 1897-1921	box 1
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### Scope and Contents

Begins with a trip to Cuba and Central America in 1897. The descriptions of Alaska are somewhat fuller, and there are many letters from Thomas Lloyd ("Gooney") Henry, a companion on the Alaska venture who remained prospecting in Alaska and Siberia, often under extreme conditions, for many years afterward. There are also descriptions of camp life during the Spanish-American War and a report to S. D. Warriner on the Labrador expedition. The letters

continue beyond the period covered by the diaries to include Carpenter's trips to England and Chile on behalf of DuPont. There are a number of letters from female friends, one of whom, Marion Sadlein-Jackson, gives some description of home front life in England during and immediately after World War I.

DuPont Company career, 1922-1963	box 1
DuPont Company, Film Department, undated	box 1
<i>DuPont Facts Book</i> , 1950	box 1
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 1952-1968	box 1
Fiftieth Anniversary of Phi Beta Epsilon at MIT, 1890-1940	box 1
Gray, Gordon, 1951-1966	box 1
International Management Conference, Eighth, Stockholm, 1947	box 1
International Management Conference, Ninth, Brussels, 1951	box 1
Investment funds, undated	box 1
Job offers, undated	box 1
Joint Hospital Management Committee, 1962-1964	box 1
Killian, James, 1977	box 1
MIT, Alumni Association, undated	box 1
MIT, J.R. Killian, 1948-1970	box 1
MIT, miscellaneous, 1950-1979	box 1
MIT, music, undated	box 1
MIT, reports, undated	box 2
MIT, thesis, "Layout of a Small Metal Shop", 1922	box 2
Military Liaison Committee/Deputy Secretary of Defense, undated	box 2
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1926-1983	box 2
<i>Mr. Utah - The Gus P. Backman Story</i> , 1964	box 2
Munitions Board, undated	box 2
Munitions Board, newspaper clippings, undated	box 2
Newspaper clippings, undated	box 2
Nixon, Richard M., 1959-1973	box 2
Pan American Union pamphlets, countries, undated	box 2
Pan American Union pamphlets, products, undated	box 2
Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Ambassador, 1952	box 2

Reagan, Ronald, 1981-1984	box 2
"Recollections of Washington, 1947-1949," a memoir, circa 1950s	box 2
Remington Arms Company, 1933-1949	box 2
Small Arms Ammunition Integration Committee, undated	box 2
Special Stockpile Advisory Committee, undated	box 2
Speeches, 1930-1977	box 2
Truman, Harry S., inauguration, 1949	box 2
Truman, Harry S., library, undated	box 2
Wilkes College, undated	box 2
"World War II Incidents," a memoir, undated	box 2
Wyoming Seminary, undated	box 2
Appointment book, 1950-1964	box 3
Desk diary, 1949	box 3
Government service scrapbook, 1947-1958	box 3
MIT scrapbook, 1949	box 3
Citations, army discharges, and awards, circa 1945	oversize 1