

Thomas T. Goldsmith

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by T. Michael Womack with the assistance of
Richard Urban**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2008**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008100>

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas T. Goldsmith Papers

Span Dates: 1914-1991

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1956-1966)

ID No.: MSS81980

Creator: Goldsmith, Thomas T. (Thomas Toliver), 1910-

Extent: 40,250 items; 115 containers plus 1 oversize; 46 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Physicist, electrical engineer, and television pioneer. Correspondence, annual reports, minutes, organization charts, patents, bids and proposals, contracts, research notes, schematics, catalogs, technical manuals, project files, and other papers pertaining chiefly to Goldsmith's career in television technology.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Bedell, Frederick, b. 1868.

Burt, Robert C.

Du Mont, Allen B. (Allen Balcom), 1901-1965.

Goldsmith, Thomas T. (Thomas Toliver), 1910-

Hess, Gary Newton.

Ruiter, Jacob H.

Zworykin, V. K. (Vladimir Kosma), b. 1888.

Organizations

Du Mont Broadcasting Corporation.

Du Mont Foundation.

Du Mont Television Network.

Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation.

Furman University--Faculty.

Metromedia, Inc.

Subjects

Cathode ray oscilloscope.

Cathode ray tubes.

Military electronics industry--United States.

Physics--Study and teaching.

Television--Research.

Occupations

Engineers.

Physicists.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Thomas T. Goldsmith, a leading physicist and electrical engineer during the early days of television, were given to the Library of Congress by Goldsmith in 1993.

Processing History:

The Goldsmith Papers were processed in 1993. The finding aid was revised in 2006.

Transfers:

Some books and printed matter have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas T. Goldsmith is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas T. Goldsmith Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1910, Jan. 9	Born, Greenville, S.C.
1931	B.S. in physics and mathematics, Furman University, Greenville S.C.
1936	Ph.D. in experimental physics and applied electricity, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
1936-1953	Director of research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.
1938	Married Helen Elizabeth Wilcox
1942-1960	Member, board of directors, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.
1953-1955	Vice president, research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.
1955-1957	Vice president, government and research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.
1955-1986	Member, board of directors, Metromedia, New York, N.Y.
1957-1960	Vice president, engineering and research, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J.
1959	Honorary degree, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
1960	Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Clifton, N.J., acquired by Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp., Syosset, N.Y.
1960-1966	Director, research and development, Du Mont Military Electronics Department, Defense Products Division, Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp., Syosset, N.Y.
1966-1975	Professor of physics, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
1975-	Consulting physicist

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Toliver Goldsmith (1910-) span the years 1914-1991, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1956-1966. The collection focuses on the contributions of Goldsmith in physics, electronics, and other scientific disciplines relating to television. From 1936 until 1960, Goldsmith served as director of research and development at Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories. In this capacity, he supervised and carried on developments in the fields of cathode-ray tubes, television systems, broadcasting apparatus, color television, cathode-ray oscillographs and measuring equipment, medical electronics, industrial and reconnaissance television, and navigational equipment. Goldsmith was an active participant in formulating standards for both black and white and color television with the Federal Communications Commission. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Du Mont television broadcasting facilities, including the first television station in Washington, D.C., Channel 5. The call letters of this station, WTTG represent Goldsmith's initials.

In June 1960, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories was acquired by Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation. In this transition, the former research and development division of Du Mont Laboratories became the Du Mont Military Electronics Department within the restructured Fairchild Corporation, with Goldsmith as director of the new department. From 1966 to 1975, Goldsmith was professor of physics at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

Included in the papers are correspondence, annual reports, minutes, organization charts, patents, bids and proposals, contracts, research notes, schematics, catalogs, technical manuals, project files, and miscellaneous material pertaining to Goldsmith's career and the development and application of cathode-ray tubes, oscilloscopes, and television. The papers are organized in five series: [Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories](#), [Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation](#), [Metromedia](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The first two series consist largely of the same types of materials. Both are divided into five sections bearing the same titles except that the research and development file in the [Du Mont Laboratories](#) series correlates to the Du Mont Military Electronics Department file in the [Fairchild Corporation](#) series. The administrative files consist of annual reports, minutes of the boards of directors, organization charts, and information on personnel matters and labor union activities. The financial records contain balance sheets and income statements, prospectuses, registration statements, and minutes of stockholder meetings. Among the miscellany are company publications, press releases, printed matter, and material from associated companies, i.e., subsidiaries of Du Mont Laboratories and Fairchild Corporation as well as companies with which they maintained joint ventures. The sales and advertising files contain advertisements, catalogs, product and sales information, and a large number of technical manuals for the maintenance operation, and service of electronic equipment manufactured by the two companies.

The research and development file in the Du Mont Laboratories series and the Du Mont Military Electronics Department section in the [Fairchild Corporation](#) series have four subsections in common. General correspondence is arranged in two parts, alphabetical and chronological, and primarily represents the exchange of information among customers, suppliers, and various divisions within the corporation. The miscellany subsections contain appointment books, calendar notebooks, and material on various scientific conferences. The patent files consist of copies of patents issued to Du Mont Laboratories and Fairchild Corporation and their competitors, correspondence, and material concerning license agreements and litigation. The production files contain bids and proposals, contract information, management proposals, research notes, reports and studies, schematics, and technical proposals and reports. One of the Du Mont company's major inventions, the electronicam, is documented in the research and development file. This series also contains a television broadcasting file with information on the Du Mont Broadcasting Network, Du Mont Television Network, television stations owned by Du Mont, the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Television System Committee to which Goldsmith made significant contributions.

Du Mont Laboratories was the first successful developer and manufacturer of television receivers. In order to provide programming for this new form of entertainment, Du Mont created the Du Mont Television Network. During the 1950s this pioneering broadcaster made several major contributions to the television programming format that are still in use in the 1990s. It later became Du Mont Broadcasting Corporation, which was in turn spun off as an independent corporation whose name, through several variations, ultimately became Metromedia. In the late 1980s, Metromedia further evolved into the Fox Network. The [Metromedia](#) series consists of materials received by Goldsmith during his tenure as a member of the firm's board of directors from 1955 to 1986. Included are annual reports, minutes, merger proposals, balance sheets and income statements, prospectuses, registration statements, minutes of stockholder meetings, newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, printed matter, and materials of associated companies.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains material documenting aspects of Goldsmith's personal life and professional activity outside the corporate sector. Individuals of note in the biographical file include Frederick Bedell, Goldsmith's advisor for his doctoral degree; Allen B. Du Mont, Goldsmith's longtime friend and employer; Vladimir Kosma Zworykin, pioneer in television research; and Goldsmith himself. During the 1970s and 1980s Goldsmith corresponded with Robert C. Burt, a wealthy California inventor, concerning experiments in automotive technology and fuel economy and Burt's primary invention, the air-drive car. Also in this series are materials on the Du Mont Foundation, on whose board of directors Goldsmith served, as well as records documenting Goldsmith's tenure as professor of physics at Furman University.

Photographs in the [Miscellany](#) series include numerous depictions of electronic equipments, both close-up and in demonstration, advertising stills, factory locations, field sites, and several groups chronicling various aspects of Du Mont history. There are also single and group shots of both Goldsmith and Allen B. Du Mont. Production shots of the Du Mont Television Network are of particular interest, especially those of the early television series, *The Honeymooners*.

The writings section of the [Miscellany](#) series is composed of two parts, one consisting of offprints of articles written by Goldsmith during the 1930s and 1940s in the field of television research, a reprint of his doctoral thesis at Cornell University, and an unpublished draft entitled "The History of Television from Smoke Signals to Satellite Transmission," co-authored with Jacob H. Ruiter during the late 1980s. Writings by others include offprints of articles dealing with aspects of physics, electronics, and other scientific disciplines relating to television research, as well as several general histories of television. Included are works by Frederick Bedell, Allen B. Du Mont, and Jacob H. Ruiter, and a dissertation by Gary Hess entitled "An Historical Study of the Du Mont Television Network." Writings by others may also include background material used by Goldsmith in his own research.

[Oversize](#) material consists of printed matter and a map.

Related Material

Records of the Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories are also housed in the Manuscript Division and contain material related to Goldsmith's association with that firm.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968](#)
- [Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, 1958-1984](#)
- [Metromedia, 1955-1986](#)
- [Miscellany, 1914-1991](#)
- [Oversize, 1950-1954](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-50

Series

Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968

Annual reports, minutes, organization charts, personnel and financial records, press releases, printed matter, correspondence, patents and related material, bids and proposals, contracts, notebooks, reports and studies, research notes, schematics, technical proposals, television broadcasting information, advertisements, product and sales information, and technical manuals.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 51-81

Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, 1958-1984

Annual reports, organization charts, personnel records, correspondence, appointment books, patents and related material, management proposals, project files, reports and studies, research notes, schematics, technical proposals and reports, financial records, press releases, printed matter, catalogs, and technical manuals.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX 82-101

Metromedia, 1955-1986

Annual reports, minutes, merger proposals, financial records, newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, and printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of organization and therein chronologically.

BOX 102-115

Miscellany, 1914-1991

Address books, biographical files, subject files, newspaper and magazine clippings, personal correspondence, photographs, writings, and related material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic or type of material and therein chronologically.

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1950-1954

Printed matter and a map.

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BOX 1	Administrative file Annual reports, 1938-1959 (2 folders) Minutes of meetings Board of directors 1943-1954 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1955-1960 (5 folders) Committees Administrative, 1959-1960 Overall management, 1959-1960 Divisions Military operations, 1959 Tube, 1959-1960
BOX 3	Organization charts, 1949-1960 Personnel Employee handbook, 1949 Employee stock option plan, 1958-1960 (6 folders)
BOX 4	Listings, 1959-1960 (2 folders) Unionization, 1950-1955 Financial records Accounting, 1959-1960 Balance sheets and income statements 1943-1953 (3 folders)
BOX 5	1954-1959 (7 folders)
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Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, 1929-1968

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BOX 11	1954-1955, n.d. (3 folders) “The War Effort of the Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc.,” 1945
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BOX 31	Television broadcasting file <i>See also Metromedia series</i> Du Mont Broadcasting Corp., 1956-1958 Du Mont Television Network, 1945-1954 Du Mont television stations New York, N. Y. (WABD), 1946-1948 Pittsburgh, Pa. (WDTV), 1948, n.d. Washington, D.C. (W3XWT, later WTTG), 1945-1948 Federal Communications Commission Allocation materials, 1948 <i>See also Oversize</i> Commercial broadcasting station applications New York, N.Y. (WABD), 1946-1947 (4 folders)
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Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, 1958-1984

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notes, schematics, technical proposals and reports, financial records, press releases, printed matter, catalogs, and technical manuals.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material and therein chronologically.

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- BOX 104** Writings
- Burt, Robert C.
 - “The Burt Air Drive Automobile,” 1978
 - “The Principles of the Burt-Warner Power Transmission,” 1932
 - Burt, Robert C., et al., “Some Design Data for the Burt-Warner Power Transmission,” 1932
 - Otis, Russell M., “The Patent Situation with Respect to the Burt-Warner Power Transmission,” 1932
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Miscellany, 1914-1991

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	Military and industrial television systems, n.d.
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	Scrapbook commemorating ten years of television broadcasting by Du Mont Television Network, 1949
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	“A Field Survey of Television Channel 5 Propagation of New York Metropolitan Area” with R. P. Wakeman and J. D. O’Neill, 1949
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Miscellany, 1914-1991

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	(4 folders)
BOX 115	“Pioneering in Television Receiver Engineering,” 1939
	“The Refractive Index of Water for Electromagnetic Waves Eight to Twenty-four Centimeters in Length,” 1936
	Writings
	By Goldsmith
	“Television Broadcast Coverage” with Allen B. Du Mont, 1944
	“Television Interference–Engineering Problem,” 1946
	“Television Receivers Using Electrostatic Deflection,” 1940
	By others, 1927-1988, n.d.
	(5 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1950-1954
	Printed matter and a map.
BOX OV 1	Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories
	Miscellany
	Printed matter, 1954 (Container 10)
	Research and development file
	Television broadcasting file
	Federal Communications Commission
	Allocation material, 1950 (Container 31)