

Norman Ball Ferranti-Packard Research Collection, 1877-1993, n.d.

RG 844

Brock University Archives

Creator:	Norman Ball
Extent:	8 cm of textual records (2 small boxes) 162 photographs
Abstract:	The collection consists of material compiled by Norman Ball while researching a book on the Ferranti-Packard Company with John Vardalas. In 1993 the book was published, titled <i>Ferranti-Packard: Pioneers in Canadian Electrical Manufacturing</i> . Most of the material are copies and consist of minutes, photographs, correspondence, business proposals, and newspaper and magazine articles.
Materials:	Minutes, photos, correspondence, business proposals, and newspaper and magazine articles.
Processed by:	Chantal Cameron
Last updated:	June 2023

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Use restrictions:	Researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.
Preferred citation:	RG 844, Norman Ball Ferranti-Packard Research Collection, 1877-1993, n.d.
Acquisition info.:	Donated by Norman Ball in June 2023.

Administrative History

In 1958 Ferranti-Packard was created when the Packard Electric Company of St. Catharines and Ferranti Electrics of Toronto merged. Both companies were well-established and respected manufacturing companies. The Packard Electric Company was incorporated in 1894 and initially operated in the former Neelon Grist Mill on the original Welland Canal. The company was founded by brothers James and William Packard. At first the company produced electric light bulbs but soon expanded to electric motors and transformers. During the first World War Packard ceased to produce light bulbs and motors, and transformers became the major product made by the company. In 1901 the company diversified their product line with an automobile manufacturing plant, where the cars known as "Olds" were produced. The motor car department was located adjacent to the old grist mill. In 1909 the automotive department was sold to the Reo Motor Car Company, but Packard continued to build cars for Reo until 1913. Another product made by Packard Electric were watt-hour meters which began production in 1902 and continued until 1977.

A new plant was constructed in 1951 on the Queen Elizabeth Way to improve the company's manufacturing facilities. The transition to the new facility was gradually made between 1951 and 1963, at which time all operations were conducted at the new location. The company further expanded with locations added in Trois Rivières, Quebec and Dunkirk, N.Y.

The growth of the Ferranti Electrical Company followed a similar trajectory to Packard's. Ferranti also produced electrical meters and transformers and was based in Toronto. After the two companies merged in 1958, forming Ferranti-Packard Electric Ltd., headquarters were established in Toronto. Mr. T. Edmondson was appointed President and Dr. J.M. Thomson chairman of the Board of Directors. The Power Transformer Division and Electronics Ordnance Division were also in Toronto, while the Distribution Equipment Division was in St. Catharines with another branch in Trois-Rivières. In 1990 the company was acquired by Rolls-Royce Industries Canada Inc. It was later purchased by Siemens. The St. Catharines plant permanently closed in October 2005.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of material compiled by Norman Ball while researching a book on the Ferranti-Packard Company with John Vardalas. In 1993 the book was published, titled *Ferranti-Packard: Pioneers in Canadian Electrical Manufacturing* (HD 9697 C334 F47 1993). Most of the material are copies and consist of minutes, photographs, correspondence, business proposals, and newspaper and magazine articles. Meeting minutes include board of directors' minutes, shareholders' minutes, and Packard Sports Club minutes. A photocopied and typewritten copy of W.D. Packard's diary is also included. The business proposals include

specifications of Packard transformers intended for purchase by the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls.

Organization

The collection was arranged into four series:

Series I: Administrative, 1890-1954, n.d.

Series II: Products, 1895-1993

Series III: Photographs and Illustrations, 1877-1992, n.d.

Series IV: Assorted research, 1885-1992, n.d.

Inventory

Series I: Administrative, 1890-1954, n.d.

- 1.1 Packard Electric Board of Directors & Shareholders minutes, 1890-1898. Contains typewritten copies of the Packard Electric Board of Directors and Shareholders minutes. Includes articles of incorporation, opening of books for subscription, election of directors, bylaws of the Packard Electric Co., leasing of buildings and a plant with a copy of the agreement, financial statements, annual stockholders' meetings, and annual directors meetings.
- 1.2 Certificates and diagrams, 1894-1949, n.d. Contains copies of stock certificates for the Packard Electrical Company Ltd.; a copy of letters patent incorporating the Packard Electric Company Ltd.; a black and white photograph of a part made by Ferranti; diagrams showing labelled parts; and notepaper featuring a lightbulb with the message "save your old lamps for us and we shall save your money for you".
- 1.3-1.4 Diary and Personal records of W.D. Packard, 1897-1903. Contains photocopies of W.D. Packard's daily journals from January 1897 to December 1903. The brief entries note his location and activities.
- 1.5 A typewritten copy of W.D. Packard's diary from January 1, 1897 to December 31, 1903. Contains brief entries that include both personal and professional engagements.

- 1.6 Packard Sports Club Minute Book, 1924-1954. Contains a photocopied minute book containing financial accounts and meeting minutes. Topics covered in meetings include the election of officers, appointment of managers, the annual picnic and other social events, banquets, relief work, and payment of dues.

Series II: Products, 1895-1993

- 2.1 Packard Electric Lamp Products, 1895-1898. Contains photocopies of articles about Packard lamp and Packard Lamp Works from *The Canadian Engineer* and *Electrical Review* with illustrations.
- 2.2 Packard Transformers, 1896-1912. Contains photocopied documents including articles about the Packard transformer from *The Canadian Engineer*; proposals for the Ontario Power Company by the Packard Electric Company for three 300 K.W. transformers with attached specifications, data and drawings; readings and results of tests made on the three 300 K.W. transformers built by Packard for the Ontario Power Company; a letter to the Department of Railways and Canals requesting that the ordered transformers be picked up from the Packard plant; a letter to the chief engineer at Packard Electric Co. re: shipping and storage of transformers; test results for the 300 K.W. Packard Transformers for the Government Elevator at Port Colborne; proposal between the Falls Power Co. Ltd. and the Packard Electric Co. for three 175 K.W. transformers; proposals between the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls and the Packard Electric Co. for three 175 K.W. transformers; proposal between the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls and the Packard Electric Company for two 50 K.W. transformers and two 75 K.W. transformers; test results for efficiency and regulation for Packard transformers sold to the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls; proposal for the Ontario Power Company for two 50 K.V.A. transformers; a letter to Packard Electric re: failure of a recently purchased Packard transformer and the related repair costs; a letter to Packard Electric asking for details about test results on two 50 K.W. transformers; letters from Packard Electric providing details of test results; a letter from Packard Electric to the Ontario Power Company re: problems with a Packard transformer; and a letter to the Ontario Power Company from Packard Electric re: the resolution of an ongoing dispute involving Packard's transformers.
- 2.3 Packard Electrical Products, 1895-1920. Contains articles on Packard products including from *The Canadian Electrical News* and *The Canadian Engineer*, as well as a bulletin from the Packard Electric Co. Ltd. featuring the Jandus series alternating arc lighting system.
- 2.4 Various products, 1902-1993, n.d. Contains a letter to John Vardalas from Jack Wagstaff re: archival material concerning Packard Electric; description of the Ferranti Packard

cheque sorting system; photo of a special purpose computer built for the University of Illinois; a summary of DATAR (digital automatic tracking and remoting system); photo of the Montreal Stock Exchange; photos of J.W. Packard and W.D. Packard; photo of cars outside a manufacturing facility [c. 1905]; copies of advertisements for the new type G Scheeffler recording watt meter by Packard Electric (1902); photocopy of an illustration of the Jandus Arc Lamp sold by Packard Electric; copy of a letter by James Hawken to the City Council of St. Catharines requesting permission to erect a corrugated iron building in the rear of the Congregational Church; copy of an illustration of the Packard Electric Company facilities; information sheet on Packard's new lock wound distribution transformers; descriptions of the type 196B tape recorder, type 290 block reader, and type 271 tape reader; copy of a photo of the stone above the entrance of the old Neelon Mills in St. Catharines, which was removed before the building was demolished; profiles of Ferranti Packard's modern transformer production facilities, including the facility in St. Catharines; data for Ferranti's contamination meters; a description of nuclear reactor control systems; information about DATAR; advertisement for Ferranti voltage regulators; photo of a row of newly manufactured cars [c. 1905]; photo of a sonar simulator; and a booklet about the Ferranti single phase pole type transformer with temperature indicator.

Series III: Photographs and Illustrations, 1877-1992, n.d.

- 2.5 Ferranti-Packard Illustrations, Chapters 1-2, 1877-1959, n.d. Contains illustrations and 30 black and white photos including a steel melting furnace; meter; Ferranti Dept. Ford Power Station assembly of 10,000 hp engine (1890); Ferranti transformer (1891); William D. Packard; James Ward Packard; the old Neelon Mill (1922); first Packard car (1899); lamp assembly and packing; light bulb testing; and Packard Electric Motor Car Dept. and assembly area. Many of the photos are from the Ontario Archives, Packard Museum Association, National Archives of Canada, and St. Catharines Historical Museum. Some of the illustrations include Serrin's lamp; the Grosvenor Gallery station in 1885; transformers; improvements in electric converters and boxes; alternating current meter; plant of the Packard Electric Company Ltd.; the Packard vacuum pump; and a Packard lamp.
- 2.6 Ferranti-Packard Illustrations, Chapters 3-4, 1912-1941, n.d. Contains illustrations and 24 black and white photos including the Royce family; Earls court Park; laying track west to Royce Rd.; Toronto suburban railway car; Toronto Transit Commission; Col. George Royce; vacuum tanks; transformer; pulse testing; mining transformer; and a subway transformer. Many of the photos are from the City of Toronto Archives, Ontario Archives, Ontario Hydro Archives, Bell Canada Telephone Historical Collection, and the National Archives of

Canada. Some of the illustrations include alternating current meters, and advertisements for medical imaging devices and X-Ray aircraft inspection devices.

- 2.7 Ferranti-Packard Illustrations, Chapters 5-6, 1950-1965, n.d. Contains illustrations and 26 black and white photos including the Packard Electric softball team; furnace transformer; air core reactor; welding shop; accounting and engineering offices; Packard transformer; Packard apparatus display at the Clifton Hotel in Niagara Falls; staff photo; transformer assembly; construction of the new power transformer assembly and tank plant near the QEW in St. Catharines; and demolition of the Neelon Mill. Many of the photos are from the Ontario Archives. Some of the illustrations include a temperature recording device; Ferranti Electric Ltd. advertisements; and a lock wound core and conventional stacked core.
- 2.8 Ferranti-Packard Illustrations, Chapters 7-8, 1964-1992, n.d. Contains illustrations and 43 black and white photos including construction of the CN Tower; portable transformer; Trois-Rivières plant and employees; impulse testing; audio testing; Ontario Hydro testing; H.V. Tap-Changer Switch; transformer; datar shipboard rack room & datar submarine display; control system for Chalk River NRU nuclear reactor; "Janet" a long range data transmission system (utilizing meteorite trails); post office computer; circuit miniaturization; standard cards and components; contamination meter; and the Trans-Canada Air Lines Reserve System. Many of the photos are from the Ontario Archives. Some of the illustrations and diagrams include a modular cheque sorting system and business transactor.
- 2.9 Ferranti-Packard Illustrations, Chapters 9-10, 1967, n.d. Contains illustrations and 29 black and white photos including a magnetic memory drum; garden plot at the St. Catharines Ferranti-Packard plant; Board of Directors [?]; the Montreal Stock Exchange; injection moulding machine; installing control coils and lights display; test board for poly-phase watt-hour meters; BCT (British Columbia Transformers) office/plant; ground-breaking for Ferranti-Packard in Dunkirk; and the interior of the Dunkirk facility. Many of the photos are from the Ontario Archives. There are also some diagrams of machinery.
- 2.10 Photos, 1917-1978, n.d. Contains 17 black and white and photocopied photographs including Ferranti-Packard equipment being loaded on a plane; O.I.S.C. current transformer; three phase O.I.S.C. outdoor type transformer; single phase O.I.W.C. transformers; O.I.S.C. single phase transformers; first aid instruction course; spill on highway near Rochester N.Y.; St. Catharines open house; and the Royce homestead. Many of the photos are from the Ontario Archives and the City of Toronto Archives.

Series IV: Assorted Research, 1885-1992, n.d.

- 2.11 Ferranti-Packard, St. Catharines Historical Museum, 1885-1992, n.d. Contains photocopied documents including photos of Phoenix Mills on Geneva St. and Packard Electric Company Motor Car Dept.; letter re: permission to erect a building in the rear of the Congregational Church with an attached permit application; typewritten histories of the Packard Electric Company; declaration of co-partnership of Isabella Frampton and James Hawken in the firm of the Dominion Electric Company; blank order forms for the Dominion Tungsten Lamp Factory; souvenir number of the fourth annual convention of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers; assorted articles about Ferranti-Packard from *Business & Finance*, *Ferranti Journal* and the *St. Catharines Standard*; and illustrations of Packard watt-hour meters.
- 2.12 Ferranti-Packard, St. Catharines Centennial Public Library, 1904-1988, n.d. Contains photocopied documents including news clippings about the Packard Electric Co.; Bay Mills Ltd.; Red Mills (later Packard Electric); merger between Packard electric and Ferranti; construction of the new Packard plant; advertisement for cigars made in St. Catharines; Belle Frampton and the Dominion Electric Company in St. Catharines; distribution of transformers by horse and wagon and rail; Neelon's grist mill (later Packard Electric); excerpts from Edwin Tweed's thesis titled *The Evolution of St. Catharines, Ontario*; and an excerpt from Gloria Martine's thesis titled *The Role of the Welland Canal in Industrial Location*.