

THE UAW DOEHLER-JARVIS DEPARTMENT COLLECTION

Papers, 1945-1959  
(Predominantly 1949-1958)

6.75 linear feet

Accession Number 1199  
L. C. Number MS

The papers of the UAW Doehler-Jarvis Department were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1984 by the UAW and were opened for research in January of 1987.

The Doehler-Jarvis Department was created in February of 1953. The department, which worked closely with the Die Casting Department, was responsible for handling collective bargaining, and preparation of wage data and other technical information for those employed by the Doehler-Jarvis Division of National Lead. Doehler-Jarvis Division accounted for one-half of all die castings manufactured by the independent section of the industry, and employed 8,000 employees at its plants in Toledo, Ohio, Batavia, N.Y., Pottstown, Penn., Grand Rapids, Mich, and Chicago, Ill.

Prior to 1949, Doehler-Jarvis employees had been represented by the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. When they joined the UAW in that year along with other die casting workers, a separate Die Casting Department was established which represented the entire industry until 1953 when the Doehler-Jarvis Company became a division of National Lead. Throughout this period, the Doehler-Jarvis Company (and later Division) operated a national council consisting of two representatives from each company local. The function of the council was to assist in labor relations and the handling of issues relevant to the Die Casting industry in general and Doehler-Jarvis in particular. With the creation of the Doehler-Jarvis Department, the council became the top union bargaining committee in dealings with the company.

Although the company closed its plant in Chicago in 1955, the industry still continued to prosper until the late 1960s, when a sluggish economy and an ever-decreasing demand for die cast parts, seriously hurt the industry. Doehler-Jarvis closed its Grand Rapids plant in 1977, and its Batavia plant in 1983. The Doehler-Jarvis Council continues to operate even though the Doehler-Jarvis Department of the UAW has been merged with Farley Industries to form a new department.

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The papers of the UAW Doehler-Jarvis Department reflect the Department's role in collective bargaining and issues of importance to employees of the Doehler-Jarvis Company.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Die Casting Industry, 1945-59

Employee Wages and Benefits,  
1945-59

International Union of  
Mine, Mill, and Smelter  
Workers, 1945-49

National Doehler-Jarvis  
Council, 1945-59

Among the important correspondents are:

F.H. Drexler  
Ken Eckert

Richard Gosser  
Peter Zvara

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on page 9.

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13.5 manuscript boxes

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Correspondence relating to various issues of importance to the Doehler-Jarvis Department and to its everyday operation.

Series II, National Doehler-Jarvis Council, 1945-59, Boxes 3-5:

Correspondence, minutes, and other material relating to the operation of and issues addressed by the National Doehler-Jarvis Council.

Series III, Union Locals, 1945-59, Boxes 5-8:

Department files relating to the activities and problems of the five locals which represented Doehler-Jarvis workers.

Series IV, Subject Files, 1945-59, Boxes 8-14:

Department subject files regarding various issues of importance and the activities of the Department. Many files deal with employee wages and benefits.

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Correspondence, 1945-59  
Boxes 1-3

Correspondence regarding various issues of importance to the Doehler-Jarvis Department and to the Die Casting industry in general. Much of the material is concerned with the operations of the department. Files are arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject, and chronologically within each file.

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