JOSEPH A. POLACK PAPERS
Mss. # 5063
Inventory

Compiled by:
Heather Clemons

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2012
Updated 2013
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SUMMARY

Size. 0.5 linear ft.

Geographic locations. Baton Rouge, LA.

Inclusive dates. 1941-2004

Bulk dates. 1961-2000

Language. English, French.

Summary. Former scientist at the Audubon Sugar Institute, Exxon, and LSU Chemical Engineering faculty. Worked for Alma Sugar Factory, founded the Top Management Company, and acted as Director Pro-temp of Baton Rouge Technology Council. Papers consist of periodicals, speeches, articles, correspondence and other documents relating to his time with Exxon, LSU, Audubon Sugar Institute, and the Baton Rouge Technology Council.

Restrictions on access. If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.

Arrangement Papers are arranged chronologically.

Related collections. None.

Copyright. For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.

Citation. Joseph A. Polack Papers, Mss. # 5063, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Stack locations. Range 119; OS:P
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Joseph A. Polack was born in New Orleans. He attended Tulane University (B.E. 1941) and MIT (MS ‘43, ScD ‘48). Moving to Baton Rouge in 1948, he worked at Exxon Research and Development Laboratories, taking early retirement as Director in 1970 to become professor and head of the LSU department of Chemical Engineering. He served in that capacity for the next six years. In 1976, Polack became Interim Director of the Audubon Sugar Institute in addition to his duties as head of the Chemical Engineering Department, but soon thereafter resigned as head to become the full time director of ASI, where he remained until his retirement in 1987. In 1987, he went to work for Alma Sugar Factory as staff consultant and from 1991 to 1996 he ran his own business, Top Management, a roundtable discussion group for owners of family businesses. He was also director pro-tempore of Baton Rouge Technology Council.

In 1972, during a Louisiana State University sponsored trip to Switzerland, Polack bought a newspaper with a French headline “Racial Incidents in Louisiana- 4 Dead”, which is included in the collection. Polack translated the article, which describes a violent civil rights incident that took place in Baton Rouge and claimed the lives of 4 people.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Joseph A. Polack Papers consist of newspaper clippings, speeches, articles, correspondence, photographs, and other documents relating to his time with Exxon, Louisiana State University, the Audubon Sugar Institute, and the Baton Rouge Technology Council. The papers include memoranda during Polack’s time at Esso (which later became Exxon). This includes photos of himself and other employees of the time. The papers also reflect Polack’s involvement with Louisiana State University and the Audubon Sugar Institute and his time as head of the Chemical Engineering Department until 1988, and his continued involvement after he left as depicted in correspondence dated in 2004. The papers also document the evolution of ethanol, and his involvement with it, through various newspaper clippings and correspondence with his colleagues. Also documented is Polack’s involvement with the Baton Rouge Technology Council and his time as director pro-tempore, including correspondence, meeting agendas, minutes, and other documents. Included with these documents is a newspaper dated from 1972 that Polack brought back from Geneva, Switzerland depicting the headline “Racial Incidents in Louisiana- 4 Dead”.
INDEX TERMS

Audubon Sugar Institute.

Baton Rouge (La)

Baton Rouge Technology Council.

Chemical engineering--Study and teaching--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

College teachers--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.

Ethanol.

Esso Standard Oil Company.

Exxon Company --United States.

Esso Standard Oil Company.

Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)--Dept. of Chemical Engineering--Faculty.

Polack, J. A. (Joseph A.)

Sugar--Manufacture and refining--Louisiana.

Thesis and dissertation.
## CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stack Location</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folders</th>
<th>Contents with dates</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Thesis Photos and I.D.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel of Esso Research Laboratories, undated.</td>
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<td>Exxon Photos, undated.</td>
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