

**Title:** A. O. Smith Corporation

**Reference Code:** Mss-2396

**Inclusive Dates:** ca. 1923 – 2001

**Quantity:** 000.6 cu. ft. total

**Location:** CV, Sh. 276 (000.4 cu. ft.)  
MV, F31 (000.2 cu. ft.)  
OS SM “A” (7 items)  
OS XLG (1 item)

**Abstract:** A.O. Smith’s Milwaukee roots go back to 1874 when Charles Jeremiah Smith started making “hardware specialties.” Eventually his three sons – including Arthur Oliver Smith – joined the company, and it became a leader in producing parts for baby carriages and bicycle frames. Arthur resigned from the family business in 1904 to form the A.O. Smith Company. Initially the business produced tubular frames for bicycles but soon expanded to manufacturing steel automobile frames. It outgrew its south side plant and relocated to a new plant on Milwaukee’s northwest side in 1919. By 1931, it was the world’s largest plant devoted to pressed steel products. The company diversified its products to include truck frames, water heating equipment, electric motors, and reinforced plastic pipes. In 1997, A.O. Smith sold its automotive operations to Tower Automotive, but it remains a world leader in water heater production.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of annual and interim reports, historical information, an information kit and other miscellaneous material.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:** Photos, company histories and other ephemera donated by Bob & Sue Harenda, February 2018, and Les & Roxann Lucas, May 2018.

**Arrangement:**

<b>Folder Heading</b>	<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>
Annual and Interim Reports, 1963-1970, 1987	1	1
Historical Information	1	2
Company Publications – Magazines, 1957, 1959, 1973	1	2A
Company Publications - Miscellaneous	1	3
- “Packaging Beer the New Way” Bulletin #514 September 1933		
- <i>AOS Impact</i> , November 1977		
- <i>Structural Products for the Automotive Industry</i> , n.d. (2 copies)		
- <i>Wherever There’s Oil There’s A.O. Smith</i> , ca. 1950s		
- <i>Looking Ahead</i> , Jan.-Feb. 1954		
- “Automatic Production of Automobile Frames,” Bulletin 701-A,		

<p>April 1929</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "We Build a Plant to Run Without Men," Bulletin 210, April 1929</li> <li>- "The New Way," Bulletin 505, May 1929</li> <li>- "Smithway Line Pipe," Bulletin 576, 1945</li> <li>- <i>A.O. Smith Research and Development</i>, 1955</li> </ul>		
<p>Reports – Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report on Order E-493, Truck &amp; Bus Frame Plant, ca. 1923</li> <li>- Summary of Operations, July 1949</li> <li>- Summary of Operations, April 1951</li> </ul>	1	4
Employee Directories, 1952, 1955, 1997	1	5
<p>Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Wisconsin Architect</i>, July 1996 (article re A.O. Smith Science Building) [2 copies]</li> <li>- Information Kit, 1988</li> <li>- Program, A.O. Smith Male Chorus, 1931</li> <li>- Sales Flyer re Gas Conversion Burner, 1951</li> <li>- Invitation, n.d.</li> <li>- Program: Coca-Cola Victory Parade of Spotlight Bands salutes A.O. Smith Corporation, 1945</li> </ul>	1	6
Tower Automotive	1	7
<b>OVERSIZE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Packet containing reproduction of first U.S. patent signed by George Washington</li> <li>- 1974 planning calendar</li> <li>- History of Research and Engineering Building, A.O. Smith (reprint from <i>The Architectural Forum</i>), 1936 (2 copies)</li> <li>- Maps (3) of A.O. Smith factory complex</li> </ul>	OS SM "A"	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Map of A.O. Smith factory complex, 1960</li> </ul>	OS XLG	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- My Album of Pictures: A.O. Smith, ca. 1950s</li> </ul>	MV, F31	
<b>PHOTOS: See M-254</b>		
<b>OVER-OVERSIZE PHOTOS</b>		
A.O. Smith Day Force – Nov. 1915 (2 copies)	Group Portrait #59	
A.O. Smith Office and Professional Women, n.d.	Group Portrait #60	
Stack of A.O. Smith vehicle frames on railroad car, n.d.	Business #21	
A.O. Smith B-29 main landing gear, ca. 1943	Business #22	
A.O. Smith Start of the Mechanical Marvel Countour, Pierce & Blank, n.d.	Business #23	
A.O. Smith Forming Frame siderail & Detail Processing Before Assembly, n.d.	Business #24	
C.J. Smith & Sons Carriage Works/Machine Shop, n.d.	Business #25	