

IMPERIAL COLOR COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creators:** William J. Hart collected this material in the course of his work for the company. Imperial Color Chemical & Paper Company, Hercules Inc., and Ciba-Geigy Corporation, Glens Falls New York
- Title:** Imperial Color Collection
- Dates:** 1959 - 1988
- Abstract:** This collection consists of product information and specifications from the pigment division of Imperial/Hercules/Ciba-Geigy in Glens Falls, New York. It was amassed by William J. Hart in the course of his work for the company.
- Quantity:** 1.5 feet
- Identification:** Archives& Manuscripts: Businesses

HISTORICAL NOTE

Founded at the beginning of the 20th Century as the American Wallpaper Company, by 1903 it was the Imperial Wallpaper Company which manufactured and sold wallpaper from purchased paper stock. In 1907 the company hired Karl R. McBride, a chemist with the Pittsburgh Wall Paper Co., to develop internal production of pigments. In 1915 the Imperial Color Works, Inc. was formed as a separate business entity. The company got a boost during the First World War, when imported pigments from Europe were not available, and the new company was able to manufacture and sell more colors than they needed for their own (somewhat diminished) wallpaper division. As the company prospered after the war, the president, George Tait, bought up 5 other wallpaper and paper companies. In 1921 the company was restructured under a holding company called Tait Paper and Color Industries. During the 20s the pigments business grew while the wallpaper earnings steadily declined. In 1928 Louis M. Brown was elected to succeed Tait as president, and in 1929 a total reorganization took place and the name was changed to Imperial Paper & Color Corporation. Karl McBride became president in 1931. He retired in 1953 but remained Chairman of the Board until his death in 1957. In 1960 Imperial Color Chemical and Paper Corporation became a division of Hercules

Powder Company, the 14th largest chemical manufacturer in the U.S. Hercules sold off the wallpaper division and bought several other color companies which they combined into the Pigments Department. In 1979 the Hercules Pigments Division became part of Ciba-Geigy Corporation, a division of Swiss chemical giant Ciba-Geigy Ltd. Within ten years the plant had been closed and most of the buildings torn down.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

This collection consists of product information and specifications from the pigment division of Imperial/Hercules/Ciba-Geigy in Glens Falls, New York. It was amassed by William J. Hart in the course of his work for the company.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Glens Falls, NY – Industry
Pigments
Wallpaper
Imperial Wall Paper
Hercules Powder
Ciba-Geigy

Places: Glens Falls, NY

Important People: Hart, William J.
Tait, George
McBride, Karl R.

Form/Genre: Pamphlets, reports, specification sheets

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: William J. Hart/Imperial Color Collection
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated March 29, 2011 by:
William J. Hart
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Queensbury, NY 12804
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Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke August 2011

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Box # 1 (cubic ft carton):

Binders:

Hercules Imperial Pigment Colors for Coatings. Imperial Color and Chemical Department, Hercules Incorporated, Glens Falls, NY 1980.

Imperial Pigment Colors for Printing Inks. Bulletin ICC-15A, Coatings and Specialty Products Department, Hercules Incorporated, Wilmington DE 1976.

Hercules Colorants: Technical Reference Manual. Pigments Department Ciba-Geigy Corporation, Glens Falls, NY.

Raw Materials Index: Pigments. National Paint and Coatings Association, Washington DC 1987. Pages to update the 1985 edition.

Smaller notebooks and brochures:

Printing Ink Technology. Confidential: For Use Only by Resin Division Sales Personnel. 1969 Rev. 1976.

X-3434 Hlisperse Iron Blue G. K.C. Shumann, 1972.

Macbeth "Fundamentals of Color Seminar". Macbeth; A Division of Kollmorgen Corporation, Newburgh, NY. 1984.

Furano, Joseph. Mixed Metal Oxides. Ciba-Geigy Pigments Department, 1988.

Book:

Pocket Pal: A Graphic Arts Production Handbook. International Paper, 12th ed. 1979

In folder "Brochures/Reports":

Imperial Color Chemical & Paper Corp. Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30th 1959.

Characteristics of Imperial Pigment Colors. Imperial Paper and Color Corporation, Pigment Color Division, Glens Falls, NY [before 1960]. Red cover.

Characteristics of Imperial Pigment Colors. Imperial Paper and Color Corporation, Pigment Color Division, Glens Falls, NY [before 1960]. White cover. These are different editions.

Characteristics of Imperial Pigment Colors. Imperial Color and Chemical Department, Hercules Powder Company, Inc. Glens Falls, NY, 1965.

Characteristics of Imperial Pigment Colors. Imperial Color and Chemical Department, Hercules Incorporated, Glens Falls, NY, 1[1968?]

Characteristics of Imperial Pigment Colors. Coatings and Specialty Products Department, Hercules Incorporated, Wilmington DE, 1973

Characteristics of Imperial Pigment Colors. Coatings and Specialty Products Department, Hercules Incorporated, Wilmington DE, [1976?]

Ciba-Geigy Pigment Characteristics. Pigments Department, Ciba-Geigy Corporation, Hawthorne, NY 1983

Imperial Hercules Ciba-Geigy. (company history) 1980.

Artifacts:

Glass paper weight in the shape of a pestle or grinder. "USE IMPERIAL COLORS" in red lettering.

2 small spatulas, wooden handles and stainless steel blades.

Box # 2 (Document box):

Folders:

The first two folders were created by the arranger:

Folder # 1 William J. Hart: certificates and patent

Folder # 2 Miscellaneous: a few loose items

The following folders are labeled the way William Hart had them labeled, although the actual folders have been replaced with acid-free folders. The folders contain various published articles and papers, pamphlets and technical leaflets.

Folder # 3 Dispersion methods

Folder #4 Colors – Properties and testing

Folder # 5 Aqueous Dispersion Charts

Folder # 6 Orientation – Aqueous Dispersion and Plastics\

Folder # 7 History

Folder # 8 Classifications