

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

This collection was compiled by H. F. Morton, MBE MIMechE, an executive engineer employed by the Ford Motor Company (England) Ltd from 1917 to 1933. Morton was chosen by Henry Ford to help him with his project to create a Museum of Physical Science in America, and the archive contains material concerning Morton's commissions. The collection includes a typescript book written by Morton about Henry Ford entitled *Spend Me Ten Millions*.

Herbert Frederick Morton was born in Manchester and lived most of his life in the city area. He had two careers - one as an engineer and the other as an army musician. He was apprenticed at 14 as a turner at Galloways (Chester Road), who were boiler makers and steam engine repairers, and later worked for Barber & Co (wire weavers), and British Westinghouse. In his teens he joined the Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry as a territorial.

In 1912 Morton decided to make the army his career and joined as a sapper. He was sent to Egypt in 1914 with the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division, and was involved in the defence of the Suez Canal. Wounded at Gallipoli in 1915 he returned home and became a religious education instructor at the Milford Young Officers school. He married Hannah Skellon of Hulme in 1916. He was discharged from the army as unfit for service in 1917.

In 1917 he joined the Ford Motor Car Company in Trafford Park as a turner, and by 1926 had been promoted to plant engineer. In 1928 he began organising the new production for the Model A Ford and was involved in the planning and design and machine procurement for Ford's new factory at Dagenham. During this year he began working personally for Henry Ford, acquiring old steam and gas engines for his new museum at Dearborn, Detroit. Gradually he spent more of his time working directly for Henry Ford, and went across to America to erect the engines in 1930, 1931 and 1932. In all he supplied and erected approximately sixty engines, identifying their historical development. He became Henry Ford's agent in Europe, supplying not only engines but also antiques, furniture and buildings - all for the museum. He left the Ford Motor Company in 1933. He published a book in 1946 about his work entitled *Strange Commissions for Henry Ford*.

Morton was appointed bandmaster of the Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry in 1934, and remained bandmaster until his retirement in 1950.

In 1937 he started his second engineering career with De Havillands, where he was involved in the building of their propeller factory in Bolton in 1937 and was appointed chief engineer.

During the Second World War Morton was captain in the Home Guard responsible for the defence of the factory. During and after the war he developed other De Havilland factories in old mills sited in and around Bolton.

In 1952 he was awarded the British Empire medal for services to engineering.

He retired from De Havillands in 1958 and died at Whalley Range, Manchester, in 1966. His wife died at Flixton, Manchester in 1975.

1905-1975

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

Provenance: deposited in Chetham's Library in 1997 by R. D. Parker, BSc, MI Mech E, of East Keswick, Leeds, H. F. Morton's nephew.

Archivist's note: when the collection was deposited in Chetham's Library it had been arranged and partially listed by R. D. Parker. The archivist used this arrangement to form six series, as follows:

/1 Personal Papers of H. F. Morton, 1909-1975, (16 files) page 1.

/2 Personal Papers relating to H. F. Morton's work with Henry Ford, 1920-1955, (13 files) page 4.

/3 Personal Papers relating to music, 1931-[?1961], (4 files) page 6.

/4 Photograph Albums, 1905-1965, (9 files) page 7.

/5 Books, Documents and Photographs written and compiled by H. F. Morton, c. 1933-1995, (5 files) page 9.

/6 Correspondence, 1929-1946, (4 files) page 11.

7 boxes (51 files).

Catalogued January 2005

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

<i>Morton/1/1-16</i>	<i>Personal Papers of H. F. Morton</i>	<i>1909-1975</i>
Morton/1/1 (i & ii)	Personal diaries of H. F. Morton.  (i) 1909-1915. Pocket at front of diary contains 4 photographs of H. F. Morton.  (ii) 1915  Includes active army service in the First World War.  2 items	1909-1915
Morton/1/2	Sketches by H. F. Morton.  Note by R. D. Parker, stored with the sketches: "These sketches are by my uncle Bertie (H. F. Morton) & were probably done circa 1910 when he was 20. Some of the 'characters' might have lived in Hulme (The Prodigal Son & Bacchus etc). However many of the other characters (Le Roi de la Maison du Westinghouse, Overdue Oliver etc) will be from British Westinghouse when he worked there in 1909 & 1911; the men in uniform might be BW Police".	c. 1910
Morton/1/3	Photocopy of a letter from H. F. Morton to Bill Skellon, brother of Hannah Morton (nee Skellon), dated at Rantarah, Sinai.  Discusses Suez Canal, "our job is to guard the Canal Station".  With typescript copy.	3 Dec 1914
Morton/1/4	Photocopy of H. F. Morton's application for membership of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.	1928
Morton/1/5	H. F. Morton's Curriculum Vitae.  1 typescript sheet.	c. 1929

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

- |            |  |                                       |
|------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Morton/1/6 | <p>H. F. Morton's diaries and papers concerning De Havilland Propellers Ltd, Lostock, Bolton, co Lancs.</p> <p>2 diaries containing notes concerning work, 1939 &amp; 1942 (the latter containing notes relating to various years); booklet of "works rules", Jan 1937; 2 copies of "Enterprise", the De Havilland factory newsletter, Dec 1957 &amp; 1958 , and 1 copy of "Enterprise" magazine, Dec 1958.</p> <p>H. F. Morton was the plant manager at De Havilland, Bolton.</p>   | 1937-1958                             |
| Morton/1/7 | <p>Articles about Hulme and Manchester and Wightman drawings collected by H. F. Morton.</p> <p>Manchester Guardian's Manchester Corporation Centenary edition, 16 May 1938; drawings of machinery and a scene depicting the "rear gate to Ardwick Industrial School Leonard Terrace in the 1920s...sketched from memory" by Frank Wightman, 1965; road map showing Hulme; articles from the Manchester Evening News on Hulme church 27 Apr 1973, and Lancashire, 28 Sep 1968; Christmas cards depicting Lincoln Cathedral and Manchester Cathedral (the latter "A card of the Friends of Manchester Cathedral issued in connection with "Clean the Cathedral" appeal).</p> | c. 1938-1973                          |
| Morton/1/8 | <p>H. F. Morton's Home Guard certificate, photograph of members of the Home Guard, and details of two air raids on Manchester.</p>   | 1944                                  |
| Morton/1/9 | <p>Correspondence between Herald Printing Works and Miss V. Worthington of H. Pearson Ltd and H. F. Morton, concerning the publication of H. F. Morton's book <i>Strange Commissions for Henry Ford</i>.</p> <p>With an estimate for the cost of producing the volume, Morton's initial order for 100 copies, circulars sent to libraries and booksellers to advertise the book, and a letter from W Wrigley of Herald Printing Works informing Morton that "the general opinion is that it's a book for the selected few" (12 Mar 1951).</p>  | <p>17 Oct 1945-</p> <p>4 Apr 1951</p> |

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

Morton/1/10	<p>Documents concerning the award of an MBE to H. F. Morton.</p> <p>Letter to H. F. Morton from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, transmitting a "Warrant of Appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire", nd; letter notifying Morton of the date and time of the investiture, 3 Mar 1952; ticket to witness the investiture at Buckingham Palace, 19 Mar 1952; book of Statutes of the Order of the British Empire, 1948; supplement to the London Gazette, 28 Dec 1951.</p>	1951 & 1952
Morton/1/11	<p>H. F. Morton's diaries and notes.</p> <p>3 small notebooks and 1 address book:</p> <p>(i) 1961.</p> <p>(ii) 1962.</p> <p>(iii) 1963-1965.</p> <p>(iv) Address book.</p> <p>4 items</p>	1961-1963
Morton/1/12	<p>Copy of a photograph of H. F. Morton.</p>	1965
Morton/1/13	<p>3 letters concerning H. F. Morton's correspondence.</p> <p>From William H. Distin, Registrar and Curator of Special Collections, Henry Ford Museum, to R. D. Parker and Mrs Morton. Also 1 telegram from Mr Distin [to R. D. Parker]. The correspondence was sent by R. D. Parker to the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Detroit, USA.</p>	21 Jun-6 Nov 1967
Morton/1/14	<p>Letter to Hannah Morton from R. C. Burman of the Royal Engineers Association concerning her donation to their funds.</p>	2 Oct 1975
Morton/1/15	<p>Typescripts of poems and stories.</p> <p>Stories entitled "Lostock Happenings" and "It Happened At Lostock", a poem entitled "It's Christmas Again", all in Lancashire dialect, and a poem entitled "A Sair Memory" by Robert Burns.</p>	nd  [20th century]

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

Morton/1/16	<p>Genealogical notes concerning H. F. and Hannah Morton (nee Skellon).</p> <p>Includes birth certificate of H. F. Morton, Skellon family tree, Parker/Greaves family tree, typescript copy of the last will of Hannah Morton, 31 Aug 1967, and various birth, marriage and death certificates.</p> <p>1 bundle</p>	<p>Late 19th century-20th century</p>
<b>Morton/2/1-13</b>	<b><i>Personal Papers relating to H. F. Morton's work with Henry Ford</i></b>	<b>1920-1955</b>
Morton/2/1	<p>Letters and notes concerning Henry Ford and engineering.</p> <p>Typescript copy of a letter addressed to the Works Manager, Ford Motor Company, England, concerning improvement of working practices at the plant, nd and unsigned; draft letter from Herbert Morton to Mr H. Hudson, concerning "front axle detail assembling device", dated at Manchester 2 Feb 1920; notes concerning Henry Ford and engineering, nd.</p>	1920-[?]
Morton/2/2	5 editions of <i>Ford News</i> .	Oct 1929 & Jan 1931-Apr 1931
Morton/2/3	Copy of a photograph of H. F. Morton stood by a "sun and planet engine" at the Henry Ford museum, Dearborn, Detroit, USA.	c. 1931
Morton/2/4	<p>Material concerning Greenfield Village and the Edison Institute museum.</p> <p>"The Book of Greenfield Village being an account of the historic village founded by the late Mr Henry Ford at Dearborn, in the state of Michigan and containing descriptions of the nearly one hundred original and reconstructed buildings, which reflect the life and work of colonial and nineteenth-century America", 1953; Edison Institute museum guide book and exhibit information, nd [?1953]; early guide to Greenfield Village, nd; postcard from Malcolm Gardner, London, to H. F. Morton concerning a pamphlet, 1 Nov 1932; scenes of the Henry Ford museum and Greenfield Village sent to Mr and Mrs Herbert Morton from "Etha-Rex-Waddell"; photostat negatives of correspondence from Henry Ford's assistant secretary to H. F. Morton, with photostat of Henry Ford's signature; 2 newspaper articles concerning H. F. Morton, 1946 &amp; nd.</p>	c. 1932-1953

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

Morton/2/5	<p>Photocopy of a typescript list of the “engineering exhibits located, purchased, dismantled, shipped and re-erected in the Edison Institute Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, USA, by H. F. Morton all at the instance of Henry Ford of Dearborn”.</p> <p>With a plan of the layout of the museum.</p>	[1933]
Morton/2/6	Typescript drafts of chapters from H. F. Morton’s book <i>Spend Me Ten Millions</i> and 1 complete draft.	nd [1930s]
Morton/2/7	Guide to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, USA.	nd [1930s]
Morton/2/8	<p>Photograph of Henry Ford and his wife taken at Rose Cottage, Greenfield Village, Michigan, USA.</p> <p>Also 2 photographs of machinery, presumably at the Henry Ford museum.</p>	nd [1930s]
Morton/2/9	Typescript by H. F. Morton entitled “Mr Ford’s Holiday”.	nd [1930s]
Morton/2/10	<p>Ford Motor Company’s Manchester Plant Figures.</p> <p>3 typescript pages.</p>	nd [1930s]
Morton/2/11	Day book containing notes made by H. F. Morton for his book <i>Spend Me Ten Millions</i> .	nd [1930s]
Morton/2/12	<p>Small notebooks containing H. F. Morton’s engineering notes.</p> <p>H. F. Morton’s diary for 1931 containing engineering notes and addresses; address book containing typescript engineering notes; notebook containing engineering notes.</p>	1930s
Morton/2/13	Typescript of a speech given by H. F. Morton at a dinner in Bolton, concerning his work for Henry Ford.	c. 1955

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

<i>Morton/3/1-4</i>	<i>Personal Papers relating to music</i>	<i>1931-[?1961]</i>
Morton/3/1	Field Service Pocket Book of the Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry.  Card holder containing cards carrying the details of H. F. Morton, bandmaster.  2 items	1931
Morton/3/2	Documents concerning military music.  Notebook (part full); programme for “A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the Victory in the Battle of Britain, 1940 and for the Laying-up of the Old Guidon of the Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry”, held at Manchester Cathedral [?1961]; programme for the memorial concert in commemoration of King George V at the Royal Albert Hall, 4 Feb 1936; correspondence between H. F. Morton and the secretary of the Military Band Historical Research Society, 1965; receipts from Boosey & Hawkes, Manchester, for musical instruments, 1936; valuation of band property for insurance policy renewal, 1948; typescript history of the band of the Duke of Lacaster’s Own Yeomanry; notes on the clarinet.  1 bundle	c. 1936-[?1961]
Morton/3/3	Letter from H. F. Morton to the Manchester Guardian re 1845 Youth Orchestra.	25 Apr 1955
Morton/3/4	2 issues of The Military Musician published by the Royal Military School of Music.	Apr 1936 & Oct 1937

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

<i>Morton/4/1-9</i>	<i>Photograph Albums</i>	<i>1905-1965</i>
	With brief notes in the front cover of each album made by H. F. Morton's nephew R. D. Parker.	
Morton/4/1	Album of military photographs including cards sent home by H. F. Morton from Egypt, 1914-1915.  Note at the front of the album written by R. D. Parker, Leeds: "This album concerns my uncle (Mr H. F. Morton) who was closely associated with the army for most of his life as an engineer and a musician...He went to Egypt in Sept 1914 & spent some time on the Suez Canal defences - took part in the Gallipoli campaign - was wounded in June 1915 & sent home in July".  At the back of the album there is a family tree of the Skellon family, and a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.	c. 1905-1950
Morton/4/2	Album of personal and military photographs compiled by H. F. Morton  Note at front of the album: "In this album are various 'spare' photographs which had not been fixed in albums. They cover the period about 1900-1965 of my aunt & uncle (Mr & Mrs H. F. Morton). R. D. Parker 1996".  At the back of the album there is a family tree of the Skellon family and a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.	1905-1965
Morton/4/3	Album of family, business and military photographs compiled by H. F. Morton.  Note inside front cover reads "Mr & Mrs Morton 167 Manchester Road, Manchester 16. Snapshots dating 1924-1949". The album actually contains photographs dating from 1920.  Pasted into the back of the album is a family tree of the Skellon family, and a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.	1920-1949

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

- Morton/4/4 Album of family and business photographs compiled by H. F. Morton. 1923-1930
- Note inside front cover is a note signed by R. D. Parker: "Between 1923 & 1928 my uncle (H. F. Morton) travelled in Europe on behalf of the Ford Motor Car Co, Manchester on engineering business".
- Pasted into the back of the album is a family tree of the Skellon family, and a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.
- Morton/4/5 Album of photographs of America compiled by H. F. Morton. 1931
- Note by R. D. Parker dated 1995: "My uncle Bertie (H. F. Morton) & Aunty Hannah went to America in January 1931 & stayed at Dearborn (Detroit) on the Henry Ford estate for a period of five months returning to England in June. During this time (& later) my uncle supervised the erection of approximately sixty engines & machines which had been purchased in Europe, dismantled & shipped to America. They were installed in the Henry Ford museum principally to demonstrate the growth of "engine design" since the eighteenth century. This album contains photographs of various villages & towns which Aunty Hannah & Uncle Bertie visited on some of their spare time sightseeing activities".
- Pasted into the front and back of the album there is a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916, and a family tree of the Skellon family pasted into the back.
- Morton/4/6 Album of family photographs compiled by H. F. Morton. 1953-1960
- At the back of the album is a family tree of the Skellon family, and a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

- |                     |  |                     |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| Morton/4/7          | <p>Album of family and military photographs compiled by H. F. Morton.</p> <p>Note inside front cover: "Holidays and T. A. Training camps of Mrs H. Morton, Miss V. Worthington and bandmaster H. Morton 52nd brigade RA and later Duke of Lancaster Own Yeomanry".</p> <p>Pasted into the back of the album is a family tree of the Skellon family, and a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.</p>  | 1935-1961           |
| Morton/4/8          | <p>Album of family photographs compiled by H. F. Morton</p> <p>Note inside front cover: "Mainly Holiday and garden 'snaps' of Mr [and] Mrs H. Morton".</p> <p>Pasted into the back of the album is a short family tree highlighting the marriage of Hannah Skellon and Herbert Frederick Morton in 1916.</p>   | 1959-1964           |
| Morton/4/9          | <p>Album of photographs of old buildings in the Hulme and Moss Side areas of Manchester taken by H. F. Morton.</p>   | c. 1950-1965        |
| <b>Morton/5/1-5</b> | <b><i>Books, Documents and Photographs written and compiled by H. F. Morton</i></b>  | <b>c. 1933-1995</b> |
| Morton/5/1          | <p>Copy of <i>Strange Commissions for Henry Ford</i> by H. F. Morton.</p> <p>Written in 1934, published in 1946 by Herald Printing Works, York. British Museum receipt stuck inside the front cover; 3 newspaper cuttings concerning the book, 1946, loose inside the front cover.</p> <p>Bound in brown paper.</p>  | 1934                |
| Morton/5/2          | <p>Typescript entitled "Working in the Ford Motor Company in Trafford Park, Manchester, 1917-1931" by H. F. Morton.</p> <p>Note by R. D. Parker, Leeds, co Yorks, 1996: "My uncle (H. F. Morton) left a number of hand written notes, probably written during his time at Ford, about his working life in the car factory and the conditions of that era. I thought they may be of interest to engineers and historians and have endeavoured to group them together in some semblance of order. Except for two minor explanatory paragraphs all the text is as written by my uncle".</p> | c. 1933             |

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

- Morton/5/3      Typescript entitled “Uncle Bertie Another Manchester Man” by H. F. Morton and R. D. Parker. (1995)  
Handwritten note states “Published May 1995”.  
Autobiography of H. F. Morton, written using Morton’s notes and diaries.
- Morton/5/4      Printed book: *The 42nd (East Lancashire) Division, 1914-1918* by Frederick P. Gibbon. 1920
- Morton/5/5      3 copies of H. F. Morton’s book *Spend Me Ten Millions*, 1927-(c. 1954)  
photographs and documents.  
1 comb bound typescript copy and 2 hard bound typescript copies.  
Note on first page of the comb bound typescript copy: “H. F. Morton wrote and published a book about his Ford exploits in 1946 entitled *Strange Commissions For Henry Ford*. It is assumed he rewrote the book about 1954 following the death of Mr and Mrs Ford with more details but it was never published. This then is that book and incorporates copies of old documents and photographs and also most importantly a detailed list of the engines he shipped across to America and re-erected in the museum at Dearborn” (note by R. D. Parker?).  
Newspaper cuttings about the book inside one hard bound copy.  
Also c 234 photographs and documents (removed from 2 large ring files, stored in 80 plastic folders). Includes photographs of a replica Stephenson’s Rocket and a photocopy of a “Memorandum On The Replica of the “Rocket” Constructed By Robert Stephenson & Co, Limited, Darlington, Eng., 1929. For Henry Ford, Esq”. Some of the photographs and documents have been labelled by Morton with a chapter and page reference. A number of them appear in the comb bound copy of the book.  
1 box

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

<i>Morton/6/1-4</i>	<i>Correspondence</i>	<i>1929-1946</i>
Morton/6/1	<p>Correspondence concerning the purchase of Rose Cottage, Chedworth, co Glos.</p> <p>Includes letter from Mr Smith, owner of Rose Cottage, to H. F. Morton. With pencil drawings.</p> <p>Rose Cottage was transported to Dearborn, USA, and became part of Henry Ford's museum.</p> <p>1 bundle</p>	1929-1931
Morton/6/2	<p>Letters from A. F. Burstrom, the Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan, USA, to H. F. Morton concerning shipments from England to America for Henry Ford's museum.</p> <p>Also 1 brief letter from J. A. Humberstone, the Edison Institute of Technology, Dearborn, USA, to H. F. Morton, concerning the shipping of the Bisschop gas engine, 28 Aug 1930.</p> <p>1 bundle</p>	1929
Morton/6/3	<p>Letters from E. A. Guest, London, to H. F. Morton concerning Mrs N. V. Gorman, the elder daughter of a cousin of Mr Ford.</p> <p>Mrs N. V. Gorman had fallen on hard times following the death of her husband, and Guest wrote to Morton requesting Ford's help, "I hope Mr Ford will intervene to help this lady who is a short-hand typist, and she can turn her hand to anything", 30 Oct 1930. Also 1 letter from Guest to Morton requesting that Ford apprentice his son in his motor firm, 16 Feb 1931.</p> <p>1 bundle</p>	1930-1931

## H. F. MORTON COLLECTION

Morton/6/4	Correspondence concerning H. F. Morton's resignation from the Ford Motor Company.	1929-1934 & 1946
------------	---	---------------------

Correspondence between Frank Campsall, Henry Ford's Office, Dearborn, and H. F. Morton concerning Morton's work for Henry Ford, 1929 & 1930; departmental communication from A. R. Smith, General Manager, Ford Motor Company, Dagenham, to Morton rebuking Morton for not being in contact, and Morton's reply, 1931; letter from Campsall to Morton, "owing to the fact that we have so much museum equipment ahead which has not been catalogued, etc, believe it would be advisable to drop research work for the present, except such as you may take up by correspondence. I would suggest you resume your old work", 1 Apr 1933; letter of resignation from H. F. Morton to A. R. Smith, 2 May 1933, with correspondence between Morton and Smith concerning his resignation; draft of a letter from H. F. Morton to Mr and Mrs Henry Ford, written to accompany a copy of Morton's book which he had specially bound for Ford, 12 Jun 1946; departmental communications concerning orders and bills.

1 bundle