

MS-98: Aurel Vaszin Papers

Collection Number: MS-98

Title: Aurel Vaszin Papers

Dates: 1928-1979

Creator: Vaszin, Aurel, 1885-1979

Summary/Abstract:

Vaszin was a Dayton designer and manufacturer of amusement rides and equipment. His papers include clippings concerning his business, certificates of merit for trade involvements, and a small collection of photographs.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.5 linear foot

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092, library-archives@wright.edu

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-98, Aurel Vaszin Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by Mrs. Eva Berry, a friend of Aurel Vaszin, in April 1980.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms98.pdfv>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Revisions:

The finding aid was revised according to DACS standards by Lisa Rickey, March 2020.

Processed by:

The original collection processing and finding aid were completed by Patricia R. Shama, June 1981.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in a single series by format, then chronologically within each format.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Aurel "Dutch" Vaszin was born in Romania in April, 1885. When he came to the United States in 1904, he was a cabinet maker with a sixth grade education. He first came to Dayton, Ohio in 1913 as a craftsman employed by an amusement park development firm headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut. After completing his assignment on the Lakeside Amusement Park, Lakeside Drive and Gettysburg Road, he planned to return to Dayton to establish his own business. As a result, he developed and opened the Forest Park Zoological Gardens on 43 acres located off of North Main Street. The Park was forced to close in 1935, a casualty of the Depression Era.

Vaszin's firm, the National Amusement Device Company, located at 139 Hatfield Street for more than 60 years, was one of two leading manufacturers of amusement park rides and equipment in the country. In 1964, Vaszin designed and developed the world's largest roller coaster, called "Russian Mountain" for Chapultepec Park in Mexico City, Mexico.

The business was sold in April, 1973, but Vaszin stayed on as a consultant until his death on May 15, 1979. He was survived by two sisters in Romania.

Scope and Content Note:

The Aurel Vaszin Papers, 1928-1979, address the accomplishments and international reputation of the Dayton designer and manufacturer of amusement rides and equipment. He is primarily remembered for introducing steel into roller coasters, increasing their size and popularity significantly, and for designing a variety of miniature, trackless trains. By following his career, the evolution of amusement parks from roller coasters, Ferris wheels and carousels, to the large theme parks like Disneyland can be observed.

The material is arranged chronologically by type of document and contains numerous news clippings, feature articles, posed photographs, commercial postcards, and certificates of merit for trade involvements. Recent feature articles are helpful in placing Vaszin's contributions within the scope of 20th century amusement trends, particularly when contrasted with a January, 8, 1928 article recounting his early life, pursuit and philosophy.

Subject Terms**Persons/Families**

Vaszin, Aurel, 1885-1979

Organizations/Corporate Names

National Amusement Device Company (Dayton, Ohio)

Forest Park Zoological Gardens (Dayton, Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Amusement rides

Inventors -- Ohio -- Dayton -- 20th century

Material Types

Newspaper clippings

Correspondence

Photographs

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	1	News Articles (8 items)	1928-1979
1	2		Professional Documents (11 items)	1928-1960
1	2	A	Masonic membership documents	1928
1	2	B	Meritorious service documents	1948-1960
1	2	C	War Department letter of quality control rating	1942
1	3		Photographs: posed portraits and postcards of amusement rides (15 items)	circa 1950-1970