



# ArchivesSpace

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## National Museum of Engineering and Industry records4079149

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### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Summary .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Other Finding Aids .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Correspondence .....	6

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	National Museum of Engineering and Industry (New York, N.Y.)
<b>Title:</b>	National Museum of Engineering and Industry records
<b>ID:</b>	4079149
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0920
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1920-1932
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9.17 linear feet 22 document boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Museum of Engineering and Industry records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Historical Note

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The National Museum of Engineering and Industry was supposed to be part of the Smithsonian. An initiative started by Carl W Mitman, the chief curator of technological collections (1918), called for a teaching museum with the artifacts, documents, patent records, books, drawings, prints, models, photographs and reminiscences of engineers, inventors and scientists. H.F.J. Porter, a consulting engineer in New York who specialized in industrial safety, joined Mitman in his quest. Sometimes referred to as the Secretary of the Museum, Porter started the fundraising, commissioned an architect for the museum building (the largest ever built), and led a national campaign, appealing to the patriotism of America's engineers. The Museum was to have celebratory biographical displays (hall of fame) and serve as an experiential laboratory for future engineers. The displays would include the evolution of technologies (e.g., from horse drawn carriage to the automobile) and the sectioning of machines to show the inner workings. Unfortunately, Porter was unable to raise the necessary funds and the Smithsonian then gave priority to a new museum of history and art, effectively ending the initiative. Porter continued

on his own but the congressional bill to fund such a museum failed and Porter died soon after (January 1933). Mitman's successor, Frank Taylor, revived the initiative at the Smithsonian and the National Museum of History and Technology opened to the public in 1964.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical Note

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Charles Edward Lucke was born in New York 1876. He received a BS from City College in 1895, an MS from NYU in 1899, and a PhD from Columbia University in 1902. After graduation, Lucke began teaching at Columbia. He became head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1908 and remained until he became Emeritus in 1941. During the World War I, he organized the US Navy Gas Engine School at Columbia and he patented over 120 devices. He continued to lecture at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences until his death in 1951.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Summary

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Materials from the office of Professor Charles Edward Lucke (1876-1951), Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University, relating to the National Museum of Engineering and Industry. The collection is composed of correspondence, much of it addressed to H.F.J. Porter, the secretary, and various types of reports.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in one series: Series I: Correspondence, 1920-1932.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

PDF replaced with full finding aid (JR). 2020-04-13

### Restrictions on Access

This collection is located offsite. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection has no restrictions.

### Accruals

No additions are expected.

### Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Lucke, Charles E. Date of acquisition--1955. Accession number--M-55.

### Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 08/--/1989.

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Mechanical engineers
- College teachers
- Porter, H. F. J
- Lucke, Charles Edward, 1876-1951
- Smithsonian Institution
- Columbia University -- : Faculty

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## Other Finding Aids

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[Legacy finding aid](#)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Inventory

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Series I: Correspondence, 1920-1932	
Title/Description	Instances
1922	box 1
1920-1923	box 2
1920-1923	box 3
1921-1924	box 4
1923	box 5
1924	box 6
1924-1925	box 7

1924-1925	box 8
1925	box 9
1925-1926	box 10
1925-1928	box 11
1925-1928	box 12
1925-1928	box 13
1926-1927	box 14
1927-1928	box 15
1927-1928	box 16
1927-1928	box 17
1929	box 18
1929-1930	box 19
1929-1931	box 20
1930-1931	box 21
1931-1932	box 22

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)