

Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959.

Archival Collection 42

*Reynolds*  
INSTITUTE



**Title:** Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959.

**Creator:** Oliver, Smith Hempstone.

**Call Number:** Archival Collection 42

**Quantity:** 27 linear feet (19 flat boxes, 4 clamshell binder boxes)

**Abstract:** The Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959 consist of 1,204 black-and-white negatives. Also included are photographic prints, documentation, ephemera, books, correspondence, and other items. Images of racing events include 24 Hours of Le Mans at the Circuit de la Sarthe, the Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the French Grand Prix at Reims-Gueux. Of note are images through his association with the racing teams of Briggs Cunningham. The Smith Hempstone Oliver negatives are digitized and are available on the [Revs Digital Library](http://revs.digital.library.stanford.edu) at (<http://stanford.io/2qsH4iS>).

**Language:** Materials are in English.

**Biography:** In the early 1930s, Smith Hempstone Oliver joined the United States Navy. Stationed at the Naval Yard in Brooklyn, New York, he regularly scoured the streets looking for old and interesting cars to photograph. Oliver became a collector, and antique automobile photographer who was later appointed the Curator of Transportation at the Smithsonian Institute, in Washington D.C., from 1946-1956. Oliver is known for writing the *Catalog of the Cycle Collection of the Division of Engineering, United States National Museum*, a book on the Smithsonian Cycle collection, in 1953. He also co-authored *Wheels and Wheeling: The Smithsonian Cycle Collection* with Donald H. Berkebile in 1974, along with writing other books on automobiles, motorcycles, and steam locomotives.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959 consists of negatives, photographic prints, documentation, ephemera, books, correspondence, and other items.

The Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959 is organized into three series according to format:

**Series 1 (Documentation and Ephemera):** Includes various documents such as personal correspondence, Oliver's travel diary from June 9-July 23, 1950, registration certificates, engine drawings, and catalogs. Also included are pins from Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival, the George Vanderbilt Cup Race, and *Ettore Bugatti: A Biography*, written by W.F. Bradley.

**Series 2 (Photographic Prints):** Includes images from various events such as the Indianapolis 500 1946, French Grand Prix 1950, Le Mans 1950, Vanderbilt Cup Races 1936-1937, and the World Fair ARCA Race 1940. Images of marques such as Stutz and Welch-Winton Bullet No. 2 are also included.

**Series 3 (Negatives):** Images of racing events include the 24 Hours of Le Mans at the Circuit de la Sarthe, the Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the French Grand

Prix at Reims-Gueux. Of note are images through his association with the racing teams of Briggs Cunningham. The Smith Hempstone Oliver negatives are digitized and are available on the [Revs Digital Library](http://stanford.io/2qsH4iS) at (<http://stanford.io/2qsH4iS>).

**Acquisition Note:** The Miles C. Collier Collection acquired the Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959 in 2001 (accession number 2001-001).

**Access Restrictions:** The Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959, is open for research.

**Publication Rights:** Copyright has been assigned to the Miles C. Collier Collection. Although copyright was transferred by the donor, copyright in some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator. The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to the laws of libel, privacy, and copyright which may be involved in the use of this collection.

**Citation:** Courtesy of the Miles C. Collier Collection, Smith Hempstone Oliver photographs, 1930-1959, Archival Collection 42.

**Processed:** The collection is processed.

**RevsCat ID:** 123238

**LC Name Authority for Smith Hempstone Oliver:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/n97068400>

**Virtual International Authority File for Smith Hempstone Oliver:**  
<http://viaf.org/viaf/43587792>

**Finding aid completion date:** Revised June 2017.

<b>Series 1 (Documentation and ephemera)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1	Book 1	"Ettore Bugatti: A biography" by W.F. Bradley, Motor Racing Publications, Abington, England, 152 p. [1 book] *transferred into general book collection REVSCAT revs11735
1	Diary 1	Travel diary of Smith Hempstone Oliver, June 9--July 23, 1950 [(45 p. of script); cleaned ; 19 cm]
1	Catalog 1	International Horseless Carriage Exhibition, 1896, Imperial Institute, London / Organized by the Motor Car Club Syndicate, London (1896)
1	Pins (2)	--"Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival Patron - A community tradition" --"George Vanderbilt Cup Race" [showing 5 flags, Italy, UK, US, France, Nazi Germany]
1	Postcards	6 postcards of correspondence [1 to Chris Economaki, 1 from John, 4 of vintage Grand Prix race cars]
1	Register 1	Registration certificate for 1910 Buick Touring Car issued State of New York, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, dated 11/19/42 #IC 8303, to Alfred Heinecke (1942)
1	Register 2	Registration certificate for a Buick Touring Car, issued by the State of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Highway Commission, dated 7/13/1918 #130287, to Raymond E. Merrill (1918)
1	Scott-Moncrieff	Letters, including 4 photos of various Bunty Scott-Moncrieff, 1 of which he is driving his Chitty II?, 2 Christmas cards, 2 post cards
1	Misc	--Engine drawings of the Stutz-Wisconsin 300 16 valve racing motor [4 drawings] --Continental 1908 catalog [from Research Service Long Island Automotive Museum, Southampton, Long Island, New York] --Info pertaining to 40 Alfa Romeo photographs Hempstone submitted to Motor Trend [no date, circa late 1930s?] --"Eighty-six miles on a gallon of gasoline", The Horseless Age, v31, n26, June 25, 1913 [1 article, facsimile] --Auctions: Ed Weatver Estate Collection, 1995 ; Brooks National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, 1997 July 25 ; Kruse Schaefer Pocono 500 Antique and Post-War Car Auction, 1975 June 28
1	Misc	Misc clippings
1	Misc prints Mabileau	Mabileau & Cie - foldout of prints with an accompanying price list ; artists are: Montaut, Gamy, Campion and Loclino]
2	Misc	Veteran Motor Car Club of America [correspondence, a few Bulb Horn issues, etc.]
2	Pins (2)	--"AAA Contest Board Accredited Official" --"Simplex"
2	Pass	--"Long Island Automotive Museum - Patron's Pass Smith Hempstone Oliver is entitled to all privileges and courtesies of the museum - Good until revoked. [signed] Harry A. Clark Jr."

<b>Series 1 (Documentation and ephemera)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2	Ralph De Palma	Racing bio on Ralph De Palma with 4 period photos of Ralph De Palma, two of which have on back side of photos: --"Ralph De Palma in Packard at Daytona, FL 1919" --"Ralph De Palma in his Miller Special race car after winning the Italian Helmet Dash on the Ascot Speedway in the 1920's, in Los Angeles, California--- ---To S. Hempstone Oliver with good wishes, cordially, Marion De Palma 6/12/73" --[other 2 photos of De Palma are not i.d.]
3	2 folders	Porsche Service Bulletins (1955, 1956, 1959) [2 folders]
4	articles	--"The 4.4 Ferrari Six!: A review of these vibrant machines and a special look at a particular race: Carroll Shelby and the 4.4 s/n 0558 LM at Road America in 1956" / Carl Goodwin [5 p., photos (b&w)] --"At center stage: After 90 years, they're writing a new chapter in the continuing story of Old 16 / Kevin A. Wilson [Autoweek, April 13, 1998, pp.14--17] --"Automotive marketing in the Eighties" / Carl Goodwin [The Adcrafter, v68 n46, May 18, 1990, pp.139, 140, 144, 146--148] --"The Birth of the American sports car culture: When motor racing was a sport" / Richard L. Knudson [drawing of The Miles Collier Special 1935 M.G. PB by John Lander] --"The Cunningham: Next champ of them all? A U.S. sportsman is building a sports car which may prove to be world's best" / Jack Doford [Esquire, 1951 September, pp.84, 110, 111?] [article featuring Briggs Cunningham's new sports cars, with color illustrations] --"Dan Gurney: All American guy" / William Edgar [Speed Age, Sep 1987, pp.30--37] --First North American Serial Rights: -----"Forget what you have seen - The racing career of Phil Walters" / Carl Goodwin [Vintage Motorsport, May/June 1997, pp.28--39] -----"Pilots" / Carl Goodwin [14 p.] --"Insight: The Fitch solution / Jurgen Stiftschraube [3 p., illus (b&w) ; four innovations for racing safety, driver safety capsule] --"Langhorne: The track of no return" / L. Spencer Riggs --"Mustang days and lightning: An heir to true enthusiasm" / William Edgar [Rider, October 1995, pp.60--62 ; personal note to Hempstone from the author] --"The Put-in-Bay Road Races: Sports cars in the streets on an island of racing romance / Carl Goodwin [Automobile Magazine, October 1986, pp.108--113, photos (b&w)] --"The street wall crash" / Jurgen Stiftschraube [Racecar, v8 n9, Nov 1998, pp.49--52] --"Team Roosevelt: Little engines, big wins / Carl Goodwin [Vintage Motorsport, Mar/Apr 1998, pp.16--25]

<b>Series 1 (Documentation and ephemera)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Contents</b>
4	Barber Dodge Pro Series Guide	--"A Proven Formula" / Rick Ratajczak, Rick Roso (1997) --"Resetting the Standard" / Rick Ratajczak, Rick Roso (1998)
4	Letter 8/24/1956	Letter to Hempstone from Louis Clarke August 24, 1956.
4	Misc	--Roosevelt Raceway, Oct 12, 1936, Management not good for admission, George Vanderbilt Cup [xerox copies of official gate passes] --Lindbergh spirit is recaptured, Cramford Robertson witness to event [xerox copy] --How to build an autocross Omni ad (Hempstone note says he is driving cars in the ads) --Personal friend of Hempstone xerox copies of photos of Carl? at Bridgehampton
4	Periodical Automobile Topics 1952	"Cunningham ascendancy" [Automobile Topics: Floyd Clymer's], Dec 1952, pp.26--29]
4	Periodical Automobile Topics 1952	"The 5 1/2-Litre Cunningham", pp.516--517 [Briggs Cunningham competition sports car, specifications]
4	Periodical	Car and Driver 1979 Oct
4	Periodical	Car collector 1978 Aug
4	Periodical	L'Automobile 1966 Jun
4	Periodical	Milleruote Alfa Romeo "Reprint from Milleruote Grande Enciclopedia dell'Automobile" / Istituto Geografico De Agostini Novara 1976
4	Periodical	Sports Illustrated 1957 May
4	Photo 1	Photo of a painting showing a car trying to beat a train across railway tracks.

<b>Series 2 (Photographic prints)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
5	1	Briarcliff Manor Road Race 1935, 10 prints
5	2	Bridgehampton Road Race 1949, 6 prints
5	3	Brighton Beach, England 1908, 1 print
5	4	Brighton Beach, England 1909, 1 print
5	5	Brighton Beach, England 1910, 2 prints
5	6	Brooklands Race Track, 1 print
5	7	Chateau Thierry, France, 1 print
5	8	Coney Island Race 1939, 5 prints
5	9	Deer Park Speedway 1933, 13 prints
5	10	Devon, Pennsylvania, Oct. 17 1953, 24 prints
5	11	Framingham, Massachusetts, 2 prints
5	12	French Grand Prix 1950, 23 prints
5	13	Gross Bay Speedway Races 1934, 8 prints
5	14	Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey Races 1937, 5 prints
5	15	Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey Races 1938, 9 prints
5	16	Indianapolis 500 1946, 40 prints
6	1	Langhorne, Pennsylvania 1934, 3 prints
6	2	Langhorne, Pennsylvania 1941, 8 prints
6	3	Langhorne, Pennsylvania 1947, 8 prints
6	4	Levallois, France 1951, 1 print
6	5	Le Mans 1950 (1-43), 42 prints
6	6	Le Mans 1950 (44-72), 27 prints
6	7	Le Mans 1950 (73-126), 57 prints
7	1	London, England 1951, 4 prints
7	2	Long Island, New York, 1 print
7	3	Lowell, Massachusetts, 3 prints

<b>Series 2 (Photographic prints)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
7	4	Madison Square Garden, New York 1936, 9 prints
7	5	Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1946, 9 prints
7	6	Mineola, New York 1937, 13 prints
7	7	Miscellaneous Racing, 1 print
7	8	Montlhery, France 1950, 3 prints
7	9	Montlhery, France 1951, 9 prints
7	10	Newmarket, New Hampshire 1933, 9 prints
7	11	Nutley, New Jersey 1938, 14 prints
7	12	Paris, France 1950, 7 prints
7	13	Paris, France 1951, 3 prints
7	14	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2 prints
8	1	Pitman, New Jersey, 2 prints
8	2	Raceland, 4 prints
8	3	Reading, Pennsylvania 1947, 8 prints
8	4	Richmond, Virginia 1947, 2 prints
8	5	Roosevelt Raceway, New York 1936, 3 prints
8	6	Roosevelt Raceway, New York 1939, 5 prints
8	7	Southboro, Massachusetts, 5 prints
8	8	Stepney, Connecticut, 4 prints
8	9	Union, New Jersey 1936, 5 prints
8	10	V.M.C.C.A. Picnic 1936, 1 print
8	11	Vanderbilt Cup Race 1936, 42 prints
8	12	Vanderbilt Cup Race 1937 (1-40), 40 prints
8	13	Vanderbilt Cup Race 1937 (41-82), 41 prints
9	1	Williams Grove, Pennsylvania 1947, 6 prints
9	2	Williams Grove, Pennsylvania 1951, 4 prints



<b>Series 2 (Photographic prints)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
9	3	Woodbridge, New Jersey 1933, 15 prints
9	4	World Fair Arca Race 1940, 15 prints
9	5	Versailles, France 1950, 1 print
9	6	Veteran CC Hilleclimb 1951, 6 prints
9	7	World's Fair, New York 1940, 3 prints
10	1	Genre Miscellaneous, 11 prints
11	1	Marque: A, 31 prints
11	2	Marque: Alfa Romeo, 45 prints
11	3	Marque: Ballot – Buick, 68 prints
11	4	Marque: Cadillac – Cutting, 65 prints
12	1	Marque: Dagmar – Dupont, 66 prints
12	2	Marque: Empire, 1 print
12	3	Marque: F.R.P. – Franklin, 60 prints (2 missing: Framingham, Mass. #1 and #2)
12	4	Marque: Gardner, 2 prints
12	5	Marque: H.C.S. – Humber, 19 prints
12	6	Marque: Indian Motorcycle – Itala, 21 prints
12	7	Marque: James & Brown – Jones-Corbin, 6 prints
12	8	Marque: Kenworthy – Knox, 8 prints
13	1	Marque: La Salle – Lincoln, 14 prints
13	2	Marque: Locomobile, 33 prints
13	3	Marque: Lorraine Dietrich – Lozier, 17 prints
13	4	Marque: Marmon – Maybach, 24 prints
13	5	Marque: Mercedes, 60 prints
13	6	Marque: Mercer, 67 prints
14	1	Marque: Meteor – Mors, 35 prints
14	2	Marque: Miscellaneous, 28 prints

<b>Series 2 (Photographic prints)</b>		
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
14	3	Marque: Napier – Northern, 13 prints
14	4	Marque: Oakland – Owen, 26 prints
14	5	Marque: Packard, 66 prints
14	6	Marque: Packard Model 30 – Packard Twin Six, 57 prints
15	1	Marque: Panhard – Premier, 43 prints
15	2	Marque: Rabbit the 1st – Ruxton, 54 prints
15	3	Marque: Simplex, 70 prints
16	1	Marque: Stutz, 54 prints
16	2	Marque: Stutz Bearcat, 107 prints
16	3	Marque: S.P.O. Type P – Sunbeam, 68 prints
17	1	Marque: Tatra – Trumbull, 6 prints
17	2	Marque: Unic, 1 print
17	3	Marque: Vauxhall 30/98, 2 prints
17	4	Marque: Welch – Winton Bullet No. 2, 45 prints
18	1	A.J.S. Motorcycle, 1 print
18	2	Motorcycle Miscellaneous, 2 prints
19	1	People: Brooks, Ted – Janis, Elsie, 12 prints
19	2	People: Lockwood, Francis, 4 prints
19	3	People: Miscellaneous, 4 prints
19	4	People: Masetti – Mulford, Ralph, 8 prints
19	5	People: Oliver, Smith Hempstone, 30 prints
19	6	People: Olds, Pliny – Wishart, Spencer, 13 prints