Guide to the
Octave Chanute
Letters 1880-1898

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier    ICU.SPCL.CRMS280
Title         Chanute, Octave. Letters
Date          1880-1898
Size          6 items
Repository    Special Collections Research Center
              University of Chicago Library
              1100 East 57th Street
              Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract      Consists of 4 letters written to Chanute from representatives of various
              manufacturers of petroleum and diesel engines, as well as one administrator
              for a Chicago railroad company. Correspondents include Amos S. Stetson of
              Brayton Petroleum Engine Company, George B. Brayton, John B. Parson
              of West Chicago Street Rail Road Company, and E. D. Meier of the Diesel
              Motor Company of America. Also includes 2 photographs of what are
              identified as steam engines.

Information on Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Chanute, Octave, Letters,
Crerar Ms 280, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Scope Note
The correspondence is from Amos S. Stetson of Brayton Petroleum Engine Company to Octave
Chanute, ALS (carbon), April 3, 1880, 1p. Stetson briefly describes for Chanute the 2, 5, and
10 horsepower models of petroleum engines manufactured by Brayton. Also from George B.
Brayton to Octave Chanute, ALS, March 20, 1880, 1p. Brayton describes in some detail the
pros and cons of various models of petroleum engines, especially in comparison to steam engines
of the day. And from John B. Parson of West Chicago Street Rail Road Company to Octave
Chanute, ALS, January 1, 1891, 1p. Parsons informs Chanute that the Connelly Gas Motor is
being utilized on the car running on Lake from 40th to State and invites Chanute to observe and
investigate the engine. He appends a note to the engineer of the car giving Chanute permission
to make the investigation.
And from E.D. Meier of the Diesel Motor Company of American to Octave Chanute, ALS, May 23, 1898, 1p. Meier informs Chanute that he is forwarding a copy of a lecture by Mr. Diesel and that it will probably be a while before they are ready to build a light motor. He also suggests that Chanute’s work on “automatic equilibrium” is much more important.

Steam engines, two sepia photographs in stamped and addressed envelope, May 6, 1891. On the outside of the envelope, these photographs have been identified as steam engines, though there is no identification on the photographs themselves.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select/html

Subject Headings
- Chanute, Octave, 1832-1910
- Brayton, George Bailey, 1830-1892
- Parson, John B.
- Meier, E. D.
- Stetson, Amos S.
- 
- Engines
- Steam-engines
- Spark ignition engines
- Diesel motor
- Photographs

INVENTORY
Crerar Ms 280