

**Leighton W. Rogers Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2004**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006040>

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Revised by Nan Thompson Ernst

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Leighton W. Rogers Papers

**Span Dates:** 1912-1982

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1912-1944)

**ID No.:** MSS83974

**Creator:** Rogers, Leighton W. (Leighton William), 1893-1962

**Extent:** 26 items

**Extent:** 4 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 1.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm97083974>

**Summary:** Aeronautical executive, army officer, and public official. Correspondence, diary and journal, biographical information, scrapbooks, map, and writings focusing on Rogers's experiences as an employee of National City Bank of New York during the Russian revolution in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and his return to the Soviet Union in 1943-1944 as an aeronautical consultant for the United States Army Air Corps.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Rogers, Leighton W. (Leighton William), 1893-1962.

### Organizations

Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America.

Allied Forces.

American Economic Mission to the Far East.

Dartmouth College--Students.

National City Bank of New York.

United States. Army Air Forces.

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.

United States. Department of Commerce. Aeronautics Trade Division.

### Subjects

Aeronautics.

Banks and banking--Russia (Federation)--Saint Petersburg.

Consultants--Connecticut.

Theater--Soviet Union.

Transportation--China.

Transportation--Japan.

World War, 1914-1918--Military intelligence--France.

World War, 1914-1918--Military intelligence--Great Britain.

World War, 1939-1945--Military intelligence--Soviet Union.

### Places

China--Economic conditions--1912-1949.

Japan--Economic conditions--1918-1945.

Saint Petersburg (Russia)--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.

Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921.

Soviet Union--Social life and customs.

United States--Commerce--Europe.

United States--Commerce--Russia.

United States--Commerce--Soviet Union.

### **Titles**

*Leighton William Rogers papers*

### **Occupations**

Army officers.

Executives.

Public officials.

## **Provenance**

The papers of Leighton W. Rogers, aeronautical executive, army officer, and public official, were given to the Library of Congress by his great-niece, Charlotte Roe, in 1997 and 2004.

## **Processing History**

The papers of Leighton W. Rogers were arranged and described in 1998. The collection was expanded and revised in 2004.

## **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Leighton W. Rogers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Leighton W. Rogers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Leighton W. Rogers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1893, Sept. 17	Born, East Rockaway, N.Y.
1912-1916	B.S., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
1916-1918	Employee, National City Bank, New York, N.Y., branch in Saint Petersburg, Russia
1918-1919	First lieutenant, military intelligence, American Expeditionary Forces, England and France
1921-1925	Trade Commissioner for Europe, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce
1924	Published <i>Wine of Fury</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf
1926-1933	Trade Commissioner, Aeronautics Trade Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce
1933-1939	Executive, Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America
1935	Missions to Japan and China as representative for U.S. aviation industry
1939-1943	Consultant on aeronautics
1943-1945	Executive, Bell Aircraft Corp.

1943-1944	Mission to Soviet Union for U.S. Army Air Corps
1945-1960s	Consultant on aeronautics
1962, Jan. 27	Died, West Haven, Conn.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Leighton William Rogers (1893-1962) span the years 1912-1982, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1912-1944. The collection documents Rogers's career as an aeronautical executive, army officer, and public official, but focuses mainly on his experiences in Russia and the Soviet Union. It consists of an autobiographical sketch, diary and journal, correspondence, obituaries, scrapbooks, writings, and a map.

The files containing Rogers's autobiographical sketch and obituaries provide detailed information on his life. The correspondence file contains letters to and about Rogers. Rogers's diary and journal from September 1916 through April 1919 chronicles his experiences in Saint Petersburg, Russia, as an employee of National City Bank of New York. Since the branch office was in the heart of the imperial capital, Rogers was able to witness the collapse of the czarist regime and the establishment of a communist government. His typed journal writings appear to have been composed to fill in gaps in the handwritten diary and may reflect later knowledge of events. His unpublished manuscript, "Czar, Revolution, Bolsheviks," is based on excerpts from the diary and journal augmented by documents in scrapbook volume 2.

Scrapbooks constituting the largest portion of the collection contain numerous ephemera and photographs of historical events and individuals and chronicle in detail the major experiences and travels of Rogers's life. The six volumes cover the following topics: Volume 1, Rogers's studies at Dartmouth College, 1912-1916; Volume 2, his experiences in Saint Petersburg as a bank officer, 1916-1918, and in England and France during World War I as a member of an army intelligence unit in the American Expeditionary Forces, 1918-1919; Volume 3, his service as a trade commissioner in Europe, 1921-1926, as a representative of the Aeronautics Trade Division for the Department of Commerce, and as president of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America in Washington, D.C., 1926-1936; Volumes 4 and 5, his missions to Japan and China, 1935, as a representative for the aviation industry on the Transportation Committee of the American Economic Mission to the Far East; and Volume 6, his mission to the Soviet Union on behalf of the United States Air Corps to obtain information necessary for the Allied war effort, 1943-1944. An addendum documents the final years of Rogers's life as a consultant in Connecticut.

The writings include book-length drafts for two unpublished works on Russia: "Curtain Up in Moscow: A Report on the Soviet Russian Theatre," describing performances of plays, ballet, and opera, and "Czar, Revolution, Bolsheviks," a memoir based on excerpts from his diary and journal of 1916-1919. Also included is a printed copy of *Wine of Fury*, a novel published by Rogers in 1924 presenting a fictionalized account of an American financier in Saint Petersburg during the Russian Revolution. A memoir concerns Rogers's return to Moscow in 1943 on a mission for Bell Aircraft Corporation and the Army Air Corps and recounts his impressions of the Soviet air force, the contrasts of Russian life from pre-Soviet days, and the impact of World War II. A magazine article, "Russians Like Our Planes: An American Aircraft Man Visits the Soviets," is drawn from the memoir and material in volume 6 of his scrapbook.

An addition includes a map commemorating Armistice Day in World War I by depicting the order of battle on the western front, 11 a.m., November 11, 1918.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Autobiographical sketch, undated Correspondence, 1962, 1982 Diary and journal, 1916-1919 <i>See also Container 3, "Czar, Revolution, Bolsheviks"</i> (4 folders) Obituaries, 1962 Scrapbooks Vol. 1, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., 1912, Sept.-1916, June (2 folders) Vol. 2 Section 1, Russia: Empire and Soviet, 1916, Sept.-1918, Feb. Section 2, World War I: The Army, American Expeditionary Forces, 1918, Apr.-1919, Sept. (2 folders) Vol. 3 Section 1, Europe, 1921-1926 Section 2, Washington, D.C., 1926-1936 (1 folder) (2 folders)
BOX 2	Vol. 4, Japan, 1935, Apr. (3 folders) Vol. 5, China, 1935, May-June (4 folders)
BOX 3	Vol. 6, Soviet Russia, 1943, Aug.-1944, Jan. (4 folders) Addendum, Connecticut, 1952-1958 Writings "Curtain Up in Moscow: A Report on the Soviet Russian Theatre," typescript, undated (2 folders) "Czar, Revolution, Bolsheviks," <i>See also Container 1, Diary and journal</i> Draft, undated (4 folders) Notes and illustrations, 1917, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> Memoir, mission to the Soviet Union for U.S. Army Air Corps, typescript, 1943-1944
BOX 4	"Russians Like Our Planes: An American Aircraft Man Visits the Soviets," printed version, 1944, Sept. <i>Wine of Fury</i> , printed version, 1924 Addition Map, order of battle on the western front on Armistice Day, 1918 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize Writings "Czar, Revolution, Bolsheviks" Notes and illustrations, broadside, 1917 ( <i>Container 3</i> ) Addition

## Container List

**Container**

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Map, order of battle on the western front on Armistice Day, 1918 (Container 4)