

Harold Gardiner Bowen Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70031476>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008107>

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008

Collection Summary

Title: Harold Gardiner Bowen Papers

Span Dates: 1907-1977

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1959)

ID No.: MSS31476

Creator: Bowen, Harold Gardiner, 1883-1965

Extent: 1,000 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70031476>

Summary: Naval officer and engineer. Correspondence, military orders, news clippings, writings, and other papers relating to Bowen's activities with the Newcomen Society and the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation and his various business interests. Some material pertains to his duties as chief of the United States Navy Bureau of Engineering and as director of the Naval Research Laboratory during World War II.

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

Bowen, Harold Gardiner, 1883-1965.

Nimitz, Chester W. (Chester William), 1885-1966--Correspondence.

Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965--Correspondence.

Strauss, Lewis L.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Naval Research Laboratory (U.S.)

Newcomen Society in North America.

Thomas Alva Edison Foundation.

United States. Navy Department. Bureau of Engineering.

Subjects

Radar--Research.

Uranium.

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

Occupations

Marine engineers.

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Harold Gardiner Bowen, naval officer and engineer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1970 and 1984. The deposit was converted to gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Harold Gardiner Bowen were arranged and described in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Harold Gardiner Bowen is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Harold Gardiner Bowen 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, Harold Gardiner Bowen Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harold Gardiner Bowen (1883-1965) span the years 1907-1977, with the bulk of the material dating between 1940 and 1959. The papers consist primarily of correspondence, writings, news clippings, Navy Department orders, and presidential executive orders for plant seizures during World War II. Bowen was an engineer for the navy, and as chief of the Bureau of Engineering from 1935 to 1939, he advocated and implemented the redesign of the fleet using high pressure, high temperature steam. From 1939 to 1942 Bowen served as director of the Naval Research Laboratory, which did pioneering work on radar and the concentration of uranium 235 during his tenure. From 1942 to 1945 he served as special assistant to the under secretary and the secretary of the navy. The majority of these papers, however, date from after his retirement in 1947 and primarily relate to his various business interests and his work with the Newcomen Society and the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation. Notable correspondents include Chester W. Nimitz, Adlai E. Stevenson (1900-1965), and Lewis L. Strauss.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Biographical material, 1943
BOX 1	Chamber of Commerce of the United States, 1945-1947
BOX 1	Commissioning of the <i>Bowen</i> (frigate), 1971
BOX 1	Distinguished service medal, undated
BOX 1	Financial material, 1948-1954
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	"A" miscellaneous, 1941-1958
BOX 1	Baekelund, George, 1951-1955
BOX 1	Bailey, Herbert S., 1948-1955
BOX 1	Barchet, Stephen G., 1947
BOX 1	Bowen , Harold G., Jr., 1942-1962
BOX 1	Bowen, William M. P., 1951-1954
BOX 1	"B" miscellaneous, 1939-1964
BOX 1	Committee on Plans for Mobilizing Science, 1949
BOX 1	"C" miscellaneous, 1936, 1947-1955
BOX 1	Davis, B. Vincent, 1960
BOX 1	"D" miscellaneous, 1947-1953
BOX 1	Edison, Charles, 1937-1942, 1953, 1961
BOX 1	"E" miscellaneous, 1948-1954
BOX 1	Folsom, Frank M., 1948-1950
BOX 1	Furth, Frederick R., 1952-1955
BOX 1	"F" miscellaneous, 1950-1955
BOX 1	Gibbs, William Francis, 1936, 1948-1955
BOX 1	Gunn, Ross, 1948-1958
BOX 1	"G" miscellaneous, 1946-1955
BOX 1	Hensel, Struve, 1953-1955
BOX 1	Herr, Donald L., 1952-1954
BOX 1	"H-L" miscellaneous, 1931-1971 (3 folders)
BOX 2	"M" miscellaneous, 1947-1955
BOX 2	Nanus, Burt, 1959
BOX 2	Nimitz, Chester W., 1946-1959
BOX 2	"N-O" miscellaneous, 1947-1954
BOX 2	Princeton University Library, Princeton, N.J., 1955
BOX 2	"P-R" miscellaneous, 1947-1958
BOX 2	Scarff, James C., 1948-1955
BOX 2	Stevenson, Adlai E. (1900-1965), 1947-1955
BOX 2	Strauss, Lewis L., 1946-1959
BOX 2	"S-U" miscellaneous, 1938-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Veterans' Administration, 1948-1951
BOX 2	"V" miscellaneous, 1948-1954

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	Wakelin, James H., 1953-1960
BOX 2	Wallach, Sidney, 1953-1955
BOX 2	"W-Z," unidentified, miscellaneous, 1943-1958
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1929-1960
BOX 2	Navy Department
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1912-1919, 1936-1958, 1971
BOX 2	Orders, 1915-1948
BOX 3	Newcomen Society, 1951-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 3	News clippings, 1925-1955, 1977
BOX 3	Photographs, undated
BOX 3	Plant seizures
BOX 3	Brewster Aeronautical Corp., 1942
BOX 3	Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., 1941-1942
BOX 3	General Cable Co., 1942
BOX 3	Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., 1945
BOX 3	Howarth Pivoted Bearings Co., 1943
BOX 3	Jenkins Brothers, Inc., 1944
BOX 3	Lord Manufacturing Co., 1944
BOX 3	Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Drydock Corp., 1943
BOX 3	Miscellaneous, 1944-1946
BOX 3	Radio interview re radar, 1943
BOX 3	Speech file, 1942-1967 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, 1907, 1947-1955
BOX 4	United States Naval Base, Bremerton, Wash., 1945-1950
BOX 4	Volunteer Naval Research Reserve, Unit 4-2, Philadelphia, Pa., 1949-1954
BOX 4	Writings
BOX 4	<i>The Edison Effect</i> , 1951
BOX 4	"England--Her Loss of Commercial Supremacy: A Case History," undated
BOX 4	"The Invention of the Phonograph," circa 1952
BOX 4	"One Hundred Years of Marine Transportation," undated
BOX 4	Miscellaneous, 1939-1949
BOX 4	<i>Ships, Machinery, and Mossbacks</i> , jacket cover and reviews, 1954-1956
BOX 4	Speeches, 1938-1957