

**Stanford Caldwell Hooper 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.**  
**2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052670>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010099>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2010  
Revised 2024 July

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1899-1955

**Bulk Dates:** 1918-1945

**ID No.:** MSS52670

**Creator:** Hooper, Stanford Caldwell, 1884-1955

**Extent:** 14,000 items

**Extent:** 33 containers

**Extent:** 13.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70052670>

**Summary:** Naval officer and electronics consultant. Correspondence, diaries, speeches, articles, transcripts of audio recordings, research notes, notebooks, financial and legal papers, bibliographical file, and newspaper clippings relating to Hooper's role in the planning and development of radio communications in government service.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Stanford Caldwell Hooper, naval officer and electronics consultant, were deposited at the Library of Congress in 1958 and 1959 by the Naval Historical Foundation and converted to a gift in 1998. An addition was received from the Naval Research Laboratory in 1994.

## Processing History

The papers of Stanford Caldwell Hooper were arranged and described in 1967 by John P. Butler. The finding aid was revised in 2010. An addition was arranged and described in 2024 by Miles Lawlor.

## Additional Description

The Hooper Papers are described as part of the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in *Stanford Caldwell Hooper: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*, no. 34, part 5.

## Transfers

Audiotapes have been transferred to the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center where they are identified as part of the Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact NAVCC in advance of a research visit.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Stanford Caldwell Hooper is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

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

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1884, Aug. 16	Born, Covina, Calif.
1905	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty in <i>Chicago</i> (cruiser)
1905-1907	Duty in <i>Perry</i> (torpedo boat)
1907	Commissioned ensign
1907-1909	Duty in <i>Yorktown</i> (gunboat)
1909-1911	Duty in <i>South Dakota</i> (cruiser)
1911-1912	Instructor, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1912-1914	Fleet radio officer
1914	Radio observer in Europe
1915	Member, first Board of Organization of the Naval Communications Service Married Margaret Nye
1915-1928	Head, Radio Division, Bureau of Engineering, for various periods
1917-1918	Commanded <i>Fairfax</i> (destroyer)
1921	Technical Assistant to the Limitation of Arms Conference
1923-1925	Fleet radio officer
1927	Promoted to captain Technical assistant, Washington International Radio Conference
1928	Chief engineer, Federal Radio Commission
1928-1934	Director of naval communications
1929	United States delegate, first International Radio Conference, The Hague, Netherlands
1930	Member, President's Radio Board
1934-1939	Director, Technical Division of Naval Operations
1938	Promoted to rear admiral
1939-1942	Director, Radio Liaison Division
1942-1943	Technical assistant to the vice chief of naval operation
1943	Relieved from active duty
1945	Retired from the United States Navy
1955, Apr. 6	Died, Miami, Fla.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Stanford Caldwell Hooper (1884-1955) span the years 1899 to 1955, with the bulk of the material falling between the years 1918 and 1945. The collection is composed primarily of correspondence supplemented by transcripts of tape recordings, newspaper clippings, diaries, notebooks, financial and legal records, research notes, biographical material, speeches and articles, and miscellany. The collection focuses on Hooper's role as head of the Radio Division of the Bureau of Engineering, 1918-1923, and his tour of duty as technical assistant to the vice chief of naval operations, 1942-1943. The papers are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Transcripts of Tape Recordings](#), [Miscellany](#) and [2023 Addition](#).

The Hooper Papers document Hooper's part in the orderly planning and systematic growth of radio communications in government service, including long-life receiving and transmitting tubes, high-power vacuum tubes, simultaneous multiwave communications systems, remote control radio operational techniques, depth finders, sound-oscillated radio

systems, directional and navigational guidance systems, the application of long-distance radio techniques to aircraft, submarine sound detection systems, and radio-controlled target practice experiments. Hooper built the shore-detection radio finder systems for the navy and was in charge of the design and construction of many of its high-power radio stations. The original battle radio installations of the fleet were also the result of his studies and recommendations.

Hooper was a delegate to most national and international radio conferences in the 1920s and the 1930s, and the collection includes files on these conferences. Of special interest is Hooper's role in persuading the government to help establish the Radio Corporation of America. He recommended steps which resulted in the removal of foreign domination from the early control of American radio stations, the formation of an American radio corporation, and a law which required ownership of these stations by Americans.

The [Correspondence](#) series provides many valuable insights into the early history of radio development. These files often contain attachments and enclosures such as designs, charts, and specifications for working models of a variety of instruments and inventions. Diagrams and specifications are also in the [Miscellany](#) series. Prominent correspondents include William Shepherd Benson, Mark L. Bristol, Richard Evelyn Byrd, Royal S. Copeland, Josephus Daniels, John Hays Hammond (188-1965), James G. Harbord, Hiram Johnson, Emory Scott Land, Thomas A. Marshall, Elihu Root, Daniel C. Roper, David Sarnoff, and Owen D. Young.

The [Transcripts of Tape Recordings](#) series contains transcripts of tape recordings by Hooper entitled "History of Radio-Radar-Sonar." The tapes themselves have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of Hooper's papers. A file in the [Miscellany](#) series also contains notes concerning the tape recordings. Two undated notebooks entitled "History of Radio" provide further information on this subject.

The [Miscellany](#) series also includes drafts and copies of Hooper's speeches and articles, research notes, biographical material, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and research notes.

The [2023 Addition](#) is comprised of a transcript of a 1953 oral history interview with Hooper documenting his colleague Leo C. Young's contributions to the origin and development of radar.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1899-1955](#)
- [Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954](#)
- [Miscellany, 1904-1955](#)
- [2023 Addition, 1953](#)

## 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

Benson, William Shepherd, 1855-1932--Correspondence.  
Bristol, Mark L. (Mark Lambert), 1868-1939--Correspondence.  
Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957--Correspondence.  
Copeland, Royal S. (Royal Samuel), 1868-1938--Correspondence.  
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.  
Hammond, John Hays, 1888-1965--Correspondence.  
Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947--Correspondence.  
Hooper, Stanford Caldwell, 1884-1955.  
Johnson, Hiram, 1866-1945--Correspondence.  
Land, Emory Scott, 1879-1971--Correspondence.  
Marshall, Thomas A. (Thomas Albert)--Correspondence.  
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.

Roper, Daniel C. (Daniel Calhoun), 1867-1943--Correspondence.  
Sarnoff, David, 1891-1971--Correspondence.  
Young, Leo C., 1891-1981.  
Young, Owen D., 1874-1962--Correspondence.

**Organizations**

Radio Corporation of America.  
United States. Navy--Radio installations.

**Subjects**

Communications, Military.  
Radar--Military applications--United States--History.  
Radar.  
Radio control.  
Radio in aeronautics.  
Radio in navigation.  
Radio stations.  
Radio, Military--United States--History.  
Radio--Congresses.  
Radio--Equipment and supplies.  
Radio--Research.  
Sonar--Military applications--United States--History.  
Submarines (Ships)  
Telecommunication systems.  
Transmit-receive tubes.  
Vacuum-tubes.

**Occupations**

Consultants.  
Naval officers.

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-23	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1899-1955</u></b></p> <p>Letters received and copies of letters sent, family correspondence, and miscellaneous attachments and enclosures. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 24-25	<p><b><u>Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954</u></b></p> <p>Transcripts of tapes recorded by Hooper and his associates concerning the history of naval developments in the fields of radio, radar, and sonar. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 26-33	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1904-1955</u></b></p> <p>Newspaper clippings, diaries, notebooks, international radio conferences, legal and financial papers, charts, blueprints, research notes, printed matter, copies of patents, photographs, biographical material, and research material concerning the tape recordings. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 33	<p><b><u>2023 Addition, 1953</u></b></p> <p>Transcript of an oral history interview with Hooper about Leo C. Young's contributions to the origin of radar. Arranged chronologically.</p>

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-23</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1899-1955</b> Letters received and copies of letters sent, family correspondence, and miscellaneous attachments and enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1899-1917
<b>BOX 2</b>	1918-1919
<b>BOX 3</b>	1920-1921
<b>BOX 4</b>	1922
<b>BOX 5</b>	1923
<b>BOX 6</b>	1924-1925
<b>BOX 7</b>	1926
<b>BOX 8</b>	1927
<b>BOX 9</b>	1928
<b>BOX 10</b>	1929
<b>BOX 10</b>	Jan.-June
<b>BOX 11</b>	June-Dec.
<b>BOX 11</b>	1930
<b>BOX 11</b>	Jan.-Apr.
<b>BOX 12</b>	May-Dec.
<b>BOX 13</b>	1931
<b>BOX 14</b>	1932
<b>BOX 15</b>	1933
<b>BOX 16</b>	1934
<b>BOX 17</b>	1935
<b>BOX 18</b>	1936-1937
<b>BOX 19</b>	1938-1939
<b>BOX 20</b>	1940-1941
<b>BOX 21</b>	1942-1945
<b>BOX 22</b>	1946-1951
<b>BOX 23</b>	1952-1955
<b>BOX 24-25</b>	<b>Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954</b> Transcripts of tapes recorded by Hooper and his associates concerning the history of naval developments in the fields of radio, radar, and sonar. Arranged by type of material.
<b>BOX 24</b>	List of tapes, 1954
<b>BOX 24</b>	Transcripts, "History of Radio-Radar-Sonar," undated
<b>BOX 24</b>	Nos. 1-44

## Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954

Container	Contents
BOX 25	Nos. 45-93
BOX 26-33	<b>Miscellany, 1904-1955</b> Newspaper clippings, diaries, notebooks, international radio conferences, legal and financial papers, charts, blueprints, research notes, printed matter, copies of patents, photographs, biographical material, and research material concerning the tape recordings. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 26	Newspaper clippings, 1920-1952, undated
BOX 27	Diaries and notebooks
BOX 27	Notebooks, undated
BOX 27	Notebooks, "History of Radio," undated
BOX 27	Memoranda book, 1919, undated
BOX 27	Diaries, 1930, 1938
BOX 27	Diary and expense book, 1944-1946
BOX 28	License and award, 1930, 1955
BOX 28	International radio conferences data, 1919-1951
BOX 28	Legal and financial papers, 1919-1946
BOX 28	Galley proof, undated
BOX 29	Charts, blueprints, and tables, undated
BOX 29	Handwritten research notes, undated
BOX 30	Printed matter, 1919-1948, undated
BOX 30	Copies of patents, 1933-1939
BOX 30	Photographs, 1904, 1922, undated
BOX 30	Copies of congressional bills, 1924-1953
BOX 31	Biographical information, undated
BOX 31	Copies and drafts of speeches and articles by Hooper, 1921-1950, undated
BOX 31	Research material and notes compiled for tape recordings
BOX 32	General miscellany
BOX 32	1913-1951
BOX 33	Undated
BOX 33	Fragments, undated
BOX 33	<b>2023 Addition, 1953</b> Transcript of an oral history interview with Hooper about Leo C. Young's contributions to the origin of radar. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 33	Transcript, interview with Hooper about Leo C. Young, 1953, Oct. 15