Collection Summary

Title: Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers
Span Dates: 1899-1955
Bulk Dates: (bulk 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/mmm70052670

Summary: Naval officer and electronics consultant. Correspondence, diaries, speeches, articles, transcripts of tape 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.

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, Owen D., 1874-1962--Correspondence.

Organizations
Radio Corporation of America.

Subjects
Communications, Military.
Radio control.
Radio in aeronautics.
Radio in navigation.
Radio stations.
Radio--Congresses.
Radio--Equipment and supplies.
Radio--Research.
Submarines (Ships)
Telecommunication systems.
Transmit-receive tubes.
Vacuum-tubes.

**Occupations**
Consultants.
Naval officers.

**Provenance**
The papers of Stanford Caldwell Hooper, naval officer and electronics consultant, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1958 and 1959 by the Naval Historical Foundation and converted to a gift in 1998.

**Processing History**
The papers of Stanford Caldwell Hooper were arranged and described in 1967. The collection was revised in 2010.

**Additional Guides**
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 Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers.

**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. 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, Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1884, Aug. 16</td>
<td>Born, Covina, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty in <em>Chicago</em> (cruiser)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1907</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Perry</em> (torpedo boat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1907 Commissioned ensign
1907-1909 Duty in Yorktown (gunboat)
1909-1911 Duty in South Dakota (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 Fairfax (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, and Miscellany.

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...

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.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- Correspondence, 1899-1955
- Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954
- Miscellany, 1904-1955
# Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-23</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1899-1955</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters received and copies of letters sent, family correspondence,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and miscellaneous attachments and enclosures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24-25</td>
<td><strong>Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transcripts of tapes recorded by Hooper and his associates concerning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the history of naval developments in the fields of radio, radar, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sonar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 26-34</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1904-1955</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, diaries, notebooks, international radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conferences, legal and financial papers, charts, blueprints, research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>notes, printed matter, copies of patents, photographs, biographical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>material, and research material concerning the tape recordings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-23</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1899-1955</strong>&lt;br&gt;Letters received and copies of letters sent, family correspondence, and miscellaneous attachments and enclosures.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1899-1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1918-1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>1920-1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>1924-1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 10</td>
<td>Jan.-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>June-Dec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11</td>
<td>Jan.-Apr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 12</td>
<td>May-Dec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 14</td>
<td>1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 15</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 16</td>
<td>1934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 17</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 18</td>
<td>1936-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19</td>
<td>1938-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 20</td>
<td>1940-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 21</td>
<td>1942-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 22</td>
<td>1946-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 23</td>
<td>1952-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24-25</td>
<td><strong>Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954</strong>&lt;br&gt;Transcripts of tapes recorded by Hooper and his associates concerning the history of naval developments in the fields of radio, radar, and sonar.&lt;br&gt;Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24</td>
<td>List of tapes, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 24</td>
<td>Nos. 1-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>Nos. 45-93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOX 26-34**

**Miscellany, 1904-1955**

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
  - Notebooks, undated
  - Notebooks, “History of Radio,” undated
  - Memoranda book, 1919, undated
  - Diaries, 1930, 1938
  - Diary and expense book, 1944-1946
- **BOX 28**
  - License and award, 1930, 1955
  - International radio conferences data, 1919-1951
  - Legal and financial papers, 1919-1946
  - Galley proof, undated
- **BOX 29**
  - Charts, blueprints, and tables, undated
  - Handwritten research notes, undated
- **BOX 30**
  - Printed matter, 1919-1948, undated
  - Copies of patents, 1933-1939
  - Photographs, 1904, 1922, undated
  - Copies of congressional bills, 1924-1953
- **BOX 31**
  - Biographical information, undated
  - Copies and drafts of speeches and articles by Hooper, 1921-1950, undated
  - Research material and notes compiled for tape recordings
- **BOX 32**
  - General miscellany
- **BOX 33**
  - 1913-1951
  - Undated
- **BOX 33**
  - Fragments, undated