

Holden Chester Richardson 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.
2011

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.ms011180>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Holden Chester Richardson Papers

Span Dates: 1844-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1897-1944)

ID No.: MSS53124

Creator: Richardson, Holden Chester, 1878-1960

Extent: 3,600 items

Extent: 13 containers

Extent: 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053124>

Summary: Naval officer. General and family correspondence, speeches, articles, book material, subject files, and miscellany relating primarily to Richardson's activities in aeronautics.

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

Fechet, James E. (James Edmond), 1877- --Correspondence.

King, Ernest Joseph, 1878-1956--Correspondence.

Pace, Ernest M. (Ernest Milton)--Correspondence.

Packard, Edward T.--Correspondence.

Richardson family--Correspondence.

Richardson, Holden Chester, 1878-

Wenzinger, Carl J. (Carl Joseph), 1903-1988--Correspondence.

Yates, Isaac I.--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Navy--Aviation.

Subjects

Aeronautics.

Naval aviation.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Holden Chester Richardson, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1967 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Holden Chester Richardson were arranged and described in 1971. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1980 the Library published *Hilary Pollard Jones, Holden Chester Richardson: Registers of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Holden Chester Richardson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Holden Chester Richardson 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, Holden Chester Richardson Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| 1878, Dec. 7 | Born, Shamokin, Pa. |
| 1901 | Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. |
| 1901-1904 | Duty in USS <i>Massachusetts</i> |
| circa 1906 | Married Margaret Jones (later divorced) |
| 1907 | M.S. degree, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. |
| 1912 | Duty as naval constructor |
| 1915 | Designated naval aviator |
| 1916-1918 | Construction officer, Pensacola, Fla. |
| 1919 | Pilot, Plane NC-3, transatlantic flight |
| 1919-1923 | Chief engineer, Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1923-1929 | Member, Bureau of Aeronautics, U.S. Navy |
| 1926 | Promoted to captain |
| 1928 | Published <i>Aircraft Float Design</i> . New York: Ronald Press Co. |
| 1929 | Retired from the U.S. Navy |
| 1929-1933 | Director of engineering, Allied Motor Industries, Chicago, Ill. |
| 1934 | Recalled to active duty |
| 1934-1946 | Duty in the Bureau of Aeronautics |
| 1942 | Published with Wellwood E. Beall and Charles W. Manly <i>Flying Boats</i> . New York: National Aeronautics Council |
| 1943 | Married Diana Rawlings |
| 1952 | Released from active duty |
| 1960 Sept. 2 | Died, Bethesda, Md. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Holden C. Richardson (1878-1960) span the years 1844-1946, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1897-1944. The papers relate chiefly to Richardson's career and services in the field of aeronautics and consist of general and family correspondence, speeches, writings, a subject file, photographs, and other papers.

The subject files include blueprints, charts, reports, and patents documenting Richardson's contribution in the field of aeronautics and naval aviation. He was one of the first naval pilots, and he flew test flights of naval aircraft. His patents for floats for airplanes and an airplane catapult used for launching seaplanes from battleships are in the subject file. In the 1930s he worked with several companies that attempted to design airplanes that would be powered by steam.

The family correspondence consists chiefly of Richardson's letters to his parents, brother, and sister, 1897-1917. For the 1936-1937 period it contains letters from Diana Rawlings, who was to become his second wife. Richardson's early letters to his parents discuss his social activities and his studies and cruises while he was a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy. The general correspondence consists of incoming letters, carbons of outgoing letters concerning both official and personal matters, and reports and memoranda. Correspondents include James E. Fechet, Ernest Joseph King, Ernest M. Pace, Edward T. Packard, Carl J. Wenzinger, and Isaac I. Yates.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Aviator flight logbooks and report, 1919-1945 (3 vols. and unbound report) |
| BOX 1 | General correspondence |
| BOX 1 | 1907-1944, June (7 folders) |
| BOX 2 | 1944, July-1945 (4 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Family correspondence |
| BOX 2 | 1897-1899 (7 folders) |
| BOX 3 | 1900-1902 (8 folders) |
| BOX 4 | 1903-1919, undated (7 folders) |
| BOX 5 | Writings |
| BOX 5 | “Airplane Banking” |
| BOX 5 | “Big Flying Boats” |
| BOX 5 | “Experiments with Models of Hulls for Hydro-Aeroplanes for the United States Navy” |
| BOX 5 | “Factors Involved in High Airplane Speed at Great Altitudes,” 1920 |
| BOX 5 | “History of Naval Aviation,” unpublished book |
| BOX 5 | Typed draft (2 folders) |
| BOX 5 | Holograph notes |
| BOX 5 | Note cards (2 folders) |
| BOX 6 | Note cards |
| BOX 7 | Note cards |
| BOX 7 | “Hydromechanic Experiments With Flying Boat Hulls,” 1914 |
| BOX 7 | “A New Disease, Navy Fever” |
| BOX 7 | “Prophecy in Retrospect,” <i>Southern Flight</i> , with notes and illustrations, 1943 |
| BOX 7 | “St. Pierre, Martinique” |
| BOX 7 | “Steam Power Plant for Aircraft” |
| BOX 7 | “Tank Testing of Models of Seaplane Floats” |
| BOX 7 | “What Naval Architecture Can Teach the Aeronautical Engineer” |
| BOX 8 | Subject files |
| BOX 8 | Aeronautics |
| BOX 8 | Air force and moment for design no. 91 amphibian |
| BOX 8 | Air craft design |
| BOX 8 | Airplane horsepower curves |
| BOX 8 | Bureau of Aeronautics, material design |
| BOX 8 | Cabin plane |
| BOX 8 | Front view |
| BOX 8 | Plan view |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 8 | Side view |
| BOX 8 | Curtiss geared conqueror engine |
| BOX 8 | Design of airplane hull and floats (2 folders) |
| BOX 8 | “Developable Surfaces in Naval Architecture” |
| BOX 8 | E. H. P. velocity curves (2 folders) |
| BOX 9 | Eiffel design |
| BOX 9 | Floats |
| BOX 9 | Aircraft design floats |
| BOX 9 | Beam formula to determine proportions |
| BOX 9 | Float and boat designs |
| BOX 9 | Service floats and boats |
| BOX 9 | Curves of lift and drift for airplane float model no. 1845 |
| BOX 9 | PBN-triple float |
| BOX 9 | Seaplane floats |
| BOX 9 | Great Lakes Aircraft Corp. |
| BOX 9 | Amphibian landing gear |
| BOX 9 | Cirrus engine data |
| BOX 9 | Diesel engines |
| BOX 9 | McDonnell airplane |
| BOX 9 | Model amphibian hull |
| BOX 9 | Steam power plant calculations |
| BOX 9 | Steam power plant for aircraft and marine installation |
| BOX 10 | Hydrofoils data |
| BOX 10 | Hydroplane |
| BOX 10 | Hydrovane |
| BOX 10 | Liberty engines |
| BOX 10 | Airplane design chart, speed |
| BOX 10 | HD-4, report |
| BOX 10 | NC flying boat, report |
| BOX 10 | Outboard motor |
| BOX 10 | PB-1 (Boeing patrol boat), reports |
| BOX 10 | Pontoon for use with Burgess-Wright airplane |
| BOX 10 | Propellers |
| BOX 10 | Design (2 folders) |
| BOX 10 | Powerplants |
| BOX 10 | Three-bladed air propeller |
| BOX 10 | Two-bladed air propeller (2 folders) |
| BOX 10 | R.A.F.6 |
| BOX 11 | Resistance of cabin fuselage with various windshields |
| BOX 11 | System of steam generation as applied to airplane power units |
| BOX 11 | Transatlantic flying boat |
| BOX 11 | U.S. patents |
| BOX 11 | “Airplane catapult,” 1928 |
| BOX 11 | “Float for aeroplanes,” 1916-1917 |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 11 | Patents of others, 1885-1933 |
| BOX 11 | Wind tunnel tests on airplane wheel cowlings |
| BOX 11 | Wing stress analysis |
| BOX 11 | Miscellaneous blueprints, charts, and reports (3 folders) |
| BOX 12 | Miscellany |
| BOX 12 | Biographical file |
| BOX 12 | Certificates and a commission |
| BOX 12 | Miscellaneous items including calling cards, invitations, programs, and a notebook |
| BOX 12 | Naval academy, Annapolis, Md. |
| BOX 12 | Academic class reports |
| BOX 12 | Announcements, programs, pay voucher, account statement |
| BOX 12 | Class papers |
| BOX 12 | Examinations |
| BOX 12 | Material related to social life |
| BOX 13 | Newspaper clippings, 1844-1946 (2 folders) |
| BOX 13 | Photographs |
| BOX 13 | Printed matter, 1911-1946 (7 folders) |