Collection Summary
Title: Melville Eastham Papers
Span Dates: 1908-1973
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1930-1964)
ID No.: MSS52381
Creator: Eastham, Melville, 1885-1964
Extent: 5,800 items
Extent: 32 containers
Extent: 12.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82052381
Summary: Radio engineer and manufacturer. Correspondence, diaries, blueprints, sketches, plans, notebooks, company files, photographs, reports, clippings, and printed matter largely related to Eastham's career as a radio engineer and as head of the General Radio Company, but also to his avocation of collecting early maps and atlases.

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
Barton, Fred S.--Correspondence.
Benham, Cedric M. (Cedric Minett), 1904--Correspondence.
Bown, Ralph, 1891-1971--Correspondence.
Bush, Vannevar, 1890-1974--Correspondence.
Clark, Trevor--Correspondence.
Compton, K. T. (Karl Taylor), 1887-1954--Correspondence.
Conant, James Bryant, 1893-1978--Correspondence.
Eastham, Melville, 1885-1964.
Friedrichs, George--Correspondence.
Friedrichs, Nicole--Correspondence.
Grover, Charles S.--Correspondence.
Loomis, Alfred L. (Alfred Lee), 1887-1975--Correspondence.
Lyons, Claude--Correspondence.
Mears, Henry S.--Correspondence.
Murphy, William P., 1923--Correspondence.
Schaefer, Marie E.--Correspondence.
Shaw, Henry Southworth, Jr.--Correspondence.

Organizations
General Radio Company.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Radiation Laboratory.

Subjects
Atlases--Collectors and collecting.
Loran.
Maps--Collectors and collecting.
Navigation.
Radar.
Radio.

Occupations
Engineers.
Manufacturers.

Provenance
The papers of Melville Eastham, radio engineer and manufacturer, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Jessie Chase Eastham, in 1974.

Processing History
The papers of Melville Eastham were arranged and described in 1974. The collection and finding aid were revised in 2011.

Additional Guides
A listing of the printed matter in Containers 23-32 is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room and as a PDF document.

Transfers
Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of the Melville Eastham Papers.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Melville Eastham is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Melville Eastham 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, Melville Eastham Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1885, June 26</td>
<td>Born, Oregon City, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Worked for Ovington X-ray Co., New York, N.Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Founded with J. Emery Clapp and William O. Eddy, the Clapp, Eddy, and Eastham Co., Boston, Mass., manufacturing x-ray equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Established Clapp-Eastham Co., after departure of Eddy, and shifted to manufacturing receiving and transmitting equipment; Clapp sold his interest in the company to Otis Kerro Luscomb in 1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>circa 1914</td>
<td>Married Jessie Chase (died 1979)</td>
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</table>
1915-1944  President, General Radio Co.
1917  Sold interest in Clapp-Eastham Co. to Luscomb; Luscomb sold interest in General Radio Co. to Eastham
1917-1919  Produced radio equipment for the American forces during World War I
1920s  Joined in General Radio Co. by Henry Southworth Shaw (1884- )
1925  Named as fellow, Institute of Radio Engineers
1937  Awarded medal of honor, Institute of Radio Engineers
circa 1942-1944  Led LORAN radio navigation development efforts, Radiation Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., during World War II
1946  Named as fellow, American Institute of Electrical Engineers
1950  Retired from General Radio Co.
1964, May 6  Died, Boston, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Melville Eastham (1885-1964) span the years 1908-1973, with the bulk of the material dating from 1930 to 1964. The papers are in English and are organized as received allowing a single topic to occur in various containers throughout the collection. Approximate span dates are given for half of the containers. The papers are roughly grouped into personal files including diaries, correspondence, and investments, General Radio Company and equipment files, files relating to the LORAN project at the Radiation Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and material relating to Eastham’s avocation of collecting sixteenth- and seventeenth-century atlases and maps.

Correspondents include Fred S. Barton, Cedric M. Benham, Ralph Bown, Vannevar Bush, Trevor Clark, K. T. Compton, James Bryant Conant, George and Nicole Friedrichs, Charles S. Grover, Alfred L. Loomis, Claude Lyons, Henry S. Mears, William P. Murphy, Jr., Marie E. Schaefer, and Henry Southworth Shaw (1884- ).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged as received.
## Container List

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| BOX 7 | Lyons, Claude |
| BOX 7 | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.  
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