

Melville Eastham Papers
A Finding Aid to the 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>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82052381>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011211>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised by Melinda K. Friend

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2013 August

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://lcn.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., Jr., 1923-2023--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

Date	Event
1885, June 26	Born, Oregon City, Ore.
1905	Worked for Ovington X-ray Co., New York, N.Y.
1906	Founded with J. Emery Clapp and William O. Eddy, the Clapp, Eddy, and Eastham Co., Boston, Mass., manufacturing x-ray equipment
1908	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
circa 1914	Married Jessie Chase (died 1979)

1915	Founded with Luscomb, General Radio Co., Cambridge, Mass., manufacturing precision electrical measuring instruments; moved to Concord, Mass., in 1950s
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
1944-1950	Chief engineer, General Radio Co.
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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	circa 1955-circa 1964
BOX 1	Avoca Investment Co.
BOX 1	Benham, Cedric M.
BOX 1	Bureau of Standards
BOX 1	Clark, Trevor
BOX 1	Cordis Corp.
BOX 1	County Bank and Trust Co., Cambridge, Mass., checking account statements
BOX 1	“D-E” miscellaneous
BOX 1	Dawe Instruments
BOX 1	Diaries, 1961-1963
BOX 1	Erwood, Inc.
BOX 1	European correspondence
BOX 1	Friedrichs, George and Nicole
BOX 1	General Radio Co.
BOX 1	Mico Instrument Co.
BOX 1	Murphy, William P., Jr.
BOX 1	Personal correspondence (4 folders)
BOX 2	circa 1942-circa 1962
BOX 2	Scientific societies
BOX 2	Technicolor
BOX 2	Compton, K. T.
BOX 2	“A-C” miscellaneous
BOX 2	Dawe Instruments
BOX 2	European correspondence
BOX 2	Friedrichs, George and Nicole
BOX 2	Maps, correspondence concerning
BOX 2	Personal correspondence (2 folders)
BOX 2	Personal correspondence, Europe (2 folders)
BOX 2	Personal business
BOX 2	Racal Engineering
BOX 2	Radio Club of America
BOX 2	Raytheon Manufacturing Co.
BOX 2	“S-W” miscellaneous
BOX 2	Wayne-Kerr Corp.
BOX 2	Will
BOX 2	Mico Instrument Co. (2 folders)
BOX 2	Murphy, William P., Jr., and Cordis Corp.
BOX 2	“O-R” miscellaneous

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	O'Connor, Johnson
BOX 2	Oregon property
BOX 3	circa 1938-circa 1951
BOX 3	British correspondence
BOX 3	Clapp-Eastham Co.
BOX 3	European correspondence
BOX 3	General Radio Co
BOX 3	Blueprints and plans
BOX 3	Employee benefit plans
BOX 3	Correspondence
BOX 3	Pension scheme
BOX 3	Pensions and trusts
BOX 3	Printed matter
BOX 3	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 3	Joint Technical Advisory Committee, Institute of Radio Engineers and Radio Manufacturers Association
BOX 3	Maps, correspondence concerning
BOX 3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 3	Library
BOX 3	Miscellaneous
BOX 3	Mico Instrument Co.
BOX 3	Personal correspondence
BOX 3	Personal business
BOX 3	Personal correspondence, Pacific Coast
BOX 3	Personal correspondence, retirement letters
BOX 3	Catalogs of books, maps, and manuscripts
BOX 4	circa 1909-circa 1955
BOX 4	British correspondence (2 folders)
BOX 4	European correspondence (2 folders)
BOX 4	General Radio Co.
BOX 4	Miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 4	Pensions and trusts
BOX 4	Patents (2 folders)
BOX 4	circa 1909-circa 1955
BOX 4	LORAN (2 folders)
BOX 4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 4	General
BOX 4	Radiation Laboratory
BOX 4	Miscellaneous
BOX 4	National Defense Research Committee
BOX 4	Personal

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Personal correspondence (2 folders)
BOX 4	Printed matter
BOX 4	Research Construction Co.
BOX 5	circa 1909-circa 1950
BOX 5	Maps, correspondence concerning (5 folders)
BOX 5	Books
BOX 5	Cost quotations
BOX 5	Bills
BOX 5	Library of Congress, Map Division
BOX 5	<i>Imago Mundi</i>
BOX 5	Henry Stevens, Son & Stiles
BOX 5	Miscellaneous
BOX 5	Francis Edwards Ltd.
BOX 5	Schaefer, Marie E.
BOX 5	Printed matter
BOX 5	Bureau of Standards
BOX 5	Catalog and article on maps
BOX 5	Radio Club of America
BOX 5	Radios, telescopes, and telephones
BOX 6	circa 1944-circa 1963
BOX 6	Aerials-radiation
BOX 6	Alternators
BOX 6	Condensers
BOX 6	Condensers-dielectric losses
BOX 6	Dielectric loss data
BOX 6	Detectors-receivers, blueprints
BOX 6	Wave meters
BOX 6	Mico Instrument Co. (2 folders)
BOX 6	General Radio Pension Association
BOX 6	Family genealogy
BOX 6	Furniture
BOX 6	Grover, Charles S.
BOX 6	"H-K" miscellaneous
BOX 6	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 6	House, 8 Gray Garden East, Cambridge, Mass.
BOX 7	circa 1951-circa 1963
BOX 7	Institute of Radio Engineers (3 folders)
BOX 7	Institute of Radio Engineers and American Institute of Electrical Engineers
BOX 7	Insurance
BOX 7	Library of Congress, Map Division
BOX 7	Lyons, Claude
BOX 7	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. (3 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 7	Mears, Henry S.
BOX 7	Medical statements
BOX 8	circa 1930-circa 1962
BOX 8	Signal generator
BOX 8	Transformers (3 folders)
BOX 8	Lasers
BOX 8	Variac
BOX 8	Vibrators
BOX 8	Wave length frequency
BOX 8	Wax (resin)
BOX 8	Winding machine
BOX 8	Microscope
BOX 8	James Millen Manufacturing Co.
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	Motor grinder
BOX 8	Optical resonance targets
BOX 9	circa 1912-circa 1962
BOX 9	Optical bench lamp
BOX 9	Paint
BOX 9	Plugs and jacks
BOX 9	Projectors
BOX 9	Punch press
BOX 9	Recorder
BOX 9	Resistance measurements
BOX 9	Resistors
BOX 9	Rheostats
BOX 9	Soldering
BOX 9	Printed matter
BOX 10	circa 1950-circa 1961
BOX 10	Machines, France and Germany
BOX 10	Materials (2 folders)
BOX 10	David W. Mann, Inc.
BOX 10	Metrix (Co.), France
BOX 10	Mico Instrument Co.
BOX 10	Printed matter
BOX 11	circa 1937-circa 1961
BOX 11	Components
BOX 11	Contacts and contact materials
BOX 11	Cordis Corp.
BOX 11	Corning Glass Works (2 folders)
BOX 11	Dielectrics
BOX 11	Dust cores
BOX 11	Electro-Measurements, Inc.
BOX 11	Employee compensation

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 11	Exakta Camera Co.
BOX 11	Fans
BOX 11	Filters
BOX 11	Printed matter
BOX 12	circa 1945-circa 1959
BOX 12	General Radio Co., photographs from Concord, Mass.
BOX 12	Grinder
BOX 12	Harmonic generator
BOX 12	Inductor coils
BOX 12	Instructions, operating
BOX 12	Insulating materials
BOX 12	Johanson Manufacturing Corp.
BOX 12	Lamps
BOX 12	Layout machine
BOX 12	Low-frequency br.
BOX 12	Lyons, Claude
BOX 12	Machinery
BOX 12	Potentiometer
BOX 12	Printed matter
BOX 12	Banana plugs
BOX 12	Beat-frequency oscillators
BOX 12	Bind posts and terminals
BOX 12	Brakes
BOX 12	Bridge (high-frequency)
BOX 12	Bridges
BOX 12	Bridges
BOX 12	Trans type
BOX 12	Wayne-Kerr Corp.
BOX 12	Buzzers
BOX 12	Standard capacitors, calculation of
BOX 12	Capacitor measurements
BOX 12	Capacitor designs
BOX 12	Capacitor standards
BOX 12	Condensers
BOX 12	C.A.T.T., assembly and parts
BOX 12	Charts
BOX 12	Printed matter
BOX 13	circa 1945-circa 1964
BOX 13	Personnel correspondence
BOX 13	Personal correspondence, Europe
BOX 13	Dawe Instruments
	(2 folders)
BOX 13	Clock bills
BOX 13	Circuits
	(2 folders)
BOX 13	Friedrichs, George and Nicole

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 13	General data
BOX 13	General letters
BOX 13	General Radio Co.
BOX 13	Miscellaneous
BOX 13	Parts
BOX 13	Pension
BOX 13	Personnel
BOX 13	Institute of Radio Engineers (3 folders)
BOX 13	Latady Development Co.
BOX 13	Letters to be kept
BOX 13	Lyons, Claude
BOX 13	Mears, Henry S.
BOX 13	Oregon State College, Corvallis, Ore.
BOX 14	circa 1908-circa 1963
BOX 14	Automobile
BOX 14	Clapp-Eastham Co., photographs and printed matter
BOX 14	General Radio Co.
BOX 14	Medical statements
BOX 14	Murphy, William P., Jr.
BOX 14	Personal correspondence, certificate, and memorabilia
BOX 14	"P" miscellaneous
BOX 14	Shaw, Henry Southworth (1884-)
BOX 14	Taxes
BOX 14	Technology Instrument Corp.
BOX 14	Trusts
BOX 14	Printed matter
BOX 15	circa 1956-circa 1963
BOX 15	Barton, Fred S.
BOX 15	Benham, Cedric M.
BOX 15	Bown, Ralph
BOX 15	Cambridge Trust Co.
BOX 15	General Radio Co. (4 folders)
BOX 15	Hewlett-Packard Co. Investments (2 folders)
BOX 15	Maps, correspondence concerning
BOX 15	Personal correspondence
BOX 15	England
BOX 15	France
BOX 15	Pacific Coast
BOX 15	Scandinavia
BOX 15	Radiophon, Paul Fabricant
BOX 15	Scientific societies
BOX 15	Shaw, Henry Southworth (1884-)
BOX 16	circa 1935-circa 1973
BOX 16	Addresses

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 16	American Geographical Society
BOX 16	American Institute of Electrical Engineers and Institute of Electrical Engineers
BOX 16	Automobile
BOX 16	Avoca Investment Co.
BOX 16	General Radio Co.
BOX 16	New York restaurants
BOX 16	Piezo-Electric resonators
BOX 16	Printed matter
BOX 16	Charts
BOX 17	Diaries, 1949-1960
BOX 17	Address books
BOX 17	<i>Wireless Telegraphist's Pocket Book</i> , 1915
BOX 18	Notebooks on
BOX 18	Maps and map makers (3 vols.)
BOX 19	Cartography books, old books, and Ptolemy (3 vols.)
BOX 20	Materials, tools, and machinery and jig bores (3 vols.)
BOX 21	Eng. and Ele. E5 coils (2 vols.)
BOX 22	Notes, articles, reports, and miscellaneous printed matter
BOX 23-32	Printed matter <i>See PDF for list of contents</i>
BOX 23-29	Bookseller catalogs
BOX 30	Bookseller catalogs
BOX 30	Books, pamphlets, and journal articles
BOX 30	Newspapers
BOX 31	Books
BOX 32	Photographs, certificates, blueprints, and drawings