

Nicholas E. Golovin Papers
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2011
Revised 2023 July

Collection Summary

Title: Nicholas E. Golovin Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1915-1971

Bulk Dates: 1958-1969

ID No.: MSS57265

Creator: Golovin, Nicholas E. (Nicholas Erasmus), 1912-1969

Extent: 10,600 items

Extent: 29 containers

Extent: 11.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with Russian

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81057265>

Summary: Physicist, government official, and presidential advisor for aviation and space science. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches and writings, reports, notes, working diaries, agenda and meeting summaries, academic, employment, and military records, clippings, photographs, and other papers pertaining chiefly to Golovin's administrative positions at the National Bureau of Standards, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the United States Office of Science and Technology; a small amount documents his education and family matters.

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

Coler, Myron A. (Myron Abraham), 1913-2004.

Coler, Myron A. (Myron Abraham), 1913-2004. Essays on creativity in the sciences. 1963.

Condon, Edward Uhler, 1902-1974--Correspondence.

Golovin family.

Golovin, Anne Castrodale--Correspondence.

Golovin, Nicholas E. (Nicholas Erasmus), 1912-1969.

Hornig, Donald F., 1920-2013--Correspondence.

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963.

Murphy, Charles S. (Charles Springs), 1909-1983--Correspondence.

Wiesner, Jerome B. (Jerome Bert), 1915-1994--Correspondence.

Organizations

DoD/NASA Large Launch Vehicle Planning Group.

International Astronautical Congress.

New York University. Creative Science Program.

Project Apollo (U.S.)

United States. Advanced Research Projects Agency.

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

United States. National Bureau of Standards.

United States. Office of Science and Technology.

United States. President's Science Advisory Committee.

Subjects

Aeronautics.

Creation (Literary, artistic, etc.)

Creative ability in science.

Launch vehicles (Aeronautics)

Manned space flight.

Program budgeting.

Science and state--United States.
Science--Study and teaching.
Separation of powers--United States.
Social sciences and state--United States.
Space sciences.
Space vehicles--Propulsion systems.
Space vehicles.
Supersonic transport planes.
Technology and state--United States.

Places

United States--Emigration and immigration.
United States--Politics and government--1961-1963.
United States--Politics and government--1963-1969.
White Sands Missile Range (N.M.)

Occupations

Physicists.
Presidential advisors.
Public officials.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Nicholas E. Golovin were given to the Library of Congress by Anne Golovin in 1977 and 2015.

Processing History

The papers of Nicholas E. Golovin were arranged and described in 1991 by Kathleen Dondanville. The finding aid was revised in 2010. An addition was processed and the finding aid revised by Rachel McNellis in 2023.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Nicholas E. Golovin 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, Nicholas E. Golovin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1912, Mar. 1	Born, Odessa, Russia
1923	Immigrated to the United States

1932	Married Sophia Walsh (divorced 1946)
1933-1936	A.B., mathematics, and M.A., mathematical physics, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1934-1942	Research statistician and administrator, R. H. Macy & Co., New York, N.Y.
1943-1944	Chief, Production and Requirements Analysis Section, Tools Division, United States War Production Board, Washington, D.C
1944-1946	Lieutenant, United States Naval Reserve
1945-1947	Associate superintendent, Electricity Division, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.
1948	Chief, management planning staff, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, Calif.
1949-1958	Successive appointments as executive assistant to the director, assistant director of administration, and associate director of planning, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.
1951, May 26	Married Lillian M. Wessels (divorce date unknown)
1955	Ph.D., theoretical physics, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
1956	Graduated, nuclear reactor engineering course at Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
1958	Chief scientist, White Sands Missile Range, White Sands, N.Mex.
1958-1969	Associate member, Creative Science Program, New York University, New York, N.Y.
1959	Director, Technical Operations Division, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.
1960	Deputy associate of administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C. Vice president and general manager, Rabinow Engineering Co., Takoma Park, Md.
1961-1962	Director, DoD/NASA Large Launch Vehicle Planning Group, Washington, D.C.
1962-1968	Technical adviser, Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Washington, D.C.
1963	Contributed to <i>Essays on Creativity in the Sciences</i> , edited by Myron A. Coler. New York: New York University Press
1966	Married Anne Castrodale
1968-1969	Research associate, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1969, Apr. 27	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nicholas Erasmus Golovin span the period 1915-1971, with the bulk of the material dated between 1958 and 1969. The collection primarily documents Golovin's professional and academic activities as an administrator, physicist, and presidential technical adviser in the field of space science and technology. In a general sense, the papers also reveal some of the prevalent attitudes of the Great Society era in which Golovin worked. Many of his projects reflect a strong interest in the advancement of space science and exploration, and the concept of using modern technology to solve social and racial problems. The collection has generally been kept in original order and is organized into six series: [Personal File](#), [Chronological File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Office of Science and Technology](#), [New York University Creative Science Program](#), and [2023 Addition](#).

The [Personal File](#) contains a wide variety of material. Included is correspondence between Golovin and friends, colleagues, and business associates, primarily about employment opportunities, the direction of their professional careers, and other work-related topics. The series also contains military, academic, and employment records, biographical materials, magazine articles of interest or relating to Golovin, certificates of award, notes and newspaper clippings regarding books in which Golovin held an interest, and several photographs. A few pieces of correspondence between his widow, Anne Golovin, and one of Golovin's business associates, written after Golovin's death in 1970, are included in this file.

The [Chronological File](#) contains correspondence, memoranda, reports, meeting summaries, working diaries, and notes documenting Golovin's daily professional activities at the National Bureau of Standards, White Sands Missile Range, Advanced Research Projects Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Office of Science

and Technology. Records from the National Bureau of Standards primarily concern routine, administrative matters, while later records created during Golovin's tenure at NASA and the Office of Science and Technology contain substantial information on space science and technology projects. Of particular interest are records dating 1960-1961 documenting his work with the Large Launch Vehicle Planning Group. This program, sponsored by NASA and the Department of Defense, developed launch vehicles appropriate for lunar and planetary exploration.

Material documenting his daily activities in the Office of Science and Technology as technical adviser for aviation and space science are also of special significance. Included are memoranda and reports prepared by Golovin for the White House regarding such topics as the supersonic transport noise problem, space propulsion systems, and the development of manned space flight. The Chronological File also includes invitations and itineraries relating to Golovin's public and professional activities in various scientific organizations and correspondence regarding his numerous technical writing projects. Prominent correspondents include Edward Uhler Condon, Donald F. Hornig, Charles S. Murphy, Jerome B. Wiesner, and other professionals.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) series is comprised mostly of notes, drafts, and final copies and printed versions of addresses, remarks, lectures, articles, book reviews, and papers by Golovin. Speeches and writings are primarily concerned with space science and technology. Material relating to Golovin's well-known paper titled "A Fourth Branch of Government" is notable. Written with financial support from the Ford Foundation, Golovin's paper proposed the creation of an additional branch of government designed to function independently from the original three branches. This fourth branch would employ physicists and social scientists to make sound technological choices in public policy. Included are the proposal's original research notes and later typewritten transcriptions completed under the direction of Golovin's wife after his death.

The [Office of Science and Technology](#) series consists primarily of correspondence, memoranda, reports, and notes pertaining to Golovin's most significant projects and programs at the Office of Science and Technology. The file includes documentation of his participation in several International Astronautical Congresses and his role in improving the planning, programming, and budgeting system in the Office of Science and Technology. Agendas, meeting summaries, press releases, and reports documenting Golovin's work as a member of the Presidential Science Advisory Committee are especially significant. The committee, composed of government officials and individuals in the science and technology profession, developed recommendations for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson on such matters as space science vehicles and the Apollo space program.

The [New York University Creative Science Program](#) series, containing correspondence, memoranda, agendas, papers, bibliographies, and manuscript drafts relating to Golovin's associate membership in Myron Coler's creative science program. This program was primarily concerned with the investigation of creativity patterns in the sciences and the cultivation of creativity as one of the most important educational needs and responsibilities. Records in this series document the research group's seminar sessions and scholarly activities. Also included are chapter drafts and a published copy of *Essays on Creativity in the Sciences*, a book written by program associates based on seminar findings.

The [2023 Addition](#) is comprised of articles, biographical material, clippings, correspondence, memoranda, photographs, school memorabilia, speeches, and writings. The material focuses primarily on Golovin's work and academic research in the field of space science, and relates directly to the activities and subject matter documented in other series. The correspondence consists of letters between Golovin and his business associates, while numerous condolence letters sent to Anne Golovin following his death reveal a vast network of professional connections within political and scientific circles. This series also contains significant family papers pertaining to Golovin's childhood and education. Of special interest are immigration and naturalization records for his father and mother, Erazm Golovin and Galina Golovin, his father's military records, and early family photographs.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Personal File, 1943-1970](#)
- [Chronological File, 1949-1969](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1957-1969](#)
- [Office of Science and Technology, 1962-1969](#)
- [New York University Creative Science Program, 1958-1969](#)

- 2023 Addition, 1915-1971

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Personal File, 1943-1970</u></p> <p>Correspondence between Golovin and friends, colleagues, and business associates pertaining to his career and financial interests; employment, academic, and military records; biographical material, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings of interest or relating to Golovin; and certificates, notes, and photographs.</p> <p>Arrangement is by type of material and chronological thereunder.</p>
BOX 3-13	<p><u>Chronological File, 1949-1969</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, meeting summaries, invitations, itineraries, papers, articles, newspaper clippings, news releases, working diaries, and notes documenting Golovin's daily work activities while employed in the field of science and technology.</p> <p>Arranged in chronological order.</p>
BOX 14-19	<p><u>Speeches and Writings, 1957-1969</u></p> <p>Manuscripts in various stages of preparation, including notes, drafts, final copies, and printed versions of addresses, remarks, lectures, book reviews, papers, and articles by Golovin.</p> <p>Also includes programs and printed material.</p> <p>Speeches and writings are organized separately and arranged in chronological order.</p>
BOX 19-23	<p><u>Office of Science and Technology, 1962-1969</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, itineraries, schedules, newspaper clippings, printed material, and notes pertaining to Golovin's significant projects, programs, and international conferences during his tenure at the Office of Science and Technology.</p> <p>Arranged by subject and thereunder by type of material.</p>
BOX 23-27	<p><u>New York University Creative Science Program, 1958-1969</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, agendas, meeting summaries, papers, reports, bibliographies, manuscript drafts, printed material, and a book pertaining to Golovin's work as an associate of the Creative Science Program at New York University.</p> <p>Arrangement is by session year and type of material. Files documenting the program's publication project appear at the end of the series and are arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 28-29	<p><u>2023 Addition, 1915-1971</u></p> <p>Articles, clippings, correspondence, memoranda, photographs, speeches, and writings pertaining to Golovin's work in the field of aviation and space science, as well as biographical material documenting his education and family matters.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by material type or subject.</p>

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Chronological File, 1949-1969

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BOX 11	11 Apr. 1967-Jan. 1968 (8 folders)
BOX 12	12 Feb.-July 1968 (5 folders)
BOX 13	13 Aug. 1968-Apr. 1969 (5 folders)
BOX 14-19	Speeches and Writings, 1957-1969 Manuscripts in various stages of preparation, including notes, drafts, final copies, and printed versions of addresses, remarks, lectures, book reviews, papers, and articles by Golovin. Also includes programs and printed material. Speeches and writings are organized separately and arranged in chronological order.
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BOX 14	2 Aug., commencement address, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Las Cruces, N.Mex.
BOX 14	18 Nov., remarks, Army Key Civilian Scientists meeting, Washington, D.C.
BOX 14	16 Dec., paper, "Probabilistic Models for Forecasting Reliability," Reliability Conference at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala.
BOX 14	1959
BOX 14	4 Jan., paper, "Prediction of the Reliability of Complex Systems," Army Conference on Design of Experiments, Washington, D.C.
BOX 14	16 Jan., remarks, National Bureau of Standards scientific staff meeting, Washington, D.C.
BOX 14	23 Jan., remarks, joint meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Aeronautical Research Scientists, and the Institute of Aeronautical Science, Las Cruces, N.Mex.
BOX 14	16 Feb., address, "The Creative Person in Science," Cooper Union Forum, unidentified organization
BOX 14	20 May
BOX 14	Address, "The Creative Person in Science," Third National Research Conference on the Identification of Creative Talent
BOX 14	Other papers presented at the Third National Research Conference on the Identification of Creative Talent (3 folders)
BOX 15	15 Sept., remarks, "Some Aspects of Advanced Research Projects Agency Program Management," RCA Management Club, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
BOX 15	10 Dec., remarks, "An Approach to a Reliability Prediction Program," Defense Science Board, Washington, D.C.
BOX 15	1960
BOX 15	15 Mar., remarks, Aerospace Industries Association on Reliability

Speeches and Writings, 1957-1969

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BOX 15	5 Dec., address, "Reliability Planning for Space Systems," Institute of Radio Engineers and the Professional Group on Reliability and Quality Control, Los Angeles, Calif.
BOX 15	1961
BOX 15	17 Nov., remarks regarding the rocket program, Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale, N.Y.
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BOX 15	24 Oct., remarks, "Space Science and Technology: The Near and Distant Future," unidentified organization
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BOX 15	Undated, lecture, "Reliability Engineering and Management in the Space Program," Washington section of the American Society for Quality Control, Washington, D.C.
BOX 15	1963
BOX 15	31 Jan., remarks on space technology and its future, American Rocket Society Chapter
BOX 15	17 Dec., remarks, "Obstacles to Attainment of High Probabilities of Mission Success in Space Exploration," National Rocket Club, Washington, D.C.
BOX 15	Undated, paper, "The Role of Planning in the Management of Scientific Research and Development," National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
BOX 15	1964
BOX 15	14-18 Sept., paper, "Operations Research and Success in Space Exploration," Western Section of the Operations Research Society of America, Honolulu, Hawaii
BOX 15	Undated, remarks, "Reliability Programs and the Problem of Attaining High Probabilities of Mission Success in Space Exploration," Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Los Angeles, Calif.
BOX 15	1965
BOX 15	5 May, address, "Cybernetics, Engineers and Business Managers," to the Electronic Industries Association and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
BOX 15	1966
BOX 15	16 July, remarks at the Society of Automotive Engineers' Conference, Huntsville, Ala.
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BOX 15	1 Sept., remarks, "Government and Business," unidentified organization
BOX 15	5 Sept., paper, "Problems of National Policy Relating to Science and Technology," unidentified organization
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BOX 15	15 Oct., remarks, "Some Problems of Evaluation in Education," Educational Communications, Boston, Mass.
BOX 16	23-25 Oct., paper, "The Evaluative Function of Government," American Society for Cybernetics
BOX 16	30 Oct., paper, "Computers and the Evaluative Function in Government," Operations Research/Time Sharing Symposium held by the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.
BOX 16	19-22 Nov., paper, "The Public and National Noise Standards," Acoustical Society of America Symposium
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BOX 16	24 Feb., paper, "An Approach to Some Problems in a Government Laboratory"
BOX 16	25 Mar., paper, "The Nth Country's Problem in Space Exploration" Mar., article, "Reliability Engineering and Success in Space Exploration," <i>Industrial Quality Control</i>
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BOX 16	12 Oct., paper, "Alleviation of Aircraft Noise"
BOX 16	30 Nov., comments, "The Next Generation of Launch Vehicles— Evolution or Bold Step," <i>Report of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Launch Vehicle and Missile Technical Committee</i>
BOX 16	Dec., article, "The Nth Country's Problem in Space Exploration," <i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i>
BOX 16	Undated, review, <i>The Technical Elite</i> , by Jay M. Gould
BOX 16	1967
BOX 16	18 Apr., paper, "Future Developments in Propulsion for Space Exploration"
BOX 16	6 July, paper, "Events and Decision: An American View"
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BOX 19	21 Mar., paper, "Concerning Some Aspects of Federal Science Policy"
BOX 19	2 Apr., paper, "Reflections on the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics/ ORSA Forum on Systems Analysis and Social Change"
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New York University Creative Science Program, 1958-1969

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