

Stanford Caldwell Hooper Papers

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Prepared by John P. Butler

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 ; 33 containers ; 13.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

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.

United States. Navy--Radio installations.

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.

Administrative Information

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1884, Aug. 16	Born, Covina, Calif.
1905	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty in <i>Chicago</i> (cruiser)
1905-1907	Duty in <i>Perry</i> (torpedo boat)
1907	Commissioned ensign
1907-1909	Duty in <i>Yorktown</i> (gunboat)
1909-1911	Duty in <i>South Dakota</i> (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 <i>Fairfax</i> (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 Hammond (188-1965), James G. Harbord, Hiram Johnson, Emory Scott Land, Thomas A. Marshall, Elihu Root, Daniel C. Roper, David Sarnoff, and Owen D. Young.

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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-23	<p><u>Correspondence, 1899-1955</u></p> <p>Letters received and copies of letters sent, family correspondence, and miscellaneous attachments and enclosures. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 24-25	<p><u>Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954</u></p> <p>Transcripts of tapes recorded by Hooper and his associates concerning the history of naval developments in the fields of radio, radar, and sonar. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 26-34	<p><u>Miscellany, 1904-1955</u></p> <p>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.</p>

Container List

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

Transcripts of Tape Recordings, 1954

Container

Contents

BOX 25	Nos. 45-93
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
BOX 27	Notebooks, undated
BOX 27	Notebooks, "History of Radio," undated
BOX 27	Memoranda book, 1919, undated
BOX 27	Diaries, 1930, 1938
BOX 27	Diary and expense book, 1944-1946
BOX 28	License and award, 1930, 1955
BOX 28	International radio conferences data, 1919-1951
BOX 28	Legal and financial papers, 1919-1946
BOX 28	Galley proof, undated
BOX 29	Charts, blueprints, and tables, undated
BOX 29	Handwritten research notes, undated
BOX 30	Printed matter, 1919-1948, undated
BOX 30	Copies of patents, 1933-1939
BOX 30	Photographs, 1904, 1922, undated
BOX 30	Copies of congressional bills, 1924-1953
BOX 31	Biographical information, undated
BOX 31	Copies and drafts of speeches and articles by Hooper, 1921-1950, undated
BOX 31	Research material and notes compiled for tape recordings
BOX 32	General miscellany
BOX 32	1913-1951
BOX 33	Undated
BOX 33	Fragments, undated