

Homer Sarasohn Papers

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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm2008085412>

Prepared by Michael Folkerts

Collection Summary

Title: Homer Sarasohn Papers

Span Dates: 1936-2001

ID No.: MSS85412

Creator: Sarasohn, Homer, 1916-2001

Extent: 800 items ; 5 containers ; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Japanese

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

Summary: Engineer and pioneer in industrial quality management. Correspondence, biographical material, course book, and miscellaneous articles written by Sarasohn and others concerning industrial quality management.

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

Hopper, Kenneth, 1926- --Correspondence.

Matsushita, Masaharu, 1912-2012--Correspondence.

Protzman, Charles W., Sr., 1900-1987. The Fundamentals of Industrial Management. 1949.

Sarasohn, Homer, 1916-2001.

Sarasohn, Homer, 1916-2001. The Fundamentals of Industrial Management. 1949.

Tribus, Myron--Correspondence.

Organizations

International Business Machines Corporation.

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Civil Communications Section.

Subjects

Communication and traffic--Japan.

Executives--Training of--Japan.

Industrial management--Japan.

Industrial management.

Quality control--Japan.

Quality control.

Places

Japan--History--1945-1989.

Occupations

Engineers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Homer Sarasohn, engineer and pioneer in industrial quality management and control, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughters, Laura Kingdon and Lisa Sarasohn, in 2008.

Transfers

Audio and video tapes containing interviews with Sarasohn have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Homer Sarasohn in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Homer Sarasohn 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, Homer Sarasohn Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1916, May 24	Born, Chicago, Ill
1938	B.S. in physics, Wayne University, Detroit, Mich.
1939	Married Shirley Fenster
1940	Studied radio engineering, RCA Institute, Chicago, Ill.
1940-1941	Radio engineer, Aircraft Accessories Corp., Kansas City, Kans.
1941-1943	Project manager, Crosley Corp., Cincinnati, Ohio
1943	Assistant chief engineer, Research Construction Co., MIT Radiation Laboratory, Cambridge, Mass.
1943-1944	Private, 161st Airborne Engineers, U.S. Army
1944-1945	Assistant Chief Engineer, Research Construction Co., MIT Radiation Lab, Cambridge, Mass.
1945-1946	Senior Research Engineer, Raytheon Manufacturing Co., Waltham, Mass.
1946-1950	Chief, Industry Branch for the Civil Communications Section, serving under the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers, Tokyo, Japan
1950-1957	Principal consultant for Booz, Allen & Hamilton, New York, N.Y.
1957-1977	Employed in several capacities before retiring as director of engineering communications, International Business Machines Corp., Armonk, N.Y.
1978-1980	Technical advisor, assistant secretary for science and technology, U.S. Department of Commerce
1980	Retired, independent consultant
2001, Sept. 28	Died, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Homer Sarasohn (1916-2001) span the years 1936-2001 and cover a variety of topics concerning industrial quality control. The papers are organized into the following series: [Civil Communications Section](#), [Personal File](#), and [Speeches and Writings](#). Recruited by the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Sarasohn served with the Civil Communications Section, which sought to restore communications manufacturing in Japan after World War II. Sarasohn led training courses for executives in Japanese manufacturing, which influenced management and quality control principles in Japan for the following decades. Japanese material is included in this collection.

The [Civil Communications Section](#) series contains copies of the course training book, *Fundamentals of Industrial Management*, with copies of the original version, the personal copy of Yukio Maeda, a Japanese translated copy, and an updated typed copy of the course. Other material includes copies of memoranda from the Headquarters of the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers, photographs of Sarasohn and his classes, and other publications born out of the CCS training courses.

The [Personal File](#) contains primarily biographical material and correspondence. Included in the biographical material are Sarasohn's employment history, military documents such as discharge papers, and material collected while employed at International Business Machines Corporation and post-retirement. Years after his CCS courses, Sarasohn reestablished contact with one of his students, Masaharu Matsushita, and included in his correspondence with him are photographs of the two during a conference in Arizona. Sarasohn's correspondence with Kenneth Hopper and Myron Tribus relate primarily to Hopper's and Tribus's articles, while his miscellaneous correspondence covers a variety of topics. The interviews are related to quality control management and Japan.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) file contains articles and speeches by Homer Sarasohn which cover a number of topics relating to Japan, the CCS, and quality control management. Sarasohn also collected material covering the same topics by other authors.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Civil Communications Section \(CCS\), 1946-1998](#)
- [Personal File, 1936-1997](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1994-2001](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-2

Civil Communications Section, 1946-1998

Course books written in English and Japanese, memoranda, photographs, and publications.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 3-4

Personal File, 1936-1997

Correspondence, interviews, and biographical material such as school transcripts and military documents.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 4-5

Speeches and Writings, 1944-2001

Articles and speeches by Sarasohn and others.
Works by others organized separately according to topic, occasion, or category.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2	Civil Communications Section, 1946-1998 Course books written in English and Japanese, memoranda, photographs, and publications. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 1	<i>Fundamentals of Industrial Management</i>
BOX 1	Japanese Translation, circa 1949 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Maeda, Yukio personal copy, circa 1949
BOX 1	Original version, 1949 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Typed scripts
BOX 1	Draft 1997
BOX 1	1 of 2
BOX 2	2 of 2
BOX 2	Final, 1998
BOX 2	Memoranda, 1946-1950 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Photographs, 1946-1950
BOX 2	Publications
BOX 2	<i>Industrial Application of Statistical Quality Control</i> , circa 1950
BOX 2	Management seminar, 1993
BOX 3-4	Personal File, 1936-1997 Correspondence, interviews, and biographical material such as school transcripts and military documents. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 3	Biographical
BOX 3	Employment history, 1969-1993
BOX 3	International Business Machines Corp., 1940-1965
BOX 3	Military papers, 1943-1950
BOX 3	Photographs, 1936-1991
BOX 3	Post-retirement, 1978-1994
BOX 3	School transcript, 1977
	Correspondence
BOX 3	Hopper, Kenneth, 1982-1999
BOX 3	Matsushita, Masaharu, 1984-1996
BOX 3	Miscellaneous, 1985-2000
BOX 3	Tribus, Myron, 1982-1997 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Interviews, 1989-1990

Personal File, 1936-1997

Container

Contents

BOX 4	Miscellany, 1946-1995 (3 folders)
BOX 4-5	Speeches and Writings, 1944-2001 Articles and speeches by Sarasohn and others. Works by others organized seperately according to topic, occasion, or category.
BOX 4	By Sarasohn
BOX 4	Articles, 1995-1997, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Speeches, 1984-1995
BOX 5	By others
BOX 5	Biographies of Sarasohn, 1967-2001 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Conferences, 1989-1999
BOX 5	General interest, 1944-1995 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Japanese authors, 1984-1993