

Holden Chester Richardson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval
Historical Foundation Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Collection Summary

Title: Holden Chester Richardson Papers

Span Dates: 1844-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1897-1944)

ID No.: MSS53124

Creator: Richardson, Holden Chester, 1878-1960

Extent: 3,600 items; 13 containers; 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer. General and family correspondence, speeches, articles, book material, subject files, and miscellany relating primarily to Richardson's activities in aeronautics.

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

Fechet, James E. (James Edmond), b. 1877--Correspondence.

King, Ernest Joseph, 1878-1956--Correspondence.

Pace, Ernest M. (Ernest Milton)--Correspondence.

Packard, Edward T.--Correspondence.

Richardson family--Correspondence.

Richardson, Holden Chester, 1878-

Wenzinger, Carl J. (Carl Joseph), 1903-1988--Correspondence.

Yates, Isaac I.--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Navy--Aviation.

Subjects

Aeronautics.

Naval aviation.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Holden Chester Richardson, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1967 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Holden Chester Richardson were arranged and described in 1971. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1980 the Library published *Hilary Pollard Jones, Holden Chester Richardson: Registers of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Holden Chester Richardson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Holden Chester Richardson 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, Holden Chester Richardson Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1878, Dec.7	Born, Shamokin, Pa.
1901	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1901-1904	Duty in USS <i>Massachusetts</i>
circa 1906	Married Margaret Jones (later divorced)
1907	M.S. degree, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1912	Duty as naval constructor
1915	Designated naval aviator
1916-1918	Construction officer, Pensacola, Fla.
1919	Pilot, Plane NC-3, transatlantic flight
1919-1923	Chief engineer, Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, Pa.
1923-1929	Member, Bureau of Aeronautics, U.S. Navy
1926	Promoted to captain
1928	Published <i>Aircraft Float Design</i> . New York: Ronald Press Co.
1929	Retired from the U.S. Navy
1929-1933	Director of engineering, Allied Motor Industries, Chicago, Ill.
1934	Recalled to active duty
1934-1946	Duty in the Bureau of Aeronautics

1942	Published with Wellwood E. Beall and Charles W. Manly <i>Flying Boats</i> . New York: National Aeronautics Council
1943	Married Diana Rawlings
1952	Released from active duty
1960 Sept. 2	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Holden C. Richardson (1878-1960) span the years 1844-1946, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1897-1944. The papers relate chiefly to Richardson's career and services in the field of aeronautics and consist of general and family correspondence, speeches, writings, a subject file, photographs, and other papers.

The subject files include blueprints, charts, reports, and patents documenting Richardson's contribution in the field of aeronautics and naval aviation. He was one of the first naval pilots, and he flew test flights of naval aircraft. His patents for floats for airplanes and an airplane catapult used for launching seaplanes from battleships are in the subject file. In the 1930s he worked with several companies that attempted to design airplanes that would be powered by steam.

The family correspondence consists chiefly of Richardson's letters to his parents, brother, and sister, 1897-1917. For the 1936-1937 period it contains letters from Diana Rawlings, who was to become his second wife. Richardson's early letters to his parents discuss his social activities and his studies and cruises while he was a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy. The general correspondence consists of incoming letters, carbons of outgoing letters concerning both official and personal matters, and reports and memoranda. Correspondents include James E. Fechet, Ernest Joseph King, Ernest M. Pace, Edward T. Packard, Carl J. Wenzinger, and Isaac I. Yates.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Aviator flight logbooks and report, 1919-1945 (3 vols. and unbound report)
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	1907-1944, June (7 folders)
BOX 2	1944, July-1945 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Family correspondence
BOX 2	1897-1899 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1900-1902 (8 folders)
BOX 4	1903-1919, undated (7 folders)
BOX 5	Writings
BOX 5	"Airplane Banking"
BOX 5	"Big Flying Boats"
BOX 5	"Experiments with Models of Hulls for Hydro-Aeroplanes for the United States Navy"
BOX 5	"Factors Involved in High Airplane Speed at Great Altitudes," 1920
BOX 5	"History of Naval Aviation," unpublished book
BOX 5	Typed draft (2 folders)
BOX 5	Holograph notes
BOX 5	Note cards (2 folders)
BOX 6	Note cards
BOX 7	Note cards
BOX 7	"Hydromechanic Experiments With Flying Boat Hulls," 1914
BOX 7	"A New Disease, Navy Fever"
BOX 7	"Prophecy in Retrospect," <i>Southern Flight</i> , with notes and illustrations, 1943
BOX 7	"St. Pierre, Martinique"
BOX 7	"Steam Power Plant for Aircraft"
BOX 7	"Tank Testing of Models of Seaplane Floats"
BOX 7	"What Naval Architecture Can Teach the Aeronautical Engineer"
BOX 8	Subject files
BOX 8	Aeronautics
BOX 8	Air force and moment for design no. 91 amphibian
BOX 8	Air craft design
BOX 8	Airplane horsepower curves
BOX 8	Bureau of Aeronautics, material design
BOX 8	Cabin plane

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 8	Front view
BOX 8	Plan view
BOX 8	Side view
BOX 8	Curtiss geared conqueror engine
BOX 8	Design of airplane hull and floats (2 folders)
BOX 8	“Developable Surfaces in Naval Architecture”
BOX 8	E. H. P. velocity curves (2 folders)
BOX 9	Eiffel design
BOX 9	Floats
BOX 9	Aircraft design floats
BOX 9	Beam formula to determine proportions
BOX 9	Float and boat designs
BOX 9	Service floats and boats
BOX 9	Curves of lift and drift for airplane float model no. 1845
BOX 9	PBN-triple float
BOX 9	Seaplane floats
BOX 9	Great Lakes Aircraft Corp.
BOX 9	Amphibian landing gear
BOX 9	Cirrus engine data
BOX 9	Diesel engines
BOX 9	McDonnell airplane
BOX 9	Model amphibian hull
BOX 9	Steam power plant calculations
BOX 9	Steam power plant for aircraft and marine installation
BOX 10	Hydrofoils data
BOX 10	Hydroplane
BOX 10	Hydrovane
BOX 10	Liberty engines
BOX 10	Airplane design chart, speed
BOX 10	HD-4, report
BOX 10	NC flying boat, report
BOX 10	Outboard motor
BOX 10	PB-1 (Boeing patrol boat), reports
BOX 10	Pontoon for use with Burgess-Wright airplane
BOX 10	Propellers
BOX 10	Design (2 folders)
BOX 10	Powerplants
BOX 10	Three-bladed air propeller
BOX 10	Two-bladed air propeller (2 folders)
BOX 10	R.A.F.6
BOX 11	Resistance of cabin fuselage with various windshields
BOX 11	System of steam generation as applied to airplane power units
BOX 11	Transatlantic flying boat
BOX 11	U.S. patents

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 11	"Airplane catapult," 1928
BOX 11	"Float for aeroplanes," 1916-1917
BOX 11	Patents of others, 1885-1933
BOX 11	Wind tunnel tests on airplane wheel cowlings
BOX 11	Wing stress analysis
BOX 11	Miscellaneous blueprints, charts, and reports (3 folders)
BOX 12	Miscellany
BOX 12	Biographical file
BOX 12	Certificates and a commission
BOX 12	Miscellaneous items including calling cards, invitations, programs, and a notebook
BOX 12	Naval academy, Annapolis, Md.
BOX 12	Academic class reports
BOX 12	Announcements, programs, pay voucher, account statement
BOX 12	Class papers
BOX 12	Examinations
BOX 12	Material related to social life
BOX 13	Newspaper clippings, 1844-1946 (2 folders)
BOX 13	Photographs
BOX 13	Printed matter, 1911-1946 (7 folders)