

# **Grover Cleveland Loening**

**A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress**

**Revised and expanded from the published register of 1959  
by Margaret McAleer**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2007**

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress  
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms007101>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Grover Cleveland Loening Papers

**Span Dates:** 1900-1975

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1913-1962)

**ID No.:** MSS30437

**Creator:** Loening, Grover Cleveland, 1888-1976

**Extent:** 25,800 items; 72 containers; 34.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Businessman, engineer, airplane manufacturer, and author. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, plans and drawings, notes, photographs, patents, legal documents, speeches and writings, scrapbooks, clippings, and printed matter documenting Loening's career in aviation.

## 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.

### Personal Names

Aldrich, Winthrop W. (Winthrop William), b. 1885--Correspondence.

Astor, Vincent, 1891-1959--Correspondence.

Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957--Correspondence.

Eaker, Ira, 1896-1987--Correspondence.

Hopkins, Harry Lloyd, 1890-1946--Correspondence.

Kennedy, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1888-1969--Correspondence.

Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974.

Loening, Grover Cleveland, 1888-

Mellon, Andrew W. (Andrew William), 1855-1937--Correspondence.

Mitchell, William, 1879-1936--Correspondence.

Rickenbacker, Eddie, 1890-1973--Correspondence.

Rockefeller, Winthrop, 1912-1973--Correspondence.

Sikorsky, Igor Ivan, 1889-1972--Correspondence.

Vanderbilt, Harold S. (Harold Stirling), 1884-1970--Correspondence.

Wright, Orville, 1871-1948--Correspondence.

Wright, Wilbur, 1867-1912--Correspondence.

### Organizations

All American Aviation (Firm)

Columbia University--Students.

Curtiss-Wright Corporation.

Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation.

Grover Loening Aircraft Company.

Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation.

National Air Museum (U.S.)

New York Airways, Inc.

Pan American Airways Corporation.

Platt-LePage Aircraft Corporation.

Sturtevant Aeroplane Company.

United States. Army. Signal Corps. Aviation Section.

United States. National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

United States. President's Air Policy Commission.

United States. War Production Board.

Wright Aeronautical Corporation.

**Subjects**

Aeronautics.  
Aircraft industry--United States.  
Flight.  
Helicopters.

**Locations**

Antarctica--Discovery and exploration.

**Occupations**

Aircraft manufacturers.  
Authors.  
Aviation consultants.  
Engineers.

## Administrative Information

**Provenance:**

The papers of Grover Cleveland Loening, businessman, engineer, airplane manufacturer, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Loening between 1956 and 1975.

**Processing History:**

The papers of Grover Cleveland Loening were arranged and described in 1959. The collection was expanded and revised in 1996 and this register revised in 2007. A description of the Loening Papers appears in the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, 14 (May 1957): 123.

**Transfers:**

A sound recording of a speech on aviation delivered by Loening in 1961 has been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where it is identified as part of the Grover Cleveland Loening Papers. Duplicate photographs were transferred to the Smithsonian Institution in 1959.

**Copyright Status:**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Grover Cleveland Loening in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

**Preferred Citation:**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Grover Cleveland Loening Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1888, Sept. 12	Born, Bremen, Germany
1908	B.S., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1910	M.A., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1911	Published <i>Monoplanes and Biplanes: Their Design, Construction and Operation</i> (New York: Munn & Co. 331pp.)

1911-1912 Chief engineer, Queen Aeroplane Co.

1913-1914 Chief engineer and general manager, Wright Aeronautical Co.

1914-1916 Chief aeronautical engineer, United States Army Signal Corps, Aviation Section

1915 Published *Military Aeroplanes* (San Diego: Frye & Smith. 17 pp.)

1916-1917 Vice president and general manager, Sturtevant Aeroplane Co.

1917-1918 President, Loening Aeronautical Engineering Corp.

1919 Awarded Distinguished Service Award by the War Department for the design of a two-seater fighting plane

1921 Awarded Wright and Collier trophies for the *Loening Monoplane Flying Yacht*

1922 Founder and president, Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America

1923 Designed the *Loening Cabin Amphibian* airplane

1928 Designed the *Loening Air Yacht*, a six-passenger amphibian airplane  
Merger, Loening Aeronautical Engineering Corp. and Curtiss-Wright Corp.

1928-1929 Director and consulting engineer, Curtiss-Wright Corp.

1929 Director, Roosevelt Field, Mineola, N.Y.

1930 Married Marka Truesdale (divorced 1940)

1930-1938 President, Grover Loening Aircraft Co.

1935 Published *Our Wings Grow Faster* (Garden City, N.J.: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 203 pp.)

1937-1938 Aeronautical advisor, United States Maritime Commission

1938-1975 Consulting engineer for the United States government and private industries after retiring from aircraft manufacturing

1939 Director and consulting engineer, All American Aviation

1942-1945 Aircraft consultant, War Production Board

1942-1943 Technical consultant and coordinator, British Aircraft Engineering Mission headed by Roy Fedden

1945 Appointed to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics  
Consultant for the United States Navy on experimental aircraft

1947 Chief of research, President's Air Policy Commission

1948 Awarded Medal for Merit

1948-1970	Member, National Air Museum Advisory Board
1950	Awarded Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy
1951-1969	Director and consultant, New York Airways
1955	Published <i>Fifty Years of Flying Progress</i> (Washington, D.C. 216 pp.)
1960	Awarded Daniel Guggenheim Medal, Society of Automotive Engineers
1966	Published <i>Takeoff Into Greatness: How American Aviation Grew So Big So Fast</i> (New York: Putnam. 256 pp.)
1970	Published <i>The Conquering Wing</i> (Philadelphia: Chilton Book Co. 196 pp.)
1973	Published <i>Amphibian: The Story of the Loening Biplane</i> (Greenwich, Conn.: New York Graphic Society. 196 pp.)
1976, Apr. 30	Died, Miami, Fla.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Grover Cleveland Loening (1888-1976) span the years 1900-1975, with the bulk of material dating from 1913 to 1962. The collection documents Loening's career as an aircraft engineer, manufacturer, businessman, and consultant. The papers are arranged in seven series: [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Clippings](#), [Photographs](#), [Scrapbooks](#), [1957 Addition](#), and [1996 Addition](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) series documents the development of Loening's interest in aviation while a student at Columbia University; his early employment with the Wright Aeronautical Corporation, the Aviation Section of the United States Army Signal Corps, and the Sturtevant Aeroplane Company; and the subsequent establishment of his own aircraft companies. The series includes letters from Wilbur and Orville Wright as well as Loening's correspondence as chief engineer for the Wright Aeronautical Corporation which discusses many aspects of the company's work from 1913 to 1914. There are numerous letters to and from Richard Evelyn Byrd between 1925 and 1930, many regarding Byrd's first Antarctic expedition. Other correspondents include Winthrop W. Aldrich, Vincent Astor, Ira Eaker, Harry Hopkins, Joseph P. Kennedy, Andrew W. Mellon, William Mitchell, Eddie Rickenbacker, Winthrop Rockefeller, Igor Ivan Sikorsky, and Harold S. Vanderbilt.

The [Subject File](#) contains patents, drawings, reports, and promotional literature pertaining to a number of Loening's aircraft designs, most notably his amphibian planes. The series also includes material relating to various consulting contracts following his retirement as president of the Grover Loening Aircraft Company in 1938. Many of Loening's articles and speeches are included in the [Subject File](#), along with drafts and related correspondence concerning *Monoplanes and Biplanes*, Loening's master's thesis; *Military Aeroplanes*, a military training manual; and *Our Wings Grow Faster*. Additional speeches and writings can be found in the [1957 Addition](#) and the [1996 Addition](#).

The collection includes a large [Photograph](#) series depicting the construction and testing of aircraft designed by Loening and others. A [Clippings](#) file, dating primarily from the mid-1920s, and twenty-five [scrapbooks](#) deal with almost every aspect of aeronautical interest as well as Loening's own company. The scrapbooks cover the years 1918-1920, 1928-1930, and 1939-1941 and include clippings on Richard Evelyn Byrd's expedition and material on Charles A. Lindbergh.

The [1996 Addition](#) largely concerns Loening's career after 1942. The bulk of the addition consists of a chronological file containing correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, photographs, clippings, and other printed matter. Much of this material concerns Loening's activities as a consultant for the United States government and private industry. His appointments to the War Production Board, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, President's Air Policy Commission, and the National Air Museum Advisory Board are well documented. Significant amounts of material concern Loening's involvement

with All American Aviation, Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, New York Airways, Pan American Airways Corporation, and Platt-LePage Aircraft Corporation. A small subject file relates to a number of these activities in addition to Loening's investigation of early helicopter design and production.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1900-1942](#)
- [Subject File, circa 1910-1942](#)
- [Clippings, circa 1910-1942](#)
- [Photographs, circa 1914-1954](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1918-1941](#)
- [1957 Addition, 1907-1956](#)
- [1996 Addition, 1903-1975](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-13	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1900-1942</u></b> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 14-19	<b><u>Subject File, circa 1910-1942</u></b> Correspondence, reports, drawings, notes, patents, speeches, drafts of books, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 20-40	<b><u>Clippings, circa 1910-1942</u></b> Clippings. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Miscellaneous clippings are filed at the end.
BOX 34-40	<b><u>Photographs, circa 1914-1954</u></b> Photographs. Arranged in a chronological file, a topical file, an unorganized grouping, and oversize material.
BOX 41-54	<b><u>Scrapbooks, 1918-1941</u></b> Clippings from newspapers and magazines mounted in twenty-five scrapbooks. Arranged chronologically in each volume.
BOX 55-58	<b><u>1957 Addition, 1907-1956</u></b> Correspondence, reports, speeches, articles, patents, legal documents, and printed matter. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 59-72	<b><u>1996 Addition, 1903-1975</u></b> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, notes, photographs, plans, patents, drafts of speeches and articles, and printed matter. Arranged in a chronological file, a subject file, and writings and speeches.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-13</b>	<b>General Correspondence, 1900-1942</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by month.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1900-1914
<b>BOX 2</b>	1915-1916
<b>BOX 3</b>	1917-1918
<b>BOX 4</b>	1919-1922
<b>BOX 5</b>	1923-1924
<b>BOX 6</b>	1925, Jan.-1926, Apr.
<b>BOX 7</b>	1926, May-1927, Apr.
<b>BOX 8</b>	1927, May-1928, Aug.
<b>BOX 9</b>	1928, Sept.-1930, Dec.
<b>BOX 10</b>	1931-1934
<b>BOX 11</b>	1935, Jan.-1936, May
<b>BOX 12</b>	1936, June-1938, Dec.
<b>BOX 13</b>	1939-1942, n.d.
<b>BOX 14-19</b>	<b>Subject File, circa 1910-1942</b> Correspondence, reports, drawings, notes, patents, speeches, drafts of books, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
<b>BOX 14</b>	Aeroplane Design Study, circa 1913-1914
<b>BOX 14</b>	Air Youth of America, 1938
<b>BOX 14</b>	Alaskan Aerial Survey Expedition, 1927
<b>BOX 14</b>	American Society of Aeronautic Engineers, 1915-1917
<b>BOX 14</b>	Articles, 1927-1930
<b>BOX 14</b>	Bermuda
<b>BOX 14</b>	Blueprints
<b>BOX 14</b>	Brochures
<b>BOX 14</b>	<i>Cabin Amphibian</i>
<b>BOX 14</b>	Civil Aeronautics Board
<b>BOX 14</b>	Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corp., landing gear patent
<b>BOX 14</b>	Design for the Russian Navy's hydroaeroplane competition, 1915
<b>BOX 14</b>	Drawings, Loening Aeronautical Engineering Corp., 1923-1924
<b>BOX 14</b>	Electric Boat Co.
<b>BOX 14</b>	European trip, 1929-1930
<b>BOX 14</b>	Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corp.
<b>BOX 14</b>	Guggenheim-Lindbergh investigation for the Commerce Department
<b>BOX 14</b>	Harriman (W. A.) & Co.
<b>BOX 15</b>	Joanass Plum
<b>BOX 15</b>	<i>Loening Air Yacht</i>

## Subject File, circa 1910-1942

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 15	McSwain, John Jackson, House of Representatives Military Affairs Committee
BOX 15	<i>Military Aeroplanes</i> , financial papers <i>See also Container 19, same heading</i>
BOX 15	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, "Jet Propulsion For Airplanes"
BOX 15	National Intercollegiate Flying Club
BOX 15	Navy Department
BOX 15	Contracts
BOX 15	Moffett, W. A.
BOX 15	New York, N.Y., sea plane ramp
BOX 15	New York-Newport Air Service
BOX 15	New York University, New York, N.Y.
BOX 15	<i>Our Wings Grow Faster</i> , draft
BOX 15	Palm Beach Airport, Palm Beach, Fla.
BOX 15	Pan American Airways Corp.
BOX 15	Patents
BOX 15	Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Co.
BOX 15	President's Board of Aircraft Inquiry, 1925
BOX 16	Queen Aeroplane Co., experiments and notes
BOX 16	<i>Racketeer</i> (yacht)
BOX 16	Reports
BOX 16	Rifflard, George, airplane frame patent
BOX 16	Roosevelt, Franklin D., and aviation, 1938-1940 <i>See also Container 19, Presidential campaign, and Container 71, Roosevelt, Franklin D.</i>
BOX 16	San Diego, Calif., United States Army Signal Corps, Aviation Section, drawings, 1914-1915
BOX 16	Schedule 900-735, Eberhart Aeroplane and Motor Co.
BOX 16	Schneider Trophy Race
BOX 16	Spear, L. Y., re arming amphibians, 1925
BOX 17	Speeches
BOX 17	Sturtevant Aeroplane Co. <i>See also Container 19, same heading</i>
BOX 17	Submarine plane
BOX 17	Tests
BOX 17	Thesis, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
BOX 17	Trippe, J. T., statement
BOX 17	Vanderbilt, Harold S.
BOX 17	W. A. Harriman & Co. <i>See Container 14, Harriman (W. A.) &amp; Co.</i>
BOX 17	Wright Aeronautical Co.
BOX 18	Miscellany
BOX 19	Oversize material
BOX 19	Collier Trophy
BOX 19	<i>Military Aeroplanes</i> , manuscripts and drawings <i>See also Container 15, same heading</i>
BOX 19	Presidential campaign, 1940 <i>See also Container 16, Roosevelt, Franklin D.</i>
BOX 19	Sturtevant Aeroplane Co. <i>See also Container 17, same heading</i>
BOX 20-40	<b>Clippings, circa 1910-1942</b> Clippings. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Miscellaneous clippings are filed at the end.
BOX 20	A

## Clippings, circa 1910-1942

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 21	B
BOX 22	C
BOX 23	D-G
BOX 24	I-L
BOX 25	M-New York, N.Y.
BOX 26	New York, N.Y.-O
BOX 27	P-R
BOX 28	S-Transoceanic
BOX 29	T-Z
BOX 30	Miscellany
BOX 31	Miscellany
BOX 32	Miscellany
BOX 33	Miscellany
BOX 34-40	<b>Photographs, circa 1914-1954</b> Photographs. Arranged in a chronological file, a topical file, an unorganized grouping, and oversize material.
BOX 34	Circa 1914-1927
BOX 35	1928-1954
BOX 36	<i>Our Wings Grow Faster</i>
BOX 36	<i>Military Aeroplanes</i>
BOX 37	Various amphibians
BOX 37	<i>Loening Air Yacht</i>
BOX 37	<i>Loening Cabin Amphibian</i>
BOX 37	<i>Loening Commuter</i>
BOX 37	Single-wheel amphibian
BOX 38	Non-amphibian type planes
BOX 38	Mapping of Raining Lake district
BOX 38	Alaskan Aerial Survey Expedition, 1927
BOX 38	Davison, Frederick Trubee, flight to Panama
BOX 38	Various negatives
BOX 39	Miscellany
BOX 40	Oversize
BOX 41-54	<b>Scrapbooks, 1918-1941</b> Clippings from newspapers and magazines mounted in twenty-five scrapbooks. Arranged chronologically in each volume.
BOX 41	1918-1920
BOX 42	1932-1933
BOX 43	1929
BOX 43	Jan.-June
BOX 44	June-Nov.
BOX 45	1928-1930, Charles A. Lindberg, Richard Evelyn Byrd, and aircraft advertisements
BOX 46	1929-1930
BOX 47	1937, Dec.-1938, Dec.

## Scrapbooks, 1918-1941

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 48	1941, Feb.-Mar.
BOX 49	1940, Aug.-1941, Apr.
BOX 50	1940, Nov.-1941, Feb.
BOX 51	1939, Jan.-Mar.
BOX 52	1939, Apr.-Nov
BOX 53	1939, Dec.-1940, July
BOX 54	1940-1941
BOX 55-58	<b>1957 Addition, 1907-1956</b> Correspondence, reports, speeches, articles, patents, legal documents, and printed matter. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 55	General correspondence, 1938-1942
BOX 55	"A-P" (14 folders)
BOX 56	"R-Z" (7 folders)
BOX 56	All American Aviation, 1938-1942
BOX 56	Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp., 1932-1936
BOX 56	<i>Our Wings Grow Faster</i> , correspondence, 1935-1936
BOX 56	Railroad and air freight operations, 1937-1941
BOX 56	Speeches
BOX 56	"Air Cargo Shipping," 1942
BOX 56	"The Development of Amphibian Airplanes," 1926
BOX 57	Speeches, articles, and reports, 1919-1956
BOX 58	Patents, legal documents, and printed matter, 1907-1953, n.d.
BOX 59-72	<b>1996 Addition, 1903-1975</b> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, notes, photographs, plans, patents, drafts of speeches and articles, and printed matter. Arranged in a chronological file, a subject file, and writings and speeches.
BOX 59	Chronological file
BOX 59	1903-1941, Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 60	1941, Apr.-1943, July (7 folders)
BOX 61	1943, Aug.-1946 (8 folders)
BOX 62	1947-1949 (9 folders)
BOX 63	1950-1952 (7 folders)
BOX 64	1953-1955 (7 folders)
BOX 65	1956-1959 (8 folders)

## 1996 Addition, 1903-1975

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 66	1960-1962 (7 folders)
BOX 67	1963-1973 (10 folders)
BOX 68	1974-1975, Apr., and undated (2 folders)
BOX 68	Subject file
BOX 68	All American Aviation, 1945-1947
BOX 68	Biographical information, n.d.
BOX 68	British Aircraft Engineering Mission, 1942-1943 (2 folders)
BOX 68	Hall of Fame, New York University, New York, N.Y., Wright brothers installation, 1967-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 68	Harding, William Barclay, memorial fund, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1968-1969 (2 folders)
BOX 69	Helicopters
BOX 69	Clippings, 1941-1945, n.d.
BOX 69	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Subcommittee on Helicopters, 1938-1946, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 69	Photographs, 1942-1964, n.d.
BOX 69	War Production Board, 1943-1944, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 69	Writings and statements by others, 1944-1947, n.d.
BOX 69	<i>Monoduck</i> amphibian plane, 1933-1937
BOX 70	National Teenage Air Derby, Deland, Fla., 1968-1969
BOX 70	New York Airways, 1950-1967, n.d. (5 folders)
BOX 70	Patents and related legal documents, 1919-1939, n.d. (1 folder)
BOX 71	(4 folders)
BOX 71	President's Air Policy Commission, 1946-1947, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 71	Roosevelt, Franklin D., Loening's critique of Roosevelt's air program, 1940-1944, n.d. <i>See also Container 16, same heading</i>
BOX 72	United States Navy, 1943-1945, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 72	Writings and speeches
BOX 72	Articles, 1912-1974
BOX 72	Books
BOX 72	<i>Our Wings Grow Faster</i> , 1934-1937 (3 folders)
BOX 72	<i>Takeoff Into Greatness</i> , 1966-1967
BOX 72	Speeches, 1927-1974 (2 folders)