

# George W. Mixter Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Melinda K. Friend



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.  
Gardner, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009239>

# Collection Summary

Title: George W. Mixer Papers

Span Dates: 1855-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1933-1945)

ID No.: MSS85111

Creator: Mixer, George W. (George Webber), 1876-1947

Extent: 45 items; 4 containers; 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Navigation researcher and consulting engineer. Correspondence, writings, notes, lectures, ship's papers, problem sets, calculations, maps, and other papers chiefly relating to Mixer's contributions to the study of navigation.

## 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

Hellweg, Julius Frederick--Correspondence.

Mixer, George W. (George Webber), 1876-1947.

Robertson, James--Correspondence.

Shesta, John--Correspondence.

Weems, Philip Van Horn, b. 1889--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Teragram (Schooner)

### Subjects

Navigation.

Ship's papers--20th century.

Yachting--Bermuda Islands.

### Occupations

Engineers.

Researchers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of George W. Mixer, navigation researcher and consulting engineer, were transferred to the Library of Congress by the Historian's Office of the U. S. Coast Guard in 2004.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of George W. Mixer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of George W. Mixer 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, George W. Mixter Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1876, May 21	Born, Rock Island, Ill.
1895	Graduated, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1897-1917	Superintendent and vice president, Deere & Co., Moline, Ill.
1906	Married Florence Kilpatrick
1917-1919	Major and then colonel, U.S. Army Air Service
1918	Head, Air Service Claims Board
1919	Compiled with H. H. Emmons, <i>United States Army Aircraft Production Facts</i> . Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office
1919-1923	Partner, George W. Goethals & Co., New York, N.Y.
1923-1947	Vice president and director, Day & Zimmermann, Philadelphia, Pa.
1926	Developed interest in navigation while serving aboard a ship during the Bermuda Race
1930	Published <i>Position Tables</i> . New York
1932	Published <i>Position Tables and Work Forms, including Ageton's Tables H. O. No. 211</i> . New York
1934	Married Felicie Waldo Howell
1940	Published <i>Primer of Navigation, with Complete Tables and Work Forms and Special Information for Yachtsmen and Other Mariners</i> . New York: D. Van Nostrand Co.
1947, Jan. 29	Died, New York, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Webber Mixter (1876-1947) span the years 1855-1946, with the bulk of the material dating from 1933 to 1945. The collection consists of correspondence, writings, notes, problem sets, and calculations relating to Mixter's study of navigation. Correspondence from the 1930s documents his efforts to improve and simplify existing works on navigation such as *Air Almanac* and *Nautical Almanac* that culminated in the publication of Mixter's *Primer of Navigation, with Complete Tables and Work Forms and Special Information for Yachtsmen and Other*

*Mariners* in 1940. Correspondents include Philip Van Horn Weems; Julius Frederick Hellweg, superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.; James Robertson, director of the *Nautical Almanac*; and John Shesta. The book became the standard textbook on navigation not only for the American forces during World War II, but also for professional and amateur navigators. The printed matter contains annotations by Mixter. Papers relating to his schooner *Teragram* include the contract for its construction, navigation workbooks used during the Bermuda Races of 1932 and 1934, and correspondence.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Address book, 1937
BOX 1	<i>Air Almanac 1933</i> , 1932-1934
BOX 1	<i>American Air Almanac 1941</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1940-1942
BOX 1	Notes, 1941
BOX 1	<i>Astronomical Ephemeris for the Use of Navigators for 1858</i> , 1855, 1941
BOX 1	Design for a nautical almanac for the year 1944, 1944-1945
BOX 1	Institute of Navigation, 1946
BOX 1	Lecture, "Lighthouses in the Sky or Navigation at Sea," Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., 1938
BOX 1	"Mariner's Mathematics," 1944-1945
BOX 2	Miscellany, undated
BOX 2	<i>Primer of Navigation, with Complete Tables and Work Forms and Special Information for Yachtsmen and Other Mariners</i>
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1937
BOX 2	Master problems, 1936-1941 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Original problems, 1936-1941 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Sights, 1936-1941
BOX 2	P30-P68
BOX 3	P69-P108
BOX 3	Printed matter
BOX 3	1930-1932, 1941-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 4	1944-1945
BOX 4	<i>Teragram</i> (schooner)
BOX 4	Building contract and other records, 1928-1938, undated
BOX 4	Navigator's workbook, 1932-1934 (2 folders)