

Henry Croskey Mustin 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>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
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Collection Summary

Title: Henry Croskey Mustin Papers

Span Dates: 1886-1924

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1903-1920)

ID No.: MSS52860

Creator: Mustin, Henry Croskey, 1874-1923

Extent: 2,400 items; 8 containers; 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer and inventor. Correspondence, journals, lectures, articles, and other papers relating to Mustin's inventions, especially his work in sighting equipment for naval ordnance and his interest 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.

People

Benson, William Shepherd, 1855-1932--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Mustin, Corinne M., b. 1887--Correspondence.

Mustin, Henry Croskey, 1874-1923.

Saegmuller, George N. George Nicholas, 1847-1934--Correspondence.

Sims, William Sowden, 1858-1936--Correspondence.

Stayton, William H.--Correspondence.

Watson, John Crittenden, 1842-1923--Correspondence.

Wilkinson, Ernest--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Aviation Mission.

United States. Navy--Aviation.

United States. Navy. Pacific Fleet. Air Force.

Subjects

Aeronautics.

Naval aviation.

Ordnance, Naval.

Places

Naval Air Station Pensacola (Fla.)

Occupations

Inventors.

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Henry Croskey Mustin, naval officer and inventor, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1962 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Henry Croskey Mustin were arranged and described in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1973, the Library published *Colby Mitchell Chester, William Freeland Fullam, Samuel McGowan, Henry Croskey Mustin: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress Naval Historical Foundation Collection*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Henry Croskey Mustin is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry Croskey Mustin 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, Henry Croskey Mustin Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1874, Feb. 6	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1896	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty in USS <i>New York</i> (armored cruiser)
1898	Duty in USS <i>Cushing</i> (torpedo boat)
1899	Commanded USS <i>Samar</i> (gunboat), Asiatic Station
1900	Duty in USS <i>Brooklyn</i> (armored cruiser)
1901	Duty in USS <i>Newark</i> (cruiser)
1902	Duty at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1905	Duty at the Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C.
1906	Duty in USS <i>Brooklyn</i> (armored cruiser)
1907	Married Corinne DeForest Montague
1909	Duty at the Philadelphia, Pa., Navy Yard Promoted to lieutenant commander
1913	Duty in USS <i>Minnesota</i> (battleship)

1915	Commanded Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. Designated naval aviator
1917	Duty in USS <i>North Dakota</i> (battleship)
1918	Commissioned captain
1919	Member, American Aviation Mission to Great Britain, France, and Italy
1919-1920	Commanded USS <i>Aroostok</i> (minelayer) and Air Detachment, United States Pacific Fleet
1921	Assistant chief, Navy Department, Bureau of Aeronautics
1923, Aug. 23	Died, Newport, R.I.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Croskey Mustin (1874-1923) span the years 1886-1924, with the bulk of the material falling between the years 1903 and 1920. The collection consists of journals, correspondence, subject files, lectures and articles, and miscellaneous material chiefly relating to Mustin's inventions and his interest in the developing field of aviation.

In 1903 Mustin designed a turret sight mount; his continued improvements in telescopic ordnance sights made possible the long-range gunnery for battleships, then called dreadnoughts. In the invention file are letters from George N. Saegmuller concerning Mustin's inventions and royalties. There are also letters from Ernest Wilkinson concerning foreign and domestic patents on Mustin's inventions.

Mustin was one of the first naval officers to advocate air power for the United States Navy and commercial air service for the United States. He was a member of the American Aviation Mission to Great Britain, France and Italy to study and report on aviation organizations abroad; he aided in the establishment of an air base in Pensacola, Fla.; and later he commanded the Air Detachment, United States Pacific Fleet. He also testified before the United States Senate in support of a proposed Department of Air. As Mustin's interest in aeronautics increased, he designed a sea sled capable of launching landplanes at sea, water brakes, and other devices to improve seaplanes.

In the correspondence file are typed copies of Mustin's letters to his wife, Corinne M. Mustin. Among his correspondents are William Shepherd Benson, Mark L. Bristol, Josephus Daniels, William Sowden Sims, William H. Stayton, and John Crittenden Watson. The collection is organized by type of material.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged by type of material.

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BOX 1	Journal, USS <i>Samar</i> (gunboat), 1900
BOX 1	Date book, 1907
BOX 1	Aviators flight logbook, 1919, 1922
BOX 1	Journal, Air Detachment, United States Pacific Fleet
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BOX 3	Geometrical optics, undated
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BOX 5	Wilkinson, Ernest, 1904-1917
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BOX 6	"The Graphic Solution of Lens Problems," undated
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BOX 6	"The Naval Aeroplane," 1915
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BOX 6	United States Pacific Fleet Air Force, 1920-1921
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