Edward Lindley Bowles Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Bradley E. Gernand with the assistance of Patrick M. Kerwin and John R. Monagle



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

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Collection Summary

Title: Edward Lindley Bowles Papers Span Dates: 1869-1990 Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1982) ID No.: MSS67993 Creator: Bowles, Edward Lindley, 1897-1990 Extent: 32,200 items; 92 containers plus 1 classified; 36.8 linear feet Language: Collection material in English Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Abstract: Inventor, engineer and educator. Correspondence, memoranda, diaries, manuscripts, speeches, transcripts of recorded recollections, reports, minutes, subject files, notes, legal documents, printed material, photographs, and other papers relating primarily to Bowles's career as an engineer and consultant in private industry and in government, his association with research universities, and work relating to the securing and defense of patents.

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 Adams, Charles F. (Charles Francis), 1866-1954--Correspondence. Alexanderson, Ernst Fredrik Werner, 1878-1975. Archer, Gleason Leonard, 1880-1966. Gleason Leonard Archer papers. Armstrong, Edwin H. (Edwin Howard), 1890-1954. Arnold, Henry Harley, 1886-1950--Correspondence. Bowen, Harold Gardiner, 1883-1965--Correspondence. Bowles, Edward Lindley, 1897-1990. Bush, Vannevar, 1890-1974--Correspondence. Bush, Vannevar, 1890-1974. Cady, Walter G. (Walter Guyton), 1874-1974. Calosi, Carlo Luigi, 1905-1997--Correspondence. Calosi, Carlo Luigi, 1905-1997. Campbell, George A. (George Ashley), 1870-1954. George A. Campbell papers. Compton, K. T. (Karl Taylor), 1887-1954. Draper, C. S. (Charles Stark) Guillemin, Ernst A. (Ernst Adolph) Hayes, Hammond Vinton, 1860-1947. Hammond Vinton Hayes papers. King, Ernest Joseph, 1878-1956. Loomis, Alfred L. (Alfred Lee), 1887-1975--Correspondence. Morison, Samuel Eliot, 1887-1976. Nicholson, Alexander McLean. Pierce, George Washington, 1872-1956. Rines, David, 1884-1978. Stratton, Julius Adams, 1901-1994--Correspondence. Watson-Watt, Robert Alexander, Sir, 1892-1973--Correspondence. Watson-Watt, Robert Alexander, Sir, 1892-1973. Yarnell, Harry E. (Harry Ervin), 1875-1959. Harry E. Yarnell papers. Organizations Bell Telephone Company. Bentley College.

Kodály Musical Training Institute.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Round Hill Research Division. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. School of Industrial Management. Project Rand (United States. Air Force) Radio Corporation of America. Rand Corporation. Raytheon Company. Raytheon Company. Submarine Signal Division. Samson Electric Company. Sloan School of Management. Sperry Gyroscope Company, inc. Stockton Profile Gauge Corporation. United Artists Corporation. United States. Council of National Defense. National Defense Research Committee. United States. Dept. of Defense. United States. Office of Scientific Research and Development. National Defense Research Committee. United States. Office of Scientific Research and Development. National Defense Research Committee. Radiation Laboratory. United States. War Dept. White Consolidated Industries. Whitin Machine Works (Whitinsville, Mass.)

Subjects Anti-submarine warfare. Electrical engineering--Study and teaching. Electrical engineering. Korean War, 1950-1953. Military research. Military weapons. Patents. Radar. Strategy. Telephone systems. Television frequency allocation. Torpedoes. Universities and colleges--Massachusetts. World War, 1939-1945.

Places Westphalia (Mo.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations Educators. Engineers. Inventors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Edward Lindley Bowles, inventor, engineer and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by him in 1972 and 1988-1989. An addition was received from a family member in 1992.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1993. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Transfers

Sound and video recordings 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 Edward Lindley Bowles in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian for information concerning these restrictions.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified items.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date 1897, Dec. 9	<i>Event</i> Born, Westphalia, Mo.
1918	United States Army, Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., and Fort Sheridan, Ill.
1920	B.S., Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.
1921-1922	Radio editor, Boston Evening Transcript, Boston, Mass.
1922	Married Lois Wuerpel M.S., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1922-1925	Assistant instructor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1925-1927	Assistant professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1926-1937	Director, Round Hill Research Division, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, South Dartmouth, Mass.
1927-1937	Associate professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1937-1947	Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

1940-1942	Secretary, Microwave Committee, National Defense Research Committee, Cambridge, Mass.
1942-1947	Leave of absence, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Consultant to secretary of war
1943-1947	Consultant to commanding general, United States Army Air Forces
1945	D.Sc., Norwich University, Northfield, Vt. Distinguished Service Medal, United States Army Air Forces
1947-1957	Scientific consultant, United States Air Force
1947-1963	Consulting professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1947-1966	General consultant to president, Raytheon Co., Waltham, Mass.
1948	Honorary commander, civil division, Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Presidential Medal of Merit
1950-1952	Scientific warfare adviser, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, Office of the Secretary of Defense
1951-1954	Consultant to secretary of the army
1955-1958	Chairman, Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on [television] Allocations, Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
1959-1964	Director, Scientific Development Corp., Watertown, Mass.
1963-	Professor emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass
1964-1967	Consultant and special assistant to president, Analex Corp., Boston, Mass.
1965-1966	Director, Jarrell-Ash Co., Waltham, Mass.
1965-1966	President, Whitin Machine Works, Whitinsville, Mass.
1965-1968	Consultant, director, Anderson-Nichols & Co., Boston, Mass.
1966-1977	Director, White Consolidated Industries, Cleveland, Ohio
1968-1970	Chairman of the board and president, Information Transfer Corp., Wellesley, Mass.
1969-1977	Director, Bentley College, Waltham, Mass.
1970-1974	Director, Kodály Musical Training Institute, Wellesley, Mass.

1981- Trustee, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Newton, Mass.

1990, Sept. 9 Died, Weston, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward Lindley Bowles (1897-1990) span the years 1869-1990, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1920-1982. Every aspect of Bowles's life is documented extensively by these papers except for the time during which he directed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (M.I.T.) research station in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, for which there is relatively little record, and the last years of his life during which he suffered from Parkinson's disease.

Bowles was an inventor, educator, and consultant. He was associated with academic institutions, corporations, and government, often simultaneously. His scientific interests were focused, but the ways in which he manifested these interests were diverse. His papers, reflecting this diversity, are grouped into nine series: <u>Correspondence File</u>, <u>Subject File</u>, <u>Corporate File</u>, <u>Government File</u>, <u>University File</u>, <u>Patent File</u>, <u>Oral History File</u>, <u>Writings File</u>, and <u>Classified</u>.

Incoming and outgoing correspondence of a general nature make up the <u>Correspondence File</u>, including a reading file of outgoing material documenting more than two decades of Bowles's life.

The <u>Subject File</u> consists of a broad range of information not confined to any one institution, activity, or time in Bowles's life. There are files for Vannevar Bush and Carlo Luigi Calosi, each mentioned elsewhere in these papers, but each of whom Bowles knew in more than one institution or activity. There are also files regarding the Italian magnetic torpedo (Siluro Italiano Calosi) of World War II, Samuel Eliot Morison, David Rines, and Sir Robert Alexander Watson-Watt. Also, these files contain papers of Gleason Leonard Archer, president of Suffolk University; George A. Campbell, a prominent early inventor in telephone communications; Hammond Vinton Hayes, former chief engineer of American Telephone and Telegraph Company; and Admiral Harry E. Yarnell's activities during World War II.

Bowles's ties to the corporate world began while he was a student at M.I.T. and became extensive after World War II, when he became general consultant to the president of Raytheon Company and president of Whitin Machine Works. He also served as consultant to or on the boards of directors of other firms. The <u>Corporate File</u> holds material concerning all such interests, but the documentation concerning Raytheon and Whitin is the most extensive. Principal correspondents in the Raytheon papers include Charles F. Adams (1866-1954), and Calosi. The principal subjects include direction and governance of the company, its research aims, and the Submarine Signal Division. There are many handwritten notes from Adams, who was president of Raytheon during Bowles's tenure. Whitin Machine Works was purchased by White Consolidated Industries, to whose board of directors Bowles was then appointed. The Whitin papers document the end of Whitin as an independent company and the affairs of White from Bowles's perspective on the governing board, as well as the affairs of subsidiaries White Motor Company, J.D. Ferry Company, and American Type Founders Company.

Bowles served the federal government in numerous capacities, most notably as consultant to the War Department during World War II, scientific warfare advisor to the secretary of war during the Korean conflict, and as chair of a United States Senate ad hoc advisory committee on television frequency allocations. Additionally, he served on the National Defense Research Committee, or NDRC (later part of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, or OSRD), and on a congressional ad hoc committee on reforming the patent system. Papers regarding all of these ventures are found in the <u>Government File</u>. Bowles's work in the War Department during World War II is well represented and features correspondence with Henry Harley Arnold, Harold Gardner

Bowen, Vannevar Bush, Alfred L. Loomis, and Watson-Watt concerning the development and deployment of radar, the United States Air Force's Project RAND and its evolution into Rand Corporation, antisubmarine warfare, and the temperament and tactics of Ernest Joseph King, as well as scientific research efforts in general. The armed forces retained Bowles's services through the late 1950s, and correspondence and reports reflect his concern for battle effectiveness, prevailing military strategies, research methodology, unification of the armed forces, and weapons development.

The <u>University File</u> documents Bowles's associations with Washington University and M.I.T., and two institutions he served as director, Bentley College and Kodály Musical Training Institute. M.I.T.'s development is reflected in correspondence with Julius Adams Stratton and other contemporaries. Files concern M.I.T.'s Round Hill research division and the Edward H. R. Green estate on which it was located, electrical engineering laboratory and courses, Sloan School of Industrial Management, the NDRC radiation lab, and Vannevar Bush, K. T. Compton, C. S. Draper, and Ernst A. Guillemin.

The <u>Patent File</u> documents Bowles's activities as a private consultant for companies and individuals securing or defending patents, including the Radio Corporation of America, Samson Electric Company, Sperry Gyroscope Company, Stockton Profile Gauge Corporation, United Artists Corporation, and Ernst Fredrik Werner Alexanderson, Edwin H. Armstrong, Walter G. Cady, Alexander McLean Nicholson, and George Washington Pierce. Correspondence in this file contains information regarding patent applications and research in general. A companion subseries contains Bowles applications and assignments. Interferences, or challenges to applications, are filed as part of the contested applications.

The <u>Oral History File</u> consists of transcripts of Bowles's recollections. These recollections were recorded between 1979 and 1984 and primarily concern his years in Westphalia, Missouri, M.I.T., Bell Telephone Company and the development of telephone communication, World War II, Henry Harley Arnold, Vannevar Bush, Henry L. Stimson, NDRC, OSRD, and Project RAND.

The <u>Writings File</u> consists of articles, newspaper columns, and speeches by Bowles concerning various subjects.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in nine series:

- <u>Correspondence File, 1942-1988</u>
- <u>Subject File, 1869-1990</u>
- <u>Corporate File, 1920-1987</u>
- Government File, 1930-1988
- <u>University File, 1918-1988</u>
- <u>Patent File, 1872-1989</u>
- Oral History File, 1979-1984
- <u>Writings File, 1922-1966</u>
- <u>Classified</u>

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-4	<u>Correspondence File, 1942-1988</u>
	General correspondence and a reading file of outgoing correspondence.
	Arranged chronologically.
вох 5-16	<u>Subject File, 1869-1990</u>
	Correspondence, legal documents, manuscripts, newspaper clippings,
	notes, photographs, publications, reports, speeches, and other papers.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
вох 17-27	Corporate File, 1920-1987
	Correspondence, legal documents, memoranda, minutes of meetings, notes,
	office diaries, photographs, and reports regarding the numerous
	companies in which Bowles held a financial interest or for which he consulted.
	Arranged alphabetically by corporate title and thereunder by type of
	material.
BOX 27-48	<u>Government File, 1930-1988</u>
	Awards and commendations, correspondence, diaries, memoranda, minutes
	of meetings, notes, photographs, reports, and research proposals
	regarding the agencies, committees, and departments for which Bowles
	consulted. Arranged alphabetically by agency or organization and thereunder by type
	of material.
box 49-63	<u>University File, 1918-1988</u>
	Correspondence, legal documents, memoranda, minutes of meetings, notes,
	office diaries, publications, reports, subject files, and teaching notes
	regarding the academic institutions with which Bowles was affiliated as a student, instructor, or as a director.
	Arranged alphabetically by institutional name and thereunder by type of
	material.
BOX 64-84	Patent File, 1872-1989
	Correspondence, court documents, and miscellaneous material concerning
	patents and inventions and the applications and assignments of patents entered by Bowles and others.
	Arranged in the following groupings: applications, assignments,
	consultantships, general correspondence, and miscellany, and
	thereunder alphabetically by corporate or personal name, subject, or type
	of material.
BOX 84-90	<u>Oral History File, 1979-1984</u>
	Transcripts of recorded recollections by Bowles.
	Arranged as numbered transcripts, in two separate series, and
	miscellaneous, unrelated transcripts. Transcript numbers are preceded by the letters W, T, or J, bearing no relation to the numbering, which is
	sequential.
	-

вох 90-92	<u>Writings File, 1922-1966</u>
	Articles, papers, and a report by Bowles.
	Arranged by format and thereunder chronologically.
BOX CL 1	Classified
	Correspondence, notes, reports, and miscellany.
	Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the material was removed.

Edward Lindley Bowles Papers

Container List

Container	Contents
вох 1-4	Correspondence File, 1942-1988 General correspondence and a reading file of outgoing correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
box 1	General, 1942-1988, undated (3 folders) Reading File 11 Dec. 1947-3 June 1952 (3 folders)
BOX 2	(5 folders) 11 June 1952-22 Apr. 1957 (6 folders)
BOX 3	26 Apr. 1957-24 Oct. 1961 (6 folders)
BOX 4	24 Oct. 1961-17 Mar. 1968 (7 folders)
вох 5-16	Subject File, 1869-1990 Correspondence, legal documents, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, notes, photographs, publications, reports, speeches, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
вох 5	 A. C. Cossor, Ltd., 1963-1964 Academy of Applied Science, 1963-1975 Air War College National Security Forum, 1957 Albano, Louis S., 1966-1978 Alidade, 1967 American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1953-1959 American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 1943-1958 Archer, Gleason Leonard Correspondence with Bowles, 1952-1964, undated Personal papers, 1915-1939 Beta Instrument Corp., 1968-1973 Biographical information, 1897-1974 Black, Harold S., 1959 Bowles, Frederick Wuerpel, 1949 Bowles, Samuel Addison, 1883 Bush, Vannevar Correspondence, 1933-1985 Miscellaneous, undated
BOX 6	<i>Pieces of the Action</i> , annotated by Bowles, 1970 Campbell, George Ashley Correspondence, 1891-1970, undated

Container	Contents
	Files regarding loaded lines and loading (telephone systems), circa 1922
	(4 folders)
BOX 7	(6 folders)
	Manuscript regarding loading (telephone systems)
	Original copy, 1938
	Revised copy, 1938
BOX 8	Manuscripts by Bowles, undated
	Miscellaneous, 1904-1983, undated
	Notes
	By Bowles, undated
	(2 folders)
	Regarding Michael Idvorsky Pupin, 1899-1901, 1911, 1917, undated
	Patents
	Campbell
	Nos. 729709-1671143
DOX 0	(2 folders) Interference No. 20699
BOX 9	
	Briefs, 1902 (3 folders)
вох 10	Record, 1902
BOX IU	(2 folders)
BOX 11	(2 folders)
DOX 11	Pupin, Michael Idvorsky, Nos. 519346-1561278
	Cerow, Gordon D., 1944-1949
вох 12	Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C., 1942-1966
	Currency and coins, 1928-1944
	Curtis, Edward P., 1956
	Dreher, Carl, 1959-1962
	Ellyard, David, 1983
	Gibson, Tom L., 1950-1955, 1963
	Guns, 1969
	Hale, Mary Margaret Griffith, 1968-1978
	Hargrove, Thomas, 1949-1951
	Hayes, Hammond Vinton
	Biographical information, undated
	Career at American Telephone and Telegraph Co., 1907, undated
	Correspondence
	From Bowles to Hayes, 1922-1970, undated
	From Hayes, 1895-1946
	Last will and testament and estate, 1946-circa 1948
	Notes by Bowles, 1947, undated
	Patents, 1888-1900
	Speeches, 1914, undated
	Writings
	About Hayes, 1885-1920
	By Hayes, 1922-1948
вох 13	Hodgins, Eric, 1932

Subject File, 1869-1990

Container	Contents
	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 1962-1969
	Institute of Radio Engineers, 1947-1961
	Interviews with Bowles
	Green, Murray, 1966-1971
	(2 folders)
	Norberg, Arthur L., 1977-1982
	(2 folders)
	Pang, Alex, 1986
	Romanowski, Roslyn Rachel, 1982
	Thompson and Harris, Signal Corps Historical Division, Army Air Corps, 1958
	Investments, 1929-1954
	Iron Cross, 1938
	Italian magnetic torpedo (Siluro Italiano Calosi), undated
	Johnson, Elvira Fouke, 1869
	Kline, Frank R., Jr., 1978-1987
	Legal documents, 1945-1946
BOX 14	Litton Industries, 1956-1962
	Ludwig, Warren, 1952-1965
	Marshall, Lawrence K., 1947-1980
	McKinney, John B., 1961
	Moors & Cabot, 1949, 1967-1979, undated
	Morison, Samuel Eliot, 1947-1948, 1986, undated
	Necrologies, 1940-1978
	Newcomen Society in North America, 1966
	Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1948-1963, undated
	Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., 1945-1947
	Notes by Bowles, 1940-1959, undated
	Ordman, Theodore, 1950-1951
	Pang, Alex, 1986-1990
	Personal papers, disposition of, 1963-1982
	Photographs
	Bowles, circa 1920-1985
	Others, circa 1900-1965
	Radar, paper by F. Ross Tilghman, 1980-1981
	Radiation Research Corp., 1964-1965
	Radio in aircraft, 1947, undated
	Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, 1955
	Ratliff, William Hardy, 1949-1953
вох 15	Rines, David, 1944-1986
	Rines, Robert H., 1960-1986, undated
	Rowe, Hartley, 1908, 1958-1966
	Saint Botolph Club, Boston, Mass., 1941-1943, 1949-1959, 1966-1967
	Sarnoff, David, 1916-1924, 1939, 1950-1956, undated
	Sealed Air Corp., 1966-1967
	Shockley, William, 1947-1951, 1960, 1966-1968, undated
	Simon, Leslie Earl, 1954-1956

Subject File, 1869-1990

Container	Contents
	Smith, Bruce L. R., 1966-1967, undated
	Smith, Richard H., 1948-1949
	Spread-spectrum communications, 1983
	Süsskind, Charles, 1977
	Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, 1951-1952
	Truscott, D. N., 1954-1956
	University Club, Washington, D.C., 1942-1948
	von Recklinghausen, Daniel R., 1960
	Warner, Sam Bass, Jr., 1982-1985
	(2 folders)
	Watson-Watt, Robert Alexander, 1947-1951, 1957-1960, undated
BOX 16	Wellesley Club, Wellesley, Mass., 1935, 1942
	Western Union Telegraph Co., 1949
	Westphalia, Mo., 1985
	Winnecker, Rudolph August, 1947-1977, undated
	World War I, 1918
	Yarnell, Harry E., 1942-1943, undated
вох 17-27	Corporate File, 1920-1987
	Correspondence, legal documents, memoranda, minutes of meetings, notes,
	office diaries, photographs, and reports regarding the numerous
	companies in which Bowles held a financial interest or for which he consulted.
	Arranged alphabetically by corporate title and thereunder by type of
	material.
BOX 17	Advanced Space Age Products
	Correspondence, 1969-1970
	Memoranda, 1970
	Anelex Corp., 1965-1966
	(2 folders)
	Anderson-Nichols & Co., 1965-1967
	Automated Electric Co., 1945-1946, undated
	Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., 1956-1958
	Boston Educational Research Co., 1970-1980
	Information Transfer Corp., 1968
	Jarrell Ash Co., 1965-1966
	Lockheed Aircraft Corp.
	Correspondence, 1953-1955
	Miscellaneous, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 18	(1 folder)
	Notes, undated
	Philco Corp., 1957-1963, undated
	Raytheon Co.
	Correspondence
	1926-1952
	(5 folders)

Corporate File, 1920-1987

Container	Contents
BOX 19	1953-1987, undated
	(6 folders)
BOX 20	Historical file, 1927-1987, undated
	(3 folders)
	Interoffice memoranda
	Aug. 1940-Sept. 1948
	(2 folders)
BOX 21	Oct. 1948-July 1959
	(5 folders)
BOX 22	Aug. 1959-Apr. 1972, undated
	(3 folders)
	Miscellaneous
	General, 1947-1948
	Spencer, Percy LeBaron, 1920-1959, undated
	Technical Planning Commission, 1949-1950, undated
	Notes, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 23	(2 folders)
	Office diaries, 1950-1964, undated
	Photographs, 1959-1963, undated
	Reading file, Sept. 1946-Dec. 1952
	(3 folders)
BOX 24	Reports, 1947-1963, undated
	(3 folders)
	Samson Electric Co., 1923-1928, undated
	Scientific Development Corp.
	Mar. 1959-Dec. 1962
	(2 folders)
BOX 25	Jan. 1963-Jan. 1964, undated
	Societe des accumulateurs fixes et de traction, 1936-1963, undated
	Sperry Gyroscope Co., 1938-1971, undated
	(2 folders)
	Whitin Machine Works and White Consolidated Industries
	Correspondence
	Dec. 1961-Sept. 1965
	(3 folders)
BOX 26	Oct. 1965-Mar. 1987
	(3 folders)
	Interoffice memoranda, 1965-1966
	Legal documents, 1965-1976
	Minutes of meetings, 1964-1979
	(2 folders)
BOX 27	Miscellaneous, 1965-1970, undated
	Notes, undated
	Office diaries, 1965-1976

Container	Contents
	Photographs, undated
BOX 27-48	Government File, 1930-1988
	Awards and commendations, correspondence, diaries, memoranda, minutes
	of meetings, notes, photographs, reports, and research proposals
	regarding the agencies, committees, and departments for which Bowles consulted.
	Arranged alphabetically by agency or organization and thereunder by type
	of material.
BOX 27	Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Allocations
	Correspondence, Dec. 1953-Oct. 1971, undated
	(3 folders)
	Diary, 1955-1959, undated
	Interoffice memoranda, 1949-1960, undated
	Miscellaneous, 1956-1960, undated
	Notes, undated
00	(1 folder)
BOX 28	(3 folders) Demostra 1050 1058 and detail
	Reports, 1950-1958, undated
	Ad Hoc Committee on the Patent System
	Correspondence, 1963-1965, undated
	Memoranda, 1963 Minutes of mostings, 1962
	Minutes of meetings, 1963
	Miscellaneous, undated
DOX 00	Notes by Bowles, undated
BOX 29	Reports, 1963-1964, undated
	Central Intelligence Agency, 1951-1952, undated
	Committee on Airport Study, 1941
	Defense Department
	Awards and commendations, 1942-1973, undated
	(2 folders) Chronological file
	July 1942-Jan. 1943
	(3 folders)
вох 30	Feb. 1943-Dec. 1944
2011.00	(9 folders)
вох 31	Jan. 1945-Aug. 1947
	(6 folders)
	Correspondence
	May 1940-Jan. 1943
	(2 folders)
BOX 32	Feb. 1943-June 1944
	(7 folders)
box 33	July 1944-Mar. 1945
	(8 folders)
box 34	Apr. 1945-Aug. 1946
	(8 folders)

Government File, 1930-1988

Container	Contents
box 35	Sept. 1946-Apr. 1948
	(7 folders)
BOX 36	May 1948-June 1985
	(7 folders)
box 37	Undated
	Historical file, 1940-1986, undated
	Miscellany
	General, 1930-1988, undated
	Kaplan, Fred, The Wizards of Armageddon, annotated by Bowles, 1983
	"The Past Predicts the Future," by Henry Harley Arnold, 1946
box 38	Thompson, Browder Julian, Jr., 1938-1956
	(3 folders)
	Notes, 1940-1958, undated
	(2 folders)
	Office diaries
	1947-1948
box 39	1947-1948 (revised)
	Photographs, undated
	(2 folders)
	Reports
	Dec. 1940-May 1943
	(4 folders)
BOX 40	May 1943-Dec. 1943
	(6 folders)
BOX 41	FebDec. 1944
	(8 folders)
BOX 42	Undated 1944-Aug. 1945
	(5 folders)
BOX 43	Sept. 1945-Aug. 1946
	(6 folders)
BOX 44	Oct. 1946-May 1953, undated
	(8 folders)
BOX 45	Undated
	(2 folders)
	Trip diaries
	1942, Panama
	1943,England and Africa
	1943-1944, North Africa and Europe
	(1 folder)
BOX 46	(1 folder)
	1944-1945, England, Germany, France
	1944-1945, Pacific trip
	(2 folders)
	1946, Alaska
	(2 folders)
	1950, Korea
BOX 47	Office of Scientific Research and Development

Government File, 1930-1988

Container	Contents
	Correspondence, Oct. 1940-June 1978
	(2 folders)
	Interoffice memoranda, 1940-1947, undated
	Microwave Committee, minutes of meetings, 1941-1943
	Miscellaneous, 1940-1988
	Notes, undated
	(2 folders)
	Patent interferences regarding Loran (navigational aid),
Dov: 40	1950-1958, undated
BOX 48	Radiation Laboratory, 1941-1945
	Reports, Nov. 1940-Aug. 1944, undated
	(7 folders)
	Research proposals, 1940-1942
BOX 49-63	University File, 1918-1988
	Correspondence, legal documents, memoranda, minutes of meetings, notes, office diaries, publications, reports, subject files, and teaching notes regarding the academic institutions with which Bowles was affiliated as a student, instructor, or as a director.
	Arranged alphabetically by institutional name and thereunder by type of
	material.
BOX 49	Bentley College, Waltham, Mass.
	Correspondence, May 1957-Apr. 1987
	(4 folders)
	Miscellaneous, undated
	Minutes of meetings
	Mar. 1969-Mar. 1970
BOX 50	Apr. 1970-Oct. 1973
	(4 folders)
	Notes, undated
	Office diaries, 1971-1974, undated
	Photographs, undated
	Reports, 1971
BOX 51	Kodály Musical Training Institute, Wellesley, Mass.
	Correspondence, 1939-1974, undated
	Historical file, 1970-1971, undated
	Interoffice memoranda, 1970-1972, undated
	Minutes of meetings, Jan. 1970-May 1974
	(2 folders)
	Notes, undated
	Office diaries, 1970-1971
	Reports, 1968-1973
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
	Admission as student, 1920-1921
	Appointments to faculty (Bowles), 1920-1983
	Arguimbau, L. B., 1949-1973
	Autobiographical, 1984-1985

University File, 1918-1988

Container	Contents
	Barrow, Wilmer L. ("Zike"), 1979, undated
	Buildings, 1952-1973, undated
BOX 52	Bush, Vannevar, 1926-1984
	Cabot, Godfrey L., 1931-1934
	Compton, K. T., 1929-1986, undated
	Course VI-C (electrical communications option) revision
	Correspondence, 1924-1936
	Notes, 1920-1939, undated
	(2 folders)
box 53	Text outlines, 1933-1940
	Coursework
	Bowles, 1920-1921
	(3 folders)
	Students
	1932-1935
BOX 54	1939, undated
	Crossett, Edward C.
	Dellenbaugh, Frederick Samuel, Jr., 1942-1982
	Draper, C. S., 1963-1987
	Eastham, Melville, 1925-1982, undated
	Edgerton, Harold Eugene, 1943-1973
	Electrical Engineering Laboratory
	1920-1924
	(4 folders)
box 55	1925-1929
	(7 folders)
	1930
	(1 folder)
BOX 56	(2 folders)
	1931-1938
	(8 folders)
box 57	Undated
	(3 folders)
	Fassett, Frederick Gardiner, Jr., 1942-1982
	Forrester, Jay Wright, 1955-1987, undated
	General correspondence
	Gray, Paul E., 1980
	Gross, Hedwig, 1942-1947
	Guillemin, Ernst A.
	General, 1936-1986
	Paper, "A Recent Contribution to the Design of Electric Filter Networks,"
	undated
	Teaching notes
DOV 59	(2 folders)
BOX 58	(1 folder)
	1942

Container	Contents
	1945
	(2 folders)
	Hazen, Howard L., 1938-1983
	Historical file, 1956-1988
	Houghton, Henry Garrett, 1927-1945
	Interoffice memoranda, 1925-1948
BOX 59	Jackson, Dugald C., 1921-1982, undated
	Johnson, Howard W., 1959-1983
	Killian, James Rhyne, 1944-1988, undated
	(2 folders)
	Lawrence, Ralph R., 1985
	Miscellaneous, 1925-1979, undated
	Moreland, Edward L., 1938
	Music, 1952-1960, undated
	Notes, undated
	Operations research (military), 1947-1948, undated
	Patents and inventions, undated
	Radiation Laboratory, 1940-1978
	Reintjes, J. Francis, 1982-1983
	Reports, 1925-1948
	Retirement, 1963
BOX 60	Round Hill Research Division
	Computation book, 1927-1931
	(3 folders)
	Finances, 1930-1934, undated
	Green, Edward Howland Robinson, estate
	Book, Bullard, John M., The Greens as I Knew Them, 1965
	Correspondence, 1927-1976, undated
	Legal proceedings
	Correspondence, 1937-1939, undated
	Supreme Court
	1937
	1938
	(1 folder)
BOX 61	(1 folder)
	Surrogate's court, 1937, undated
	(3 folders)
	Miscellaneous, 1933-1976
	Publications
	1929-1935
	(2 folders)
BOX 62	1939-1948
	Sander, Robert, 1985
	Sloan School of Industrial Management, 1951-1974, undated
	(2 folders)
	Stiefel, Hedwig Gross <u>See Container 57, Gross, Hedwig</u>

University File, 1918-1988

 Correspondence, court documents, and miscellaneous material concerning patents and inventions and the applications and assignments of patents entered by Bowles and others. Arranged in the following groupings: applications, assignments, consultantships, general correspondence, and miscellany, and thereunder alphabetically by corporate or personal name, subject, or type of material. BOX 64 Applications No. 15769, 1925-1931 No. 22670, 1925-1934 No. 117758 Correspondence, 1928-1934 Interference No. 57518 Case briefs	Container	Contents
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Wilson, Edwin B., 1957-1965 Woodruff, Louis F., 1946-1983, undatedBOX 63Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. Correspondence, 1941-1986, undated Coursework, 1918-1919 (2 folders) Miscellaneous General, 1918-1919, 1968, 1983 Manuscript by Ernst A. Guillemin, undated (2 folders) Photographs, circa 1986 Reports, 1936BOX 64-84Patent File, 1872-1989 Correspondence, court documents, and miscellaneous material concerning patents and inventions and the applications and assignments of patents entered by Bowles and others. Arranged in the following groupings: applications, assignments, consultantships, general correspondence, and miscellany, and thereunder alphabetically by corporate or personal name, subject, or type of material.BOX 64Applications No. 15769, 1925-1931 No. 22870, 1925-1931 No. 22870, 1925-1934 Correspondence, 1928-1934 Interference No. 57518 Case proceedings, (2 folders) Claim documentation Correspondence, 1925-1934 Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1934 No. 123664, 1928-1934 No. 123664, 1928-1934 No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1935		
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Correspondence, 1941-1986, undated Coursework, 1918-1919 (2 folders) Miscellaneous General, 1918-1919, 1968, 1983 Manuscript by Ernst A. Guillemin, undated (2 folders) Photographs, circa 1986 Reports, 1936 Eox 64-84 Patent File, 1872-1989 Correspondence, court documents, and miscellaneous material concerning patents and inventions and the applications and assignments of patents entered by Bowles and others. Arranged in the following groupings: applications, assignments, consultantships, general correspondence, and miscellany, and thereunder alphabetically by corporate or personal name, subject, or type of material. Box 64 Applications No. 15769, 1925-1931 No. 22670, 1925-1934 No. 117758 Correspondence, 1928-1934 Interference No. 57518 Case briefs (3 folders) Case proceedings, (2 folders) Claim documentation Eox 65 Correspondence, 1925-1934 Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1934 Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1934 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664, 1928-1935	DOM CO	
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Interference No. 57518 Case briefs (3 folders) Case proceedings, (2 folders) Claim documentation BOX 65 Correspondence, 1925-1934 Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
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(2 folders) Claim documentation BOX 65 Correspondence, 1925-1934 Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
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BOX 65 Correspondence, 1925-1934 Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
Exhibits 1-60 (4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935	box 65	
(4 folders) No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		-
No. 123664, 1928-1931 Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 Box 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
Nos. 123664-123665, 1927-1928 No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
No. 129497, 1928-1929 BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
BOX 66 No. 129498, 1926-1935		
	BOX 66	
100, 100404, 1920-1920		No. 130434, 1926-1928

Container	Contents
	No. 130435, 1926
	No. 132306, 1926-1927
	No. 162748, 1927-1933
	No. 168355, 1939
	No. 171238, 1927-1939
	(5 folders)
box 67	No. 204568, 1928-1934
	No. 225678, 1928-1935
	No. 225679, 1927-1930
	No. 226712, 1938-1939
	No. 283391, 1945
	No. 299695, 1928-1937
	Correspondence, 1928-1937
	(5 folders)
BOX 68	Interference No. 70726, 1935-1936
	(2 folders)
	No. 299697, undated
	No. 299698, 1929-1933
	No. 386115, 1932
	No. 390744, 1932-1933
	No. 391836, 1929-1935
	(2 folders)
box 69	(3 folders)
	No. 399360, 1929-1936
	No. 399361, 1929-1933
	No. 407721, 1930-1934
	No. 410727, 1929-1934
	No. 431525, 1929-1934
	No. 431526, 1930-1934
	No. 431527, 1929-1934
	No. 450154, 1931-1934
	No. 450692, 1930-1932
	No. 457993, 1930-1934
	No. 494342, 1930-1933
вох 70	No. 497166, 1930-1936
	No. 530716
	Correspondence, 1933-1938
	Interference No. 73815, 1937
	No. 535405
	Correspondence, 1930-1939
	Interference No. 71805, 1932-1938
	(3 folders)
	No. 550652, 1930-1934
	No. 561205, 1931-1935
	No. 632030, 1932-1935
вох 71	No. 635211, 1932-1936
	No. 636005, 1932-1934

Patent File, 1872-1989

Container	Contents
	No. 636006, 1932-1937
	No. 636706, 1932-1983
	(2 folders)
	No. 637006, 1935
	No. 638005, 1933
	No. 640841, 1933-1936
	No. 666131, 1933-1937
	No. 668201, 1933-1934
	Unnumbered
	Bowles, 1934-1937
	With Guy Howard Berard Smith, 1927-1938, undated
	(3 folders)
BOX 72	Assignments
	No. 1762543, 1930
	No. 1831092, 1931
	No. 1831093, 1931
	No. 1863683, 1931
	No. 1918831, 1933
	No. 1929052, 1933-1936
	No. 1941384, 1933
	No. 1941385, 1933
	No. 1957093, 1934
	No. 1961192, 1934
	No. 1983838, 1934
	No. 1989677, 1935
	No. 1989678, 1935
	No. 1991372, 1935
	No. 1994905, 1935
	No. 1999862, 1935
	No. 2004155, 1935
	No. 2014193, 1935
	No. 2029355, 1936
	No. 2031923, 1936-1937
	No. 2031924, 1936
	No. 2031925, 1936
	No. 2031926, 1936
	No. 2063224, 1936
	No. 2063225, 1936
	No. 2070112, 1937
	No. 2071195, 1937
	No. 2099923, 1934-1954
	No. 2112264, 1938
	No. 2130414, 1938
	No. 2184156, 1939
	Consultantships
	Alden Companies, 1959-1962
	the second se

Container	Contents
	Alexanderson, Ernst Fredrik Werner
	Equity cases, 1934
вох 73	Notes by Bowles, undated
	Amy, Aceves, and King, 1937
	Armstrong, Edwin Howard
	Address by Bowles upon death of Armstrong, 1954
	Correspondence, 1946-1986, undated
	Court testimony by Bowles, undated
	Expense account, 1948-1952
BOX 74	Expenses, 1955-1960
	(2 folders)
	Memoranda for the file, 1935-1954
	Notes
	By Armstrong, undated
	By Bowles
	Chaffee, J.G., undated
	General, undated
	(4 folders)
	Patents
	Nos. 21660-1539822
BOX 75	Nos. 1541780-2630497
	(3 folders)
	Correspondence, 1929-1944
	(3 folders)
вох 76	Photographs, 1951
	Edgerton, Harold Eugene, undated
	Grigsby-Grunow, undated
	Houghton, Henry Garrett, Jr. <u>See same container, Edgerton, Harold</u> <u>Eugene</u>
	Nichols, Horace E.
	Correspondence, 1935-1940
	Equity case no. 4620
	Stenographic record, 1940
	(2 folders)
	Trial documentation, 1936-1940, undated
	Miscellany, 1920-1925
	Notes by Bowles, undated
	Nicholson, Alexander McLean, 1919-1952
BOX 77	Pierce, George Washington
DOX 11	Correspondence, 1917-1970, undated
	(3 folders)
	Court documents
	Appeal No. 4757, 1953
вох 78	Civil Actions
20110	No. 51-526, 1952-1954
	No. 5638-M, 1956
	(2 folders)
	(~

Container	Contents
	Expenses, 1952-1959
	Notes by Bowles, undated
	(2 folders)
	Patents
	Cady, Walter G./Nicholson, Alexander McL.
	General, 1919-1929, 1940
box 79	Interferences, general, 1922-1928, 1934
	General, 1925-1936
	Pierce, Nos. 17245-2266070
	(6 folders)
	Radio Corp. of America
	Correspondence, 1955-1959
BOX 80	Report, undated
	Sperry Gyroscope Co., 1937-1940, undated
	Stockbarger, Donald C., 1932-1938
	United Artists Corp., 1962-1970, undated
DOX 91	(4 folders)
BOX 81	Varian, Russell Harrison, 1938-1939, undated Western Electric Co.
	Correspondence, 1929-1975 Court records
	Equity case no. 7, 1931 (4 folders)
	Patent notes, 1913, 1917, 1922-1925, 1931, undated
BOX 82	Patents, general, 1915-1922
DON ON	General Correspondence, 1920-1989, undated
	(4 folders)
BOX 8 3	Miscellany
	Historic patent, 1872
	Notes regarding patents and inventions
	Amplifiers, undated
	Ballast lamps, undated
	Bell, Alexander Graham, 1974-1986, undated
	Blake, Clarence John, undated
	C-Bias and compensation, undated
	Distortion, 1931, undated
	Edison, Thomas A., 1937, undated
	General, circa 1931-1939, undated
	(2 folders)
	Goddard, R. H., 1937
	Gray, Elisha, undated
	Hewitt, Peter Cooper, 1932-1934, undated
	High frequency signaling system, 1926-1928
	Ladenburg, Erich, undated
	Lenard, P., undated
BOX 8 4	Lieben, Robert von, 1934-1936
	Llewellyn, [?], undated

Patent File, 1872-1989

Container	Contents
	Marchand, H., undated
	Modulation, undated
	Muller, Johannes, undated
	Neutralization, 1936
	Oscillation, undated
	Oxide coated filter, undated
	Reisz, Eugen, undated
	Rice, [?], undated
	Telephone systems (and Bell Telephone Co.), 1942-1984, undated
	Thermocouple amplification, 1932
	Van Der Bijl, H. J., undated
	Volume expander, undated
	Wehnelt demonstration tube, undated
BOX 84-90	Oral History File, 1979-1984
	Transcripts of recorded recollections by Bowles.
	Arranged as numbered transcripts, in two separate series, and
	miscellaneous, unrelated transcripts. Transcript numbers are preceded by the letters W, T, or J, bearing no relation to the numbering, which is
	sequential.
BOX 84	Index
	Transcripts
	Nos. 1-3, 5-17, circa 1980
	(16 folders)
BOX 85	Nos. W1-19, 7 Mar6 Aug. 1980
	(19 folders)
BOX 86	Nos. W20-W39, 9 Aug. 1980-15 Dec. 1981
	(20 folders)
BOX 87	Nos. W40-T49, T51-60, 20 Dec. 1981-3 May 1982
	(20 folders)
BOX 88	Nos. T61-J82, 7 May-21 Aug. 1982
	(22 folders)
BOX 8 9	Nos. J83-J105, 24 Aug. 1982-6 July 1983
00	(23 folders)
BOX 90	Nos. J106-J124, 6 June 1983-12 Oct. 1984
	(18 folders) Miscellaneous, 1979-1980
	(2 folders)
вох 90-92	Writings File, 1922-1966
BUX 30-32	Articles, papers, and a report by Bowles.
	Arranged by format and thereunder chronologically.
вох 90	General, 1932-1940, 1945-1948, 1955-1966, undated
BOX 91	"The Patent System of the United States, 1964
	"Radio Talk," newspaper column, Boston Evening Transcript

Writings File, 1922-1966

Container	Contents
	21 Mar28 Sept. 1922
	(1 vol.)
BOX 92	28 Sept. 1922-11 June 1923
	(1 vol.)
BOX CL 1	Classified
	Correspondence, notes, reports, and miscellany.
	Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the material was removed.
BOX CL 1	Corporate file
	Raytheon Co.
	Reports, 1962-1963, undated
	Government File
	Defense Department
	Correspondence, 1941-1952
	(2 folders)
	Miscellany
	General, 1942-1953
	Notes, undated
	Reports, 1943-1944, 1952, undated
	(2 folders)