Guide to the Lincoln Ellsworth Papers

MS 1311

compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1981

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:**  
Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
[http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/)

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1311

**CREATOR:** Ellsworth, Lincoln, 1880-1951

**TITLE:** Lincoln Ellsworth Papers

**DATES:** 1921–1928

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, unpublished writings, awards, memorabilia, and maps relating to Lincoln Ellsworth's flight across the North Pole in 1926. Included also is a copy of P. Kühne’s: Chamois-Hunting in Switzerland, with the original drawings and correspondence of Arthur Frost. Principal correspondents are Roald Amundsen, Richard E. Byrd, Calvin Coolidge, Wilbur Cross, Charles Dawes, Frank Kellogg, and Theodore Roosevelt.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: [http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1311](http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1311)

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at [http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1311](http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1311).

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift of Mrs. Lincoln Ellsworth, 1956.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation
Lincoln Ellsworth Papers (MS 1311). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Lincoln Ellsworth, explorer and civil engineer, participated in the first Grand Pacific Railroad survey across Canada from 1902-1907. He worked as an engineer in Canada and Alaska from 1907-1924. In 1924, Ellsworth organized an expedition through the Andes to the Amazon River. In 1926, he participated in trans-polar flights and, in 1931, he participated in trans-Arctic flights and submarine expeditions. Ellsworth made a flight to the interior of Antarctica in 1939. He was the recipient of many awards and the author of several books.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of papers relating to Lincoln Ellsworth’s flight across the North Pole in 1926 with Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile. Included are correspondence, various unpublished writings by Ellsworth, the certificate of award of the Norwegian Order of St. Olav, several maps, memorabilia, and other miscellaneous papers such as P. Kühne’s “Chamois-Hunting in Switzerland” with the original drawings and correspondence of Arthur Frost bound in.

In the correspondence, along with letters of congratulations and announcements of awards and honors for Ellsworth, are numerous letters from Amundsen dealing with business matters such as the publication of their book First Crossing of the Polar Sea (a typescript can be found in the collection) and the awards of the Order of St. Olav, and with a controversy over the extent of Nobile’s participation in the expedition. Also included in the correspondence are letters from Charles Dawes promoting the awards of a Congressional Medal to Ellsworth. Other notable correspondents are Richard E. Byrd, Calvin Coolidge, Wilbur Cross, Frank Kellogg, and Theodore Roosevelt. Much of the correspondence is addressed to persons other than Ellsworth.

All of the materials except the bound volumes came to Yale in the form of a portfolio compiled by Ellsworth and titled “Two Years of Arctic Exploration: Personal papers of Lincoln Ellsworth, 1925-1926.” The portfolio has been dismantled for preservation purposes. The papers were the gift of Mrs. Lincoln Ellsworth in 1956.
**Collection Contents**

**Original accession**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1 - 6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1924–1928, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>&quot;Infinitely Great and Infinitely Small&quot;</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>&quot;News From the Stars&quot;</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>&quot;The Substance of Nature&quot;</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>&quot;The First Crossing of the Polar Sea, May 11th-13th, 1926. Official Narrative by Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth&quot;</td>
<td>1926</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>1926 December 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>Certificates</td>
<td>1926–1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 13</td>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 14</td>
<td>Memorabilia</td>
<td>1926–1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>P. Kühne: “Chamois-Hunting in Switzerland” (original drawings and correspondence of Arthur B. Frost mounted and bound in)</td>
<td>1925–1927, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1925–1927, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Accession 1996-M-151. Additional Material

| b.1 | Photographs [the majority of photographs are not identified but appear to be of wildlife indigenous to the Great Plains region, such as buffalo and Rocky Mountain goats; hunting parties; and scenic views] | Circa early 1900s |
**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.

**Geographic Names**
Arctic regions -- Aerial exploration
North Pole -- Discovery and exploration

**Genres / Formats**
Drawings (visual works)

**Occupations**
Explorers

**Names**
Amundsen, Roald, 1872-1928
Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933
Cross, Wilbur L. (Wilbur Lucius), 1862-1948
Dawes, Charles Gates, 1865-1951
Ellsworth, Lincoln, 1880-1951
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919