

# Guide to the Lee De Forest Papers

MS 1210



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

August 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	6

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1210

**CREATOR:** De Forest, Lee, 1873-1961

**TITLE:** Lee De Forest papers

**DATES:** 1896-1971

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Largely writings of Lee De Forest including typescripts of his diary, of his published autobiography, and of an article on turbines. The small amount of his correspondence includes a series of letters to Jessica Wallace Millar.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1210>

---

## 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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1210>.

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

In part, gift of Hope M. Scrogin, 1973.

## 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

Lee De Forest Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Lee De Forest was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on August 26, 1873. He was a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale University in 1896 and received a Ph.D. from Yale in 1899. He was an important contributor in the development of wireless telegraphy in the United States. He started multiple radio broadcasting companies and patented 300 inventions in his lifetime. In 1904, he was awarded the gold medal at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. He died on June 30, 1961.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Lee De Forest Papers contain a small amount of correspondence. Most of it is letters from De Forest and his wife Marie Mosquini to Mrs. Jessica (Wallace) Millar, De Forest's "first love," as described in Chapter 8 of his autobiography, *Father of Radio*. There is also correspondence with a few other friends, and several Yale University letters concerning a testimonial dinner and bust of De Forest.

Over two thirds of the collection consists of writings by De Forest. Included are two versions of his autobiography, as well as a copy of the published volume. Also in the collection are a number of newspaper clippings about De Forest and several miscellaneous items.

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1 - 2	Millar, Mrs. Jessica Wallace	1950-1959, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Scrogin, Hope (Mrs. Frank)	1950-1971
b. 1, f. 4	Wallace Ida B.	1911, 1927, undated
	Wallace, W. W.	1901 October 3
b. 1, f. 5	Yale University	1952-1956

### Writings

b. 1, f. 6	"The De Laval Steam Turbine, and Other Turbines" (typescript) English	[1896?]
b. 1, f. 7 - 8	"The Diaries of Doctor De Forest" (typescript), pp. 1-200 English	1939
b. 2, f. 9 - 11	"The Diaries of Doctor De Forest" (typescript), pp. 201-476 English	1939

### *Father of Radio: Autobiography of Lee De Forest*

b. 2, f. 12 - 18	Typescript, pp. 1-700	[1948?]
b. 3, f. 19 - 24	Typescript, pp. 701-1166, appendices	[1948?]
b. 3, f. 25	Published volume	1950
b. 3, f. 26	Newspaper clippings and printed matter relating to Lee De Forest	1946-1966, undated
b. 3, f. 27	Miscellaneous	1952, undated

## **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.

### **Subjects**

Turbines

### **Genres / Formats**

Autobiographies

Diaries

### **Occupations**

Inventors

### **Names**

De Forest, Lee, 1873-1961

Millar, Jessica Wallace