

Guide to the Lincoln Ellsworth Papers

MS 1311



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1981

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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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SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, unpublished writings, awards, memorabilia, and maps relating to Lincoln Ellsworth's flight across the North Pole in 1926.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. Kuhn'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: <https://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 <https://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. 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

b. 1, f. 1 - 6	Correspondence	1924-1928, undated
	Writings:	
b. 1, f. 7	"Infinitely Great and Infinitely Small" English	1921
b. 1, f. 8	"News From the Stars" English	1921
b. 1, f. 9	"The Substance of Nature" English	1921
b. 1, f. 10	"The First Crossing of the Polar Sea, May 11th-13th, 1926. Official Narrative by Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth" English A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1926
b. 1, f. 11	Address	1926 December 17
b. 1, f. 12	Certificates	1926-1927
b. 1, f. 13	Maps	undated
b. 1, f. 14	Memorabilia	1926-1927
b. 1, f. 15	P. Kühne: "Chamois-Hunting in Switzerland" (original drawings and correspondence of Arthur B. Frost mounted and bound in)	
b. 1, f. 16	Miscellaneous papers	1925-1927, undated

Accession 1996-M-151: Additional Material, Circa early 1900s

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