Guide to the Haraden Pratt Papers, 1908-1969

The Bancroft Library,
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu
© 1997
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

ADDITIONAL FORM AVAILABLE:
This finding aid has been filmed for the NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTARY SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES (Chadwyck-Healey Inc.)
Guide to the Haraden Pratt Papers, 1908-1969

Collection number: BANC MSS 72/116 z

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:
The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu

Processed by:
The Bancroft Library staff
Date Completed:
1972
Encoded by:
Hernan Cortes

© 1997 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Summary
Collection Title: Haraden Pratt Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1908-1969
Collection Number: BANC MSS 72/116 z
Creator: Pratt, Haraden
Extent: Number of containers: 4 boxesLinear ft.: 2
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Abstract: Consisting of correspondence and related papers, includes letters to and from Pratt, notes, articles and other printed materials, and photographs. The papers include correspondence relating to his researches into the history of wireless and early radio, his early work in radio, and his activities while chairman of the History Committee of the Institute of Radio Engineers and its successor, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Included also is material which he gathered relating to the history of radio, including articles, patents, and materials from various companies, including reports, advertisements for equipment, telegraph blanks and photographs of installations.
Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English
Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to The Bancroft Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Haraden Pratt papers, BANC MSS 72/116 z, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
- Electric Engineering--History
- Radio--History
- Federal Telegraph Company
- Photographs
- History of Science and Technology Collection

Acquisition Information
The Haraden Pratt Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in January, 1972.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by Bancroft Library Staff in 1997.

Haraden Pratt
Haraden Pratt was born in San Francisco, California on July 18, 1891. His mother and father, who had both been telegraph operators, taught him telegraphy at age six. By 1905 he had constructed his first amateur wireless receiving station, in the attic of his parents' house.

In 1910 he began attending the University of California, Berkeley where he set up a radio communication laboratory. During vacations he worked as a wireless telegraph operator and installer and had extensive experience with wireless installations on ships. After receiving his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1914, he became a design and operating engineer for American Marconi Company, with his first job being their Asst Engineer at their high power trans-Pacific Bolinas transmitting station.

After resigning from American Marconi in February 1915, Pratt was appointed to the position of Expert Radio Aid for the Navy at Mare Island Navy Yard. In July 1918, he was transferred to Washington, where he had authority over the construction and maintenance of all high power radio stations. From 1920 to 1922 he was the acting chief engineer at Federal Telegraph Company. The next few years were spent at jobs in and out of the radio field, including development of radio aids for air navigation at the Bureau of Standards. In 1928 he was made chief engineer and later vice president of Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company.

Actively interested in radio societies—he had joined both the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers in 1914—he was made director in 1935 and president in 1938 of the Institute of Radio Engineers. In 1953 he became chairman of the History Committee of the IRE and its successor, the IEEE.

During World War II he was the chief of the NDRC's Division 13, on Communications. From 1945 to 1951 he was vice president and chief engineer of the Commercial Cable Co., All American Cables and Radio, Inc., the American Cable and Radio Corporation, and held, as well, other offices in other companies of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

In 1951 he was chosen to be telecommunication advisor to the President, a post which he held until 1953. From 1953 to 1958 he was an associate with the aviation radio Dualex Corporation.

In 1958 he retired from business life and was able to devote full-time to his interest in wireless and early radio history until his death in 1969.

Scope and Content of Collection
Consisting of correspondence and related papers, includes letters to and from Pratt, notes, articles and other printed materials, and photographs. The papers include correspondence relating to his researches into the history of wireless and early radio, his early work in radio, and his activities while chairman of the History Committee of the Institute of Radio Engineers and its successor, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Included also is material which he gathered relating to the history of radio, including articles, patents, and materials from various companies, including reports, advertisements for equipment, telegraph blanks and photographs of installations.

The Key to Arrangement which follows gives more detailed information about the collection.

Boxes 1-2  
**Letters written to Pratt**

*Additional Note*
Include letters from colleagues, friends, historical institutions and radio societies mostly concerning wireless and early radio history. Arranged alphabetically. A partial list of correspondents follows the Key to Arrangement. Unlisted letters are arranged alphabetically in miscellanies.

Box 3  
**Letters written by Pratt, 1919-1969**

*Additional Note*

**Articles**

*Notes on History of Radio (two folders)*
*Notes on Pan-American Wireless Telegraph and Telephone Company; Federal Telegraph Company Contracts.*
*Record Cards, National Bureau of Standards, 1927-1928*
*Personalia*
*Photographs*

Box 4  
**Radio History Materials**

*Advertisements for Equipment*
*Articles (two folders)*
*Bay Counties Wireless Telegraph Association*
*Centennial of the Telegraph*
*Cyril F. Elwell Autobiographies*
*Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company*
*Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company Limited*
*Miscellaneous*
*Patents*
*Photographs*
*Reports of Companies*
*Telegraph Blanks*
*Albertson, Fred Woodward, 1908-1969*
*Appleton, Sir Edward Victor, 1892-1965*
*No incoming letters; enclosure to letter, Sept. 20, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Nikola Tesla.*
*Armstrong, Edwin Howard, 1890-1953*
*Enclosure to letter, Sept. 20, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him.*
Astin, Allen Varley, 1904-
No incoming letters; copy of a letter, Feb. 18, 1954, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder.

Bailey, George William, 1887-
11 letters, 1953. To Pratt and others.
Copies of letters, Mar. 9, 1953 and May 4, 1953, to him from Carmichael in Leonard Carmichael correspondence folder.
Copy of a letter, Feb. 15, 1954, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence fold
Enclosures to note, Nov. 7, 1969, in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. correspondence folder are a letter to him and a copy of one from him.
Copy of a letter, June 11, 1953, to him from the director in Smithsonian Institution correspondence folder.

Beverage, Harold Henry, 1893-

Bown, Ralph, 1891-1971
3 letters, 1954-56.

Caldwell, Orestes Hampton, 1888-
Letter, January 9, 1953.

Carmichael, Leonard, 1898-
2 letters, 1953, addressed to George W. Bailey, re Smithsonian Institution.

Clement, Lewis Mason
Notes, undated
Information on Bay Area wireless and early radio

de Forest, Lee, 1873-1961
Letter, November 21, 1945. To Alfred N. Goldsmith
Enclosure to letter, Sept. 9, 1953, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from Espenschied to him.
Copy of a letter, Jan. 10, 1946, to him from Goldsmith in Alfred N. Goldsmith correspondence folder.
Enclosures to note, May 4, 1963, in Emil J. Simon correspondence folder are copies of letters from him, one to Lloyd Espenschied and the other to Simon.
Enclosure to letter, May 23, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Nikola Tesla.

Dibner, Bern, 1897-

Dunn, Gano, 1870-
No incoming letters; enclosure to letter, May 23, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Nikola Tesla.

Eastham, Melville, 1885-1964
2 letters, 1953 and 1960.
Enclosure to letter, June 5, 1953, in Institute of Radio Engineers correspondence folder is a copy of a letter to him.

Elwell, Cyril Frank,
5 letters, 1952-54 re wireless equipment.
Enclosures to letter, May 5, 1965, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder are a copy of a letter to him from Espenschied and one from him to Espenschied.
Espenschied, Lloyd, 1889-
101 letters, 1940-69.
To Pratt and others, some re Emil J. Simon's papers.
Included also, papers by him, "The Telefunken Co. of America, 1909-1910," 1950;
"Critique of the Hammond-Purington Paper Entitled 'A History of Some Foundations
1963.
Enclosure to letter, Oct. 14, 1953, in Edwin H. Armstrong correspondence folder is a
copy of a letter to him from Armstrong.
Copy of a letter, May 2, 1969, to him from M. D. Hooven in H Miscellaneous
correspondence folder.
Enclosure to letter, June 5, 1953, in Institute of Radio Engineers correspondence
folder is a copy of a letter to him.
Copy of a letter, May 15, 1969, to him from McCue in John J.G. McCue correspondence
folder.
Enclosure to note, May 4, 1963, in Emil J. Simon correspondence folder is a copy of a
letter to him from Lee de Forest.
Enclosures to letter, May 30, 1963, in Emil J. Simon correspondence folder are copies
of two letters to him from Benjamin F. Miessner.

Federal Telegraph Company
26 letters, 1915-25.
7 telegrams, 1924.
To Pratt and others, mostly from Ellery W. Stone.
Included also, 7 miscellaneous reports, ca. 1923-24.
Copy of a letter, July 2, 1913, to the officers and directors from Tuel in A. Y. Tuel
correspondence folder.
See also Tuel, A. Y.

Fink, Donald Glen, 1911-
Letter, November 18, 1964
Copy of a letter, Oct. 25, 1964, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied
correspondence folder.

Goldsmith, Alfred Norton, 1887-
4 letters, 1946-62. To Pratt and others, mostly re his position as Editor, Institute of
Radio Engineers.
Copy of a letter, Nov. 21, 1945, to him from de Forest in Lee de Forest
correspondence folder.

Haggerty, Patrick Eugene, 1914-
No incoming letters; enclosure to note, Nov. 7, 1969 in Institute of Electrical and
Electronics Engineers, Inc. correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to
George W. Bailey.

Hammond, John Hays, 1888-
No incoming letters; enclosure to letter, May 31, 1964, in Pratt's outgoing letters is a
copy of a letter to him.
Enclosures to letter, Apr. 24, 1953, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder are
copies of two letters from Espenschied to him and one from him to Espenschied and
enclosures to letter, May 20, 1953, are copies of letters from him to Beach Thompson
and Major F. R. Burnham.
One enclosure to letter, Sept. 20, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder
is a copy of a letter from him to Swezey.

Hewlett, William Redington, 1913-
3 letters, 1954.
Copies of letters, Oct. 9, 1954, Nov. 8, 1954, and Dec. 31 1954, to him from Frederick
K. Vreeland in Q-Z Miscellaneous folder.

Hibshman, Nelson Sherk, 1902-
Copy of a letter, Apr. 19, 1963, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder.

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
12 letters, 1963-69. To Pratt and others.
Enclosure to letter, Apr. 10, 1967, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder is a copy of a letter to the Institute from Espenschied.

Institute of Radio Engineers
8 letters, 1953-62. To Pratt and others.
See also Goldsmith, Alfred N.

Jackson, Joseph Gray, 1904-

McCue, John Joseph Gerald, 1913-
Copy of a letter, May 21, 1969, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder.
Copy of a letter, Aug. 6, 1969, to him from Staff Secretary in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. correspondence folder.

Mackay, Clarence Hungerford, 1874-1938
No incoming letters; enclosure to note, May 10, 1963, in Emil J. Simon correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Simon.
Copies of letters, Aug. 18, 1924, and Sept. 16, 1924, to him from Spreckels in Rudolph Spreckels correspondence folder.
Enclosure to letter, Sept. 8, 1924, in Federal Telegraph Company correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Rudolph Spreckels and enclosure to letter, Nov. 24, 1924, is also a copy of a letter from him to Spreckels.

Marriott, Robert Henry, 1879-
Enclosure to letter, Oct. 8, 1965, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Espenschied and enclosure to note, Oct. 9, 1965, is a copy of a letter from him to Espenschied.

Marton, Ladislaus Laszlo, 1901-
No incoming letters; enclosures to letter, May 6, 1969, from W. R. Crone in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. correspondence folder are a copy of a letter from him and one to him.

Miessner, Benjamin Franklin, 1890-
6 letters, 1963-64.
Enclosure to letter, March 23, 1963, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder is a copy of a letter to him from Espenschied and enclosure to letter, Aug. 29, 1963, is a copy of a letter to him from Espenschied.
Copy of a letter, Feb. 6, 1962, to him from the editor in Institute of Radio Engineers correspondence folder.
Enclosures to letter, May 30, 1963, in Emil J. Simon correspondence folder are copies of two letters from him to Lloyd Espenschied.

Millikan, Robert Andrews, 1868-1953
No incoming letters; enclosure to letter, Sept. 20, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Nikola Tesla.

Pickard, Greenleaf Whittier, 1877-
No incoming letters; enclosure to letter, May 23, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Nikola Tesla.

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, 1882-1945
2 letters, 1915. Addressed to the U.S. Navy Department.
Ryder, John Douglas, 1907-  
Letter, May 9, 1958.  
Memo, undated

Sarnoff, David, 1891-  
No incoming letters; enclosures to letter, Oct. 8, 1965, in Lloyd Espenschied  
correspondence folder are a copy of a letter from him to Espenschied and one to him  
from Espenschied.

Simon, Emil Jacob, 1888-1963  
5 letters, 1963.  
Included also, materials re wireless history: Avionics, Navy and Marconi.  
Enclosure to letter, Mar. 12, 1963, in Pratt’s outgoing letters is a copy of a letter  
from him to Pratt.

See also Espenschied, Lloyd.

Smithsonian Institution  
34 letters, 1953-68.  
Copy of a letter, Nov. 16, 1960, to the Smithsonian from W. W. Brown in A-G  
Miscellaneous correspondence folder.  
Copy of a letter, Feb. 10, 1961, to the Smithsonian from D. S. Rau in Q-Z  
Miscellaneous correspondence folder  
See also Carmichael, Leonard

Southworth, George Clark, 1890-  
No incoming letters; copy of a letter, Feb. 21, 1965, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd  
Espenschied correspondence folder.

Spreckels, Rudolph, 1872-1958  
2 letters, 1924. Addressed to Clarence Mackay.  
Enclosure to letter, Sept. 8, 1924, in Federal Telegraph Company correspondence  
folder is a copy of a letter to him from Clarence Mackay and enclosure to letter, Nov.  
24, 1924, is also a copy of a letter to him from Mackay.

Stratton, Julius Adams, 1901-  
No incoming letters; copies of letters, Mar. 2, 1953, to him from Bailey in George W.  
Bailey correspondence folder.

Susskind, Charles, 1921-  
Letter, undated

Swezey, Kenneth M.  
7 letters, 1955-60.  
Information about Nikola Tesla. Included also, articles by him, “Nikola Tesla:  

Terman, Frederick Emmons, 1900-  
5 letters, 1963-64.  
Copy of a letter, Apr. 16, 1964, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied  
correspondence folder.

Thompson, Beach, 1865-  
No incoming letters; enclosure to letter, May 20, 1953, in Lloyd Espenschied  
correspondence folder is a copy of a letter to him from John H. Hammond.

Tuel, A. Y.  
89 letters, 1913-19.  
3 telegrams, 1919  
Information on post World War I West Coast radio stations, including activities of the  
U.S. Navy station on Goat Island and Federal Telegraph Company.

Van Dyck, Arthur Floyd  

Watson, Paul G.  
6 letters, 1965.  
Information re the Arlington Naval Radio Station, ca. 1913

Weber, Ernst, 1901-
Partial List of Correspondents

No incoming letters; copies of letters, Mar. 6, 1963 and Mar 12, 1963, addressed to him and others in Pratt's outgoing letters.

Copy of a letter, Mar. 9, 1963, to him from Espenschied in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder.

Enclosure to letter, Mar. 23, 1963, in Lloyd Espenschied correspondence folder is a copy of a letter to him from Espenschied.

White, William Comings, 1890-
Letter, October 25, 1956.

Whitehead, John Boswell, 1872-1954
No incoming letters; one enclosure to letter, May 23, 1955, in Kenneth M. Swezey correspondence folder is a copy of a letter from him to Nikola Tesla.