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Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
2B Carl A. Kroch Library
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: (607) 255-3530 Fax: (607) 255-9524
E-mail: rareref@cornell.edu

NYCV84-A64

1)
Collver, John Lyon, 1893-1979.
Papers, 1909-1976.
9 cubic ft., 5 tapes.

John Lyon Collver was born at Chelsea-on-Hudson, New York in 1893, to a family of shipbuilders and boat operators. He attended Cornell University and graduated in 1917 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Durins these years he was a member and later coach of the crew team. He took a Job with Bethlehem Steel in their Wilminston shipyards. In 1923, he accepted the vice-presidency of the English-owned Dunlop Tire and Rubber Company in Buffalo, New York, and worked his way to the position of co-manasins director of Dunlop's international operations. In 1930 he married Georgia Forman Elliot, a widow with two children. Collver and his wife had a daughter, Georgia, in 1930. At this time he moved to England, continuing to work for Dunlop until 1939, when he moved back to the U.S. to assume the presidency and chief executive position at B.F. Goodrich Co., in Akron, Ohio. He contributed greatly to the development and production of synthetic rubber, a material in great demand in World War II. Collver served in this position with Goodrich for 25 years, and was on the board of directors of several corporations, including Cornell University. A benefactor of Cornell, he gave the Collver Boathouse on Cayusa Lake inlet. Collver died in 1979 at Vero Beach, Florida. Cornell University Class of 1917.

Summary: Photographs, correspondence, printed items, speeches, clippings, films and tapes concerning the public activities of John L. Collver. Material covers his tenure as president of B.F. Goodrich; most of this material concerns rubber.

Indexes: Unpublished guide; brochure.

Cite as: John Lyon Collver, Papers, #3265. Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Libraries.

1. Elliot, Georgia Forman. 2. Bethlehem Steel. 3. Dunlop Tire and Rubber Company. 4. B.F. Goodrich Company. 5. Mechanical engineering. 6. Photoprints. 7. Speeches. 8. Mechanical engineers.

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#3265

Guide to the Papers, 1909-1976,

of

John Lyon Collyer, 1893-1979.

February 1978 A. Berkowitz
M. Morrison

8 cubic feet:

18 - 4" letter boxes

2 - 16" boxes

5 - 5" tape recordings,
tr. 650-654

5 transcripts, trsc. 650-654

8 reels microfilm

1 o/s photo

Scope and Content Notes

Most of the John Lyon Collyer Papers came to Cornell University's Department of Manuscripts and University Archives in 1972 in one shipment of eight 16" boxes from the Collyer home in Akron, Ohio. Since that time, additions have been made to the collection and duplicates have been removed. When the collection was received, many of the papers, clippings, and speeches were arranged in folders or bound volumes. A large amount of material was loose. Since then, the items have been arranged in the following categories: speeches, clippings, correspondence, honorary, school years, postgraduation Cornell, other educational activities, personal photos, miscellaneous, films, and audio tapes. The collection occupies eighteen 4" letter-size boxes and two 16" boxes.

Essentially, the collection concerns Collyer's public activities; very little information is included on his personal life. The chronological period is from 1909 to 1976. A brief description of each category follows. The first category contains speeches given by Collyer in various forms, from personal annotated copies to printed versions. The speeches span a wide range of his activities, but most of them fall into the period when he was president of B. F. Goodrich, and concern rubber. Newspaper clippings concerning Collyer are arranged in twelve leather-bound volumes in the second section. Other loose clippings are included under appropriate folder headings. The final section on this category contains items of a biographical nature.

The third category is rather small because Collyer did not save most of his personal correspondence. It contains letters to him from friends and acquaintances. There is little outgoing correspondence. During his career, Collyer received many public honors and degrees,

which are organized in the fourth section. Most of the items are letters of congratulations from friends. The fifth category is devoted to the period up to Collyer's graduation from Cornell. It contains school mementos including a Cornell class book, letters, a childhood scrapbook, and clippings.

The materials concerning Collyer's association with Cornell after his graduation fall into three categories: class activities, rowing, and the Board of Trustees. The latter category contains extensive correspondence concerning the various Trustee committees of which Collyer was chairman, and other letters on Trustee affairs. The former categories contain clippings and letters. The next category, other educational activities, is small and contains clippings and pamphlets related to this subject. The business section contains contracts, notes, and clippings from various places Collyer worked. There is also a folder of extensive correspondence concerning his departure from the Dunlop Rubber Company and his initial employment by the B. F. Goodrich Company, and numerous publications and research papers on the rubber industry.

The most extensive part of the collection, aside from that concerning Collyer's service as a Cornell University trustee, has to do with his government-related activities, predominantly in the rubber area. Letters, testimonials, and memoranda range over a period of twenty years on the Rubber Stockpile Hearings. They provide an interesting look at a big business relationship with Congress. This section also contains nearly two hundred letters of congratulations to Collyer upon his appointment as rubber director, and information on that position. Personal items are mostly magazine articles annotated by Collyer. The photo section contains loose photographs arranged in the above categories and in scrapbooks. Films and miscellaneous publications and books are also included.

In order to provide more comprehensive documentation of the life of John Lyon Collyer, a series of four interviews were conducted with him during the first half of 1973. The purpose was to bring out aspects of Mr. Collyer's career and personality that were not adequately documented in the foregoing collection. Below is a synopsis of the interviews.

Interview 1. This interview was preliminary in nature and was conducted before the outline was prepared. It is broad in coverage, touching upon many periods of Mr. Collyer's life. Some topics are: family and childhood; early sailing and rowing experiences; important lessons useful later in life; student experiences; reminiscences about the Bethlehem Steel, Dunlop, and B. F. Goodrich companies; early efforts at publicizing the need for synthetic rubber; friendships; experiences as a Cornell trustee and in other service activities. The purpose of this interview was to provide a skeletal outline of Mr. Collyer's career and to identify the factors he felt were important in understanding his success. It was used in planning subsequent interviews.

Interview 2. Topics covered are: Childhood; early education; sickness; early goals and aspirations; Cascadilla and Cornell experiences and the effects of these various activities on him; early lessons and turning points in life; importance of physical education; later athletic activities; summers and jobs at Bethlehem Steel; goals upon graduation from college; personnel policies and problems at Bethlehem Steel, particularly the unionization of the Dunlop plant at Buffalo; observations while in England; awareness of the synthetic rubber program at B. F. Goodrich and later a government program; Ameripol Rubber; the importance of competition in the development and use of synthetic rubber.

Interview 3. Topics discussed are: the rationale for preserving materials now in the Collyer collection; trade associations (Business Advisory Council, Rubber Manufacturers Association); the split in the business community between the "old guard" (N.A.M.), and the "business liberals" (B.A.C.); the difference between cartels and trade associations; competition in the rubber industry; business self-regimentation, tariffs and quotas, the role of small businesses.

Interview 4. The major portion of this interview attempts to look at Mr. Collyer's career as a whole. It contains his responses to some quotations concerning the nature of American society.

A transcript of the interviews, as revised by Mr. Collyer, is available with his other papers at the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives at Cornell University. These Papers are open to users.

Folder Listing

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>SPEECHES</u>				
Collected Speeches, loose leaf bound, 14 binders				
1	v. 1	Nov. 1939-Feb. 1941		
	v. 2	June 1941-October 1942		
	v. 3	Oct. 1942-June 1943		
2	v. 4	June 1943-Mar. 1944		
	v. 5	Mar. 1944-Dec. 1945		
	v. 6	Dec. 1945-Jan. 1948		
	v. 7	Apr. 1948-Mar. 1949		
3	v. 8	May 1949-Oct. 1950		
	v. 9	Oct. 1950-Aug. 1951		
	v.10	Oct. 1951-Apr. 1952		
	v.11	May 1952-Dec. 1952		
4	v.12	Dec. 1952-Oct. 1954		
	v.13	Oct. 1954-Sept. 1957		
	v.14	Dec. 1957-Dec. 1959		

Miscellaneous Speeches--J.L.C.'s copies. 3 folders

	ff 1	1942-1967	Cornell Related Talks (20 items)	
	ff 2	1937-1939	Dunlop Talks (9 items)	
5	ff 1	1940-1953	Miscellaneous Talks (BAC, BFG, Government Testimony, etc.) (12 items)	

Miscellaneous Printed Copies of Speeches (as published)

	ff 2	1947-1953 (23 items)		
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<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	ff 2			Clippings: Leather bound volumes (12) contain clippings, Some photographs, dinner menus, etc.
	v. 1	1939-1940		
6	v. 2	1941-1942		
	v. 5	1948-1949		
7	v. 3	1943-1946		
	v. 6	1950		
8	v. 4	1947		
	v. 8	1952		
9	v. 7	1951-1952		
	v. 9	1954-1955		
	v. 10	1956-1959		
10	v. 11	1958-1962		
	v. 3a	1945		
11	ff 1	1940-1972	Biographical Material – articles, public relations, family history (32 items)	

CORRESPONDENCE - 5 folders

ff 2	1941-1957	Gannett correspondence - board of trustees and personal (36 items)
ff 3	1941-1962	Olin family correspondence - board of trustees and personal (mostly Franklin Olin) (85 items)
ff 4	1950-1955	A.E. Hettinger correspondence - personal (19 items)
ff 5	1915-1949	Miscellaneous correspondence (83 items)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
11	ff 6	1950-1976	Miscellaneous correspondence (58 items)	include Romeyn Berry, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Robert Kane, Anne (Mrs. Charles) Keck, James Lynah, George Marshall, Frederick Meserve with photo of Abraham Lincoln, Alfred Sloan, John M. Snyder, Charles and Robert E. Treman, Harry S. Truman, Maxwell Upson, John M. Olin, James Pedler, Robert B. Anderson, E. Clinton Towl, Clarence Francis, Dorothy M. Ross with address by George Hammond
<u>HONORARY</u> - 4 folders				
	ff 7	1946	Medal for Merit - mostly letters of congratulations (20 items)	
	ff 8	1959	Cornell Alumni Dinner - mostly congratulations (72 items)	
	ff 9	1949	French Legion of Honor - mostly congratulations (35 items)	
	ff 10	1944-1966	Honorary, miscellaneous, Cornell University, honors, diplomas, etc. (17 items)	
<u>SCHOOL YEARS</u> - 4 folders				
	ff 11	1909-1917	Childhood - report card and scrapbook (2 items)	
12	ff 1	1911-1914	Cascadilla - report cards, photos, letters home, athletic shingles (14 items)	
	ff 2	1913-1917	Cornell Rowing - 2 Courtney letters, clippings, shingles (22 items)	
	ff 3	1913-1917	Other Cornell - report cards, honorary, certificates, letters, checkbooks, notebooks	
<u>POST GRADUATION CORNELL</u> - 9 folders				
Athletic-related activities - 2 folders				
	ff 4	1930-1973	Post-Cornell Rowing - Intercollegiate Rowing Association, Eastern College Athletic Council, letters, programs, clippings, National Rowing Foundation (22 items)	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
12	ff 5	1957-1966	Collyer Boathouse	- clippings, correspondence with Kane and Stork Sanford, architects plans, miscellaneous (18 items)

Class of 1917 Reunions - 2 folders

ff 6	1964-1967	50th Reunion	- 58 letters, clippings, miscellaneous (77 items)
ff 7	1937-1967	Other Reunions	- miscellaneous, clippings, letters (35 items)

Board of Trustees - 5 folders

13	ff 1	1941-1969	Miscellaneous Papers	- mostly correspondence (96 items)
	ff 2	1940-1969	Miscellaneous Publications	- clippings, Cornell publications (73 items)
	ff 3	1958	Student Riot	- correspondence (40 items)
	ff 4	1948-1950, 1964	John L. Senior Chair	- correspondence (59 items)
14	ff 1	1941-1946	Committee on University Awards	(136 items)

OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - 1 folder

ff 2	1958-1962	Other Educational Activities	- miscellaneous clippings and pamphlets; Fund for Adult Education, Committee for Corporate Support of American Universities (7 items)
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BUSINESS ACTIVITIES - 10 folders

ff 3	1917-1922	Bethlehem Steel	- contracts, letters, clippings, notes (14 items)
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<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
14	ff 4	1929	United Drydocks - job offer	(7 items)
	ff 5	1923-1939	Miscellaneous Dunlop - papers and clippings	(27 items)
	ff 6	1939	Farewell letters - telegrams and letters on JLC's departure from Dunlop	(45 items)
	ff 7	1939	JLC--David Goodrich correspondence	(12 items)
	ff 8	1938-1940	Sir Walrod Sinclair--David Goodrich correspondence	(34 items)
	ff 9	1939	Congratulations - letters from friends in United States	(56 items)
	ff 10	1940-1961	Miscellaneous papers - JLC's notes, statistics	(25 items)
15	ff 1	1940-1970	B.F. Goodrich publications	(25 items)
	ff 2	1952-1972	Other Business - Eastman Kodak, Grumman Industrial Relations Counsellors, Newcomen Society	(30 items)
<u>GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES</u> - folders and one loose-leaf binder				
	ff 3	1945	Congratulations on War Board Appointment a-k	(114 items)
	ff 4	1945	Congratulations on War Board Appointment 1-z	(80 items)
	ff 5	1945-1953	Rubber Stockpile Hearings - letters to government: Reconstruction Finance Corp., Office for Defense materials, JLC's testimony, copies of bills, memos	(45 items)
16	ff 1	1954-1955	Rubber Stockpile Hearings (same as above)	(38 items)
	ff 2	1956-1963	Rubber Stockpile Hearings (same as above)	(46 items)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
16	ff 3	1952	International Rubber Study Group - notes, memos, letters (17 items)	
	ff 4	1944-1953	Miscellaneous - Jesse Jones letter, correspondence on government rubber in Formosa (13 items)	
		1951-1962	Loose-leaf binder - Rubber Stockpile Hearings: excerpts of chief letters and press releases--mostly duplicates but in better shape than above folders	
	ff 5	1947-1970	Other Government Activities - Business Advisory Council letters and Truman Committee miscellaneous (15 items)	
			<u>PERSONAL</u> - 1 folder	
	ff 6	1909-1969	Personal - annotated articles, doctors' notes, quotes, pamphlets (19 items)	
			<u>PHOTOGRAPHS</u> - 16 folders, 7 scrapbooks	
	ff 7		Childhood and Cascadilla (7 pieces)	
	ff 8		Cornell Crew (72 pieces)	
17	ff 1		Cornell non-Crew (32 pieces) Bethlehem, Pa. (5 pieces)	
	ff 2		Dunlop, Buffalo (4 pieces) England: Dunlop (47 pieces)	
	ff 3		England: Family (81 pieces)	
	ff 4		Honorary (20 pieces)	
	ff 5		Post-Cornell Rowing (35 pieces)	
	ff 6		Boathouse (21 pieces)	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
17	ff 7		Class of 1917 (29 pieces)	
	ff 8		B.F. Goodrich (71 pieces)	
18	ff 1		Board of Trustees and other Cornell Functions (22 pieces)	
	ff 2		Other Business and Government, Rubber (18 pieces)	
	ff 3		Other Government photos with political figures (14 pieces)	
	ff 4		Miscellaneous speeches and dinners - not falling in another category (32 pieces)	
	ff 5		Family and Personal (53 pieces)	
	ff 6		Portrait Photos (30 pieces)	

Bound photos in scrapbooks

	v. 1	1913-1917		contains mostly clippings
19	v. 2	1939-1943		
	v. 3	1943-1944		
	v. 4	1944-1947		
	v. 5	1945-1950		
	v. 6	1950-1955		
	v. 7	1955-1963		

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MISCELLANEOUS

	1	1917	Class of 1917 yearbook	
	2	1940-1950	B.F. Goodrich book: Rubber Reports	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
20	3	1942-1946	Scrapbook with clippings and citations	
	4	1944	<u>Bricks Without Straw</u> , a B.F. Goodrich book on the story of synthetic rubber	
	5	1947	Record: a tribute to JLC by Forbes Magazine	
	6	1947	European Recovery and American Aid, the Marshall Plan Committee Report	
	7	1947	Business Advisory Council Handbook	
	8	1952	<u>The Rubber Outlook</u> , by B.F. Goodrich	
	9	1953	<u>The World and the U.S.A. Rubber Situation</u> , by B.F. Goodrich	
	10	1957	Business Advisory Council Handbook	
	11	1958	Small scrapbook, Boathouse dedication	
	12	1958	Collyer Boathouse Scrapbook	
	13	1958	<u>This is Your Life</u> , script and scrapbook (a film made for JLC on his 65th birthday)	
	14	1959	Scrapbook of the dinner in JLC's honor, by the Cornell Alumni Club	
	15	1960	Heidleburg Committee Scrapbook	
	16	1967	Class of 1917, 50th Reunion Scrapbook	
	17		Book on the Business Advisory Council	
	18		<u>Modern Business</u> , 2 volumes	
	19		Miscellaneous magazines with articles on JLC or related material	

FILMS AND TAPES

20	1942	25th Reunion film
21	1952	35th Reunion film

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
20	22	1958		Boathouse dedication film	
	23	1962		45th Reunion film	
tr. 650		1958	<u>This is Your Life</u>	tape	B-3-B-2
trsa. 650	biographic slideshow from B.F. Goodrich		"	transcript	S-47-E-1
3265 tr.		1973	Interview tapes		
651-654 v.1	corrected draft		"	transcripts	S-47-E-1
651-654 v.2	final copy				

Boxes 22 and 23 Additional undescribed material