

# **Guide to the E. Hamilton Lee Papers**

**WA MSS S-3699**



Sarah Lerner

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P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-3699

**CREATOR:** Lee, E. Hamilton, 1892-1994 , author

**TITLE:** E. Hamilton Lee papers

**DATES:** 1912-1994

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.88 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters, photographs, and newspaper clippings pertaining to air pilot E. Hamilton Lee, 1912-1994. Includes a photograph album containing 380 black-and-white photographs, 132 loose photographs, and 14 negatives of Lee, aircrafts, air pilots, and aerial views, 1912-1974, undated. Photographs are accompanied by manuscript notes on envelopes or versos. Also present are a scrapbook and loose newspaper clippings documenting Lee's career, 1920-1971, undated. Clippings focus primarily on Lee's time with the United States Air Mail Service Division of the U.S. Post Office Department, but also reference his service during World War I and later career as a commercial pilot. Letters in the collection are addressed to Lee from peers and fans, 1923-1993. There are also membership cards, loose notes, passports, pins, and magazine articles. Accompanied by a wooden box.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ehamiltonlee>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Tavistock Books on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The E. Hamilton Lee Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

E. Hamilton Lee Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Biographical / Historical

E. Hamilton Lee (1892-1994) of Paris, Illinois, was an instructor in the flying division of the United States Army Signal Corps during World War I. After leaving the military, he joined the U.S. Air Mail Service Division of the U.S. Post Office Department. He was hired by Boeing Air Transport in 1927, when the Post Office Department stopped flying the mail. Boeing merged with other carriers in 1934, becoming United Air Lines. Lee retired in 1949 after a 36-year aviation career.

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## Content Description

Letters, photographs, and newspaper clippings pertaining to air pilot E. Hamilton Lee, 1912-1994. Includes a photograph album containing 380 black-and-white photographs, 132 loose photographs, and 14 negatives of Lee, aircrafts, air pilots, and aerial views, 1912-1974, undated. Photographs are accompanied by manuscript notes on envelopes or versos. Also present are a scrapbook and loose newspaper clippings documenting Lee's career, 1920-1971, undated. Clippings focus primarily on Lee's time with the United States Air Mail Service Division of the U.S. Post Office Department, but also reference his service during World War I and later career as a commercial pilot. Letters in the collection are addressed to Lee from

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by format.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Air Mail Pioneers decal and stationery	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Airline transport pilot certificate	1946 January 22
b. 1, f. 3	Article: "I fly the mail!"	1948 June
b. 1, f. 4	Article: "The somewhat mixed up events of our very first air mail flight"	1968 May
b. 1, f. 5	Article: "Take-off! A simplified flight lesson by Capt. E. Hamilton Lee"	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Correspondence	1923 January 30-1993 January 13
b. 1, f. 7	Event ephemera	1938-1992, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Loose notes	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Membership cards	1958-1987, undated
b. 1, f. 10	Name plate	undated
b. 1, f. 11	Newspaper clippings	1920-1929
b. 6, f. 44	Newspaper clippings	1930-1933
b. 1, f. 12	Newspaper clippings	1930-1938
b. 6, f. 45	Newspaper clippings	1935-1941
b. 1, f. 13	Newspaper clippings	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 14	Newspaper clippings	1942-1943
b. 6, f. 46	Newspaper clippings	1942-1945
b. 1, f. 15	Newspaper clippings	1944-1976
b. 6, f. 47	Newspaper clippings	1946-1972
b. 1, f. 16	Newspaper clippings	1968-1971
b. 1, f. 17	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 1, f. 18	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 1, f. 19	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 1, f. 20	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 1, f. 21	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 6, f. 48	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 6, f. 49	Newspaper clippings	undated

b. 1, f. 22	Passports	1934-1962
b. 4, f. 42	Photograph album	circa 1910-1920
b. 2, f. 23	Photographs (aerial views)	1914, undated
b. 2, f. 24	Photographs (air crafts)	1938, undated
b. 2, f. 25	Photographs (air crafts)	1938, undated
b. 2, f. 26	Photographs (air pilots)	1914-1921
b. 2, f. 27	Photographs (air pilots)	1915-1974
b. 2, f. 28	Photographs (E. Hamilton Lee)	1918-1919
b. 2, f. 29	Photographs (E. Hamilton Lee) (negative sleeves)	1918-1920
b. 2, f. 30	Photographs (E. Hamilton Lee)	1918-1923
b. 2, f. 31	Photographs (E. Hamilton Lee)	circa 1920
b. 2, f. 32	Photographs (E. Hamilton Lee)	1938, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Photographs (E. Hamilton Lee)	1945, undated
b. 2, f. 34	Photographs (other)	1928, undated
b. 2, f. 35	Photographs (negatives)	undated
b. 2, f. 36	Pins (2)	undated
b. 2, f. 37	Postcards	undated
b. 3, f. 41	Scrapbook	undated
b. 2, f. 38	Short snorter [banknote inscribed by people traveling together on an aircraft] and United Airlines commemorative coin	circa 1951, undated
b. 2, f. 39	Washington School of Flying agreement form	undated
b. 5, f. 43	Wooden box	undated
b. 2, f. 40	Miscellaneous	undated

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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.

### **Subjects**

Aeronautics -- United States -- History  
Aircraft -- Pictorial works  
Air pilots, Military -- United States  
Air pilots -- Pictorial works  
Mail service -- United States

### **Occupations**

Air pilots -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Genres / Formats**

Negatives (photographic)  
Passports  
Photograph albums  
Photographic prints  
Photographs  
Postcards  
Scrapbooks

### **Corporate Bodies**

United States. Army. Signal Corps. Aviation  
Section -- History  
United States. Post Office Department --  
Officials and employees

### **Acquired From**

Tavistock Books , bookseller