



## Frank Lyman Papers

1904-1991

6 boxes (9 linear feet)

Call no.: MS735

### Collection overview

A manufacturer of electronics and radio communications, Frank Lyman was a native of Northampton and graduate of the Williston Academy and Harvard (class of 1931). The grandson of Joseph Lyman and great-nephew of Benjamin Smith Lyman, Lyman joined Harvey Radio in the late 1930s, during a time when it was building radio transmitting equipment, purchasing the company in 1940 and becoming its president. An investor in Boston-area radio stations, Lyman oversaw the company's post-transition into the manufacture of of automatic machines and tooling and its merger into the electronics firm, Cambridge Thermionic Corporation (later renamed Cambion) in 1968. Lyman died in 1992, followed by his wife, Jeanne (Sargent), in 2005.

The Lyman Papers contain business correspondence and associated documents relating to both Harvey Radio Corporation and Cambridge Thermionic Corporation, along with associated materials pertaining to Frank Lyman's investments and personal interests. Beginning during his time at the Williston Academy and extending through his adult life, the collection includes Lyman's diaries and a small amount of personal correspondence.

### Background on Frank Lyman, Jr.

A manufacturer of electronics and radio communications, Frank Lyman was a native of Northampton and graduate of the Williston Academy and Harvard (class of 1931). He went on to own and operate the WNBX Radio Station (Springfield, VT) shortly after graduating from college with a specialization in Engineering and Physical Sciences in 1931. The grandson of Joseph Lyman and great-nephew of Benjamin Smith Lyman, Lyman joined Harvey Radio in the late 1930s, during a time when it was building radio transmitting equipment, purchasing the company in 1940 and becoming its president. An investor in Boston-area radio stations, Lyman oversaw the company's post-transition into the manufacture of of automatic machines and tooling and its merger into the electronics firm, Cambridge Thermionic Corporation (later renamed Cambion) in 1968. Upon his father, Frank Lyman Sr.'s death, in 1938, he became the overseer of his father's estate and family investments in coal production. Lyman died in 1992, followed by his wife, Jeanne (Sargent), in 2005.

### Scope of collection

The Frank Lyman Papers contain business correspondence and associated documents relating to both Harvey Radio Corporation and Cambridge Thermionic Corporation, along with associated materials pertaining to Frank Lyman's investments and personal interests. It also contains correspondence and journals related to WNBX Broadcasting Corporation (Springfield, VT), also operated by Lyman before he played a role in Cambridge Thermionic Corporation previously Harvey Radio Labs. Approximately three cubic boxes of records contain Harvey Radio Labs/Cambridge Thermionic Corporation materials such as correspondence, memoranda, audits, financial statements, reports, and production notes and information extending from the time Lyman began working for them in the late 1930s until the 1980s. Beginning during his time at the Williston Academy and extending through his adult life, the second series in the collection includes several cubic boxes of Lyman's coursework, diaries, notes, photographs, and a small amount of personal correspondence, including a file of correspondence with his mother, Florence Porter Lyman (1870-1960). The remainder includes the third series which contains material related to the WNBX Broadcasting Corporation such as Lyman's personal journals and correspondence as they relate to the operation of the station.



*Frank Lyman, ca. 1945*

## Series descriptions

### **Series 1. Harvey Radio Labs/Cambridge Thermionic Corporation Records**

**1926-1987**

This series contains correspondence, notes, and official business records such as forms, patents, contracts, audits, financial statements, policies, regulations, commissions, and reports related to Harvey Radio Labs/Cambridge Thermionic Corporation covering the primary functions of the corporation, namely the production of radio equipment as well as color prints, film and cameras after World War II. The records span Lyman's time there ranging from the late 1930s to the 1980s. They cover the following subjects as pertaining to the corporation: finances, contracts, labor, operations, production, advertising, hiring, as well as expanding physically to a new plant and experimenting with color film and print sales with the creation of a color print and film division to pioneer development. The series also contains government contracts in the post-World War II era related to the development of cameras for aircraft (F-8) and radio technology.

## Series 2. Personal Materials

1904-1991

This series contains correspondence, diaries, journals, coursework, notes, logbooks, financial accounts and other informal publications such as investment and stakeholders notices and reports, along with bulletins, newspapers, photographs, and slides covering the personal life of Frank Lyman, including his education at Williston Academy and Harvard University, and his leisure activities during work and retirement. Coursework and notes cover Lyman's studies in the hard sciences such as Physics and Chemistry, while at Williston Academy (Easthampton, Mass.) and Harvard University until his graduation in 1931. The series further contains notes, logs and journals spanning the course of Lyman's life ranging from private speculations about the outcome of international events and war on production to planned meetings and weekend activities. It contains annual stakeholder and investment reports spanning the 1940s primarily from utilities, heavy industry and telecommunications companies. Photographs and slides depict Lyman's vacations as well as his 55th and 60th Harvard University Reunions. It also contains organizational ephemera and informal publications of the organizations that he was involved in such as the Rotary Club of Cambridge and the Boston Yacht Club.

## Series 3. WNBX Broadcasting Corporation Records

1933-1937

This series contains correspondence, accounts, and relevant journals containing notes on broadcasting from the WNBX Broadcasting Corporation from the 1930s covering a range of subjects involving radio station management such as security, frequencies, technical details or formulas and regulations over radio communications in the United States.

## Inventory

### Series 1. Harvey Radio Labs/Cambridge Thermionic Corporation Records

1926-1987

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<b>Series 3. WNBX Broadcasting Corporation (Springfield, VT) 1933-1937</b>		
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## Access

The collection is open for research.

## Provenance

Gift of Christine Lyman Chase, 2012.

## Processing Information

Processed by Michelle C. Sigiel, November 2017.

## Language:

English

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## Search terms

### Subjects

- Cambridge(Mass.)
- Harvard University--alumni
- Lyman, Florence Porter, 1870-1960
- Radio broadcasting--Massachusetts
- Radio--History
- Williston Academy (Easthampton, Mass.)

### Contributors

- Lyman, Frank, 1908-1992 **[main entry]**

### Genres and formats

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Photographs