

Guide to  
JOHN I. YELLOTT  
Papers, ca. 1900-1990

8 Cubic Feet

Accession Number 1064

Prepared by John Hanks

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JOHN I. YELLOTT PAPERS, Accession Number 1064

Introduction

John I. Yellott, 1908-1986

Papers, ca. 1900-1990

8 Cubic Feet (13 Document boxes, 2 Card File Boxes and 2 Artifact Boxes)

Accession Number 1064

The John I. Yellott Papers were given to the American Heritage Center by Vladimir Borovansky, Barbara Jordan Yellott, and Ellen Campbell in three shipments. One box was received from Mr. Borovanski in 1988, seven boxes were received from Barbara Jordan Yellott in 1990, and two were received from Ellen Campbell in 1994.

The collection should be cited as the John I. Yellott Papers, ca. 1900-1990, Accession Number 1064, Box Number, Folder Number, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Ewig  
Acting Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Biographies

John I. Yellott was best known for his 30 years of work related to solar energy. He was a promotor and scientist who advocated buildings which take advantage of the sun, and he developed glass and plastic coatings for solar panels.

He was born in Bel Air, Maryland, in 1908. He was the son of Rev. John I. Yellot, a prominent Anglican clergyman who debated, and corresponded with H. L. Mencken in the Baltimore Sun. He earned a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1933. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers gave him a gold medal in 1934, which was the first of many professional awards. He taught engineering at the University of Rochester, the Stevens Institute of Technology and the Illinois Institute of Technology until 1940. Later, he was a consultant to the metallurgical laboratory of the Manhattan Project. Then he was director of the Institute of Gas Technology from 1942 to 1945. From 1945 to 1955 he was director of bituminous coal research for the Federal Government.

In 1951 he married his second wife Barbara Leslie Jordan. They moved to Arizona in 1956, where he became director of the Association for Applied Solar Energy (later the International Solar Energy Society) and director of Solar Energy Activities at the Stanford Research Institute. He founded the *Journal of Solar Energy* and *The Sun at Work*, and he held solar home design competitions. He conducted solar energy exhibits for the U.S. Dept. of Commerce from 1957 to 1959 in Greece, Morocco, Tunisia, India, and many other places. In 1958 he created the Yellott Solar Energy Laboratory and he incorporated the John Yellott Engineering Associates Inc. In addition, he was headmaster of the Phoenix County Day School from 1966-1972, when he became a professor of architecture at Arizona State University. He retired Emeritus in 1985 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1986. From 1980 to 1985 he was a member of the Solar Energy Research Institute Advisory Board and the Arizona Solar Energy Commission.

He was a Benjamin Franklin Fellow in the Royal Society of the Arts and a member of the American Society of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. A Mechanical Engineers centennial medal was awarded in 1980 and a Corning award was announced in 1983. The Illinois Institute of Technology welcomed him into their Hall of Fame. He died in Phoenix, Arizona on December 27, 1986. He left two children from a previous marriage: Dr. John I. Yellott, Jr. and Dr. Ann Williams Yellott.

Barbara Leslie Jordan (Yellott) attended private schools in New York and Connecticut and met her second husband John I. Yellott in 1950. She wrote numerous poems and published three books of poetry, while teaching and lecturing on poetry throughout the United States. Her books include *Web of Days* (1949), *Comfort the Dreamer* (1955), and *Silver Song* (1980). She was a helpmate to her husband serving as an administrative assistant and secretary.

### Series Description

The John I. Yellott Papers are arranged in 8 series:

Series I. Family and Biographical, 1911-1990. (12 Folders) Clippings, Resumes, References, Memorials, Obituaries, Poetry, Rev. John I Yellot, Barbara Leslie Jordan Yellott. Arranged alphabetically.

Series II. Correspondence, 1945-1987. (22 Folders) Professional, Gas Turbines, Dr. Charles Greeley Abbott, Solar, ASHRAE, Misc. Arranged alphabetically.

Series III. Writings of John I. Yellott, 1931-1986. (23 Folders) John I. Yellott, Gas Turbines, ASHRAE, Glenn Warren, Barbara Leslie Jordan (Yellott), Carefree, Supersaturated Steam, Valve Design, Reports, War Training, Speeches. Arranged alphabetically by subject and title.

Series IV. Patent Materials, 1942-1968. (5 Folders) Notebook, Turbines, Papers, Rival Claims. Arranged alphabetically.

Series V. Photographs, ca. 1900-1972. (30 Folders) Albums, Portraits, Family, Friends, Professional, Social, Travels, Technical. Arranged alphabetically.

Series VI. Subject Files, 1930-1988. (34 Folders) Gas Turbines, Illinois Institute of Technology, ASHRAE, Private Schools, Solar, Solar Projects, S.I.T. Arranged alphabetically.

Series VII. Appointment Books, 1928-1983. (2 ½ Boxes) Professional. Arranged chronologically.

Series VIII. Artifacts, 1930s-1950s. (1 ¼ Boxes) Personal, Professional. Arranged to fit in artifact box.

### Scope and Content

The John I. Yellott Papers focus on Yellott's engineering career in Gas Turbine Locomotive development and teaching from the 1930s to the 1950s. The rest of the collection contains material related to his Phoenix Arizona career in solar design, architecture and promotion from the 1950s to the 1980s. The collection also contains his father's 1911 scrapbook, which contains clippings from the Baltimore Sun when Reverend Yellot debated prohibition and religion with H.L. Mencken. The collection contains technical and personal photographs as well as others which record Yellott's solar promotions for the Dept. of Commerce in the 1950s.

Folder List

**Series I. Biographical Files, 1911-1990**

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Box 1</u>		
1	Barbara Leslie Jordan (Yellott), Letters, Documents, Misc.	1950-1977
2	Barbara Leslie Jordan (Yellott) <i>Silver Song</i> , Poetry	1980
3	John I. Yellott – Illinois Institute of Technology	1942-1945
4	John I. Yellott – Locomotive Development Commission, Gas Turbines	1940-1946
5	John I. Yellott – Obituaries, Memorium	1986-1987
6	John I. Yellott – Resumes, Clippings, Family History	1926-1986
7	John I. Yellott – Social, Honorary	1957-1977

Box 2

1	John I. Yellott – Solar	1957-1990
2	Pastor John I. Yellott, Sr. “Letters to the Editor” Feud with H. L. Mencken (Photocopies)	1911
3	Pastor John I. Yellott, Sr. “Letters to the Editor,” Sermons (Loose)	1911
4	Pastor John I. Yellott, Sr. “Letters to the Editor,” Sermons (Scrapbook)	1911

**Series II. Correspondence, 1945-1987**

5	<i>Actual Specifying Engineer</i>	1958-1959
6	ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers)	1974-1975

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series II. Correspondence (Continued)		
<u>Box 2</u> (Continued)		
7	ASHRAE	1975
<u>Box 3</u>		
1	ASHRAE	1975
2	Association for Applied Solar Energy	1957-1958
3	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad	1960
4	Carefree, Arizona, Sundial Project	1958-1973
5	Dr. Charles Greeley Abbott	1957-1972
6	<i>Electrical West</i>	1959
7	Gas Turbine – ALCO (American Locomotive Company) Products	1960
8	Gas Turbines – Chandler Evans Corporation	1969
9	Gila Bend Solar Project, Luke Air Force Base	1974-1975
10	Japan, Slide Rules and Lettering Sets	1959
11	Professional	1945 - June 1975
12	Professional	July 1975 - Nov. 1975
<u>Box 4</u>		
1	Professional	Dec. 1975 - 1987
2	Saudi Arabia	1974-1975
3	Solar Energy Technology – Midwest Research Institute	1974-1975

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series II. Correspondence (Continued)		
<u>Box 4</u> (Continued)		
4	Stanford Research Institute, Inventions, Resumes, Drawings	1955-1958
5	Student Recommendations	1974-1975
6	U. of Alabama in Huntsville	1975
7	“Zipper Gripper” Invention	1959
<b>Series III. Writings of John I. Yellott, 1931-1986</b>		
8	Carefree, Arizona Solar Designs	1959
9	Combustion Engineering Report	1960
10	<i>Flow of Steam</i> , Stevens Institute of Technology – Report by John I. Yellott and Students	1931
11	Gas Turbines	1951
12	Gas Turbines (Chandler Evans Co.)	March 1, 1960
13	Gas Turbine Research Reports	1930s-1940s
14	Gas Turbine Research Reports	1949-1951
<u>Box 5</u>		
1	Gas Turbine Research Reports	1952-1955
2	Gas Turbine Research Reports	1955-1960
3	Magneto Hydrodynamics Article	1960
4	Notes	1955-1956
5	PD Valve Design Conference	1959
6	Solar – ASHRAE American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.	1974

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series III. Writings of John I. Yellott (Continued)		
<u>Box 5, (Continued)</u>		
7	Solar – First Drafts	1956
8	Solar - Proceedings, Solar and Coal Energy Conference (Part I)	Sep. 1-2 1977
9	Solar – Proceedings, Solar and Coal Energy Conference (Part II)	Sep. 1-2 1977
<u>Box 6</u>		
1	Solar – Solar Heating and Cooling, ASHRAE-CIBSQ Meeting in Dublin	Sep. 1986
2	Solar Reports	1957-1964
3	Solar Reports	1965-1969
4	Solar Reports	1970s-1980s
5	Speeches, Graduation, Professional, Public	1943-1970
6	Supersaturated Steam - Test Data	1931-1933
7	Supersaturated Steam Reports	1936
8	<i>The War Training Program of the Illinois Institute of Technology - Report</i>	Apr. 25, 1945
<b>Series IV. Patent Materials, 1942-1968</b>		
<u>Box 7</u>		
1	LDC (Locomotive Development Committee) Turbine Patents	1953
2	LDC Turbine Patents	1953
3	Notebook (Patent)	1945-1946
4	Papers, Correspondence	1942-1968

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series IV. Patent Materials (Continued)		
<u>Box 7</u> (Continued)		
5	Rival Claims – Turbines	1951
<b>Series V. Photographs, ca. 1900-1972</b>		
<u>Box 8</u>		
1	Album – Greece, Solar Exhibition, Social	1957-1961
2	Album – U. S. Trade Fair, Madras, India – Small Industries Exhibit	1959
3	Barbara Leslie Jordan (Yellott)	1951-1957
4	Family, Friends – Daughter, Wife, Church, Travel	ca. 1900-1967
5	Family, Friends (Negatives)	1937-1967
6	Phoenix Day School – Social, Director	1967-1972
7	Phoenix Day School (Negatives)	ca.1967- ca. 1972
8	Portraits of John Yellott	1944-1960
9	Professional/Social Events (Gas Turbine Demonstrations, Misc., Newcomen Society, Science Demonstrations)	1944-1972
10	Reports – Union Pacific Gas Turbine Locomotive	ca. 1952
11	Reports – Locomotive Development Committee, Gas Turbine, Selkirk, New York	ca. 1952
12	Rocket and Jet Propulsion (Slides)	1945-1955
<u>Box 9</u>		
1	Solar - Research, Social Events - Japan	1959
2	Solar – Rome, Pope, UN Conference	1961
3	Solar – Solar House, AFSE	1958

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series V. Photographs (Continued)		
<u>Box 9</u> (Continued)		
4	Solar Exhibitions – Greece – Athens (Salonika Trade Fair)	1957
5	Solar Exhibitions – Greece, NATO (Sounion)	1961
6	Solar Exhibition – India, Madras	1958
7	Solar Exhibitions – India, New Delhi	1958
8	Solar Exhibition – Phoenix, Arizona	Nov. 1955
9	Solar Exhibition – Tunis, Casablanca	1958
<u>Box 10</u>		
1	Solar Projects - Japan House	1959?
2	Solar Projects - Yellott Solar Home, O.G. Lof House, U. of Florida Solar, Etc.	1957-1965
3	Stevens Institute of Technology	1936-1940
4	Technical - Gas Turbine Steam Flow	1943-1944
5	Technical - Gas Turbine Steam Flow (Negatives)	1943-1944
6	Technical – Miscellaneous	No Dates
7	Technical – Solar	ca. 1970
<b>Series VI. Subject Files, 1930-1988</b>		
8	Air Conditioning - Climatrol Corp.	1975
9	All Saints Parish Day School Annual Report	1964
10	ASHRAE – American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.	1974-1986

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI. Subject Files (Continued)		
<u>Box 10</u> (Continued)		
11	Combustion Engineering – Cavitation, “O” Rings	1959
12	Gas – Natural Gas	1957-1958
13	Gas Turbines – Alco-Union Pacific Analysis	1960
<u>Box 11</u>		
1	Gas Turbines – American Locomotive Co. Blueprints	1945-1955
2	Gas Turbines – Publications, Reports	1930-1954
3	Gas Turbines – Publications Reports	1956-1981
4	Gas Turbines – Riley Unit Pulverizer	1955
5	<i>Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning</i> Magazine	1959-1960
6	Illinois Institute of Technology – Hall of Fame Election	1983
7	Illinois Institute of Technology – Training Booklet for Yellott	1945
8	Newcomen Society – Clippings, flyers	1970-1986
<u>Box 12</u>		
1	Orme School – Clippings and Commencement Speech	1982
2	Phoenix County Day School	1969-1970
3	The Royal Society	1969-1984
4	Solar – Announcements, Lists	1957-1982
5	Solar – Arizona State University	1988
6	Solar – Association for Applied Solar Energy	1956-1958
7	Solar – Miscellaneous	1972-1982
8	Solar – Miscellaneous Test, Ross McCluney Bibliography, Etc.	1979

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI. Subject Files (Continued)		
<u>Box 12</u> (Continued)		
9-10	Solar – NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)	1975
<u>Box 13</u>		
1	Solar – New Mexico State U., Casa del Sol Demonstration House	No Date
2	Solar – SEAC (Solar Energy Applications Committee)	1969-1971
3	Solar – Solar House (AFASE – Association for Applied Solar Energy)	1958-1984
4	Solar Clippings	1957-1975
5	Solar Exhibitions – Athens, Tunis, India	1957-1959
6	Solar Publications	1956-1980
7	“Solaradiant House” – Notes, Plans	1959
8	Stevens Institute of Technology – Yearbook, Pamphlet	1935, 1979
9	Warren, Glenn – Bee Venom Therapy, Sermons	1956
<b>Series VII. Appointment Books, 1928-1983</b>		
<u>Box 14</u> (Card File Box)		
	Pocket Size (Annual) Appointment Books	1928-1983
<u>Box 15</u> (Artifact Box)		
	Boxes (Annual) of Monthly Appointment Books	1963–1970, (No 1971) 1972
<u>Box 16</u> (Artifact Box)		
	Boxes (Annual) of Monthly Appointment Books	1973-1975 1976 (No 1978) 1979

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<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Series VIII. Artifacts, 1920s-1950s</b>	
<u>Box 16</u> (Continued)	
Glass Slides – Gas Turbine Flow Studies	1930s?
<u>Box 17</u> (Card File Box)	
Two Belt Buckles	1920s-1950s
Funzig Millionen Mark note (German)	1923
Coal Atomizer Samples	1930s?
Institute of Gas Technology Samples	1940s?
Souvenir Turbine Blade	1930s?
Souvenir Half Section of Nozzle	1930s?
B-49 “Flying Wing” Tie Clip	1950s
Hand-painted tin box (app. 10”x6”x4”) Decoupage on lid of 2 setters and pheasant, by G.B.Y.	1954