Maxim, an inventor and explosives expert, began working with explosives during the late 1880s. His inventions included Maximite, a high explosive; Stabilite, a smokeless powder; Motorite, a nitroglycerine compound for driving torpedoes; a magnetic mine developed during World War One; and a delay action detonating fuse, among others. Some of these were bought by the E.I. du Pont de Nemours Company for whom Maxim worked as a consultant from 1897 until his death; others by the United States government.

Maxim's early career included a period during the 1880s as a printer and publisher with a partner, Alden Knowles, in Ohio and Pittsfield, Mass. He also served, from 1888-1891, as the American representative for the Maxim-Nordenfeldt Guns and Ammunition Co., Ltd., an English company run by his brother, Hiram Stevens Maxim, inventor of the Maxim Automatic Gun. Hiram S. Maxim's son, Hiram Percy Maxim, was the inventor of the Maxim Silencer.

Maxim lectured and wrote books and articles on a wide variety of topics.
While war and explosives were his main subjects, Maxim also expressed opinions on poetry, women's rights (which he was for), and prohibition (against). His books included: *Real Pen-Work Self-Instructor in Penmanship*, with Alden Knowles, 1881; *The Science of Poetry and the Philosophy of Language*, 1910; *Defenseless America*, 1915; and *Dynamite Stories*, 1916.

Maxim was an enthusiastic cook, and carried out experiments with soybeans, the results of which he canned and attempted to market.

Maxim's first marriage produced one son and ended in divorce. His second marriage, to Lilian Durban, an Englishwoman, took place in 1896. After his second marriage Maxim and his wife lived in Brooklyn and, during the summers, at Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, where they were active in local affairs.

**DESCRIPTION**

The bulk of Maxim's papers date from the 1890s through 1927, the year of his death, and consist of correspondence; photographs, typescripts of speeches, books, and articles; patent specifications; recipes; account books; address books; and legal and other documents. These document his career as an inventor and explosives expert, experiments with soybeans and other foods, anti-Prohibition activities, involvement with Lake Hopatcong local affairs, and family and personal life.

**Correspondence**

A small section of early correspondence, 1890-1926, is divided - probably by Maxim himself or by his secretary - into categories: miscellaneous, personal, "good letters not sent," "amusing," and "important." The bulk of the correspondence dates from the last few years of Maxim's life, 1925-1927. Included are letters received by Maxim, and drafts and copies of letters he wrote concerning a wide range of topics. These include: his books and speeches; legal, financial, and real estate matters; family and household matters; Lake Hopatcong local affairs; the Hotel Durban, which was on Maxim's property at Lake Hopatcong; anti-Prohibition activities; and other professional, personal, and avocational activities. His correspondents were friends, professional contacts, members of his own and his wife's family, admirers, employees, tradesmen, and others. Included are letters from: Luther Burbank, Gutzon Borglum, Francis I. du Pont, Lillian Gish (responding to his biography, 1925),
his nephew Hiram Percy Maxim, Margaret Sanger (refusing a weekend invitation, 1925), Frank A. Tichenor, and George Sylvester Viereck.

**Speeches**

Typescript speeches and outlines of speeches delivered by Maxim, 1907-1927. He spoke on aviation, explosives, Lake Hopatcong, the Morris Canal investigation, pacifism, poetry, politics, prohibition, war, women's rights, and a variety of other topics. See the index to speeches.

**Explosions**

Notes, reports, correspondence, blueprint maps and charts showing explosion sites and damage, and legal documents, ca.1911-1925. These document experimental explosions carried out by Maxim, and accidental ones he studied, particularly the explosion of a T.N.T. magazine at the Hercules Powder Co., Kenvil, New Jersey, 1918 (including photographs of the site), and the Black Tom explosions in New York Harbor, 1916. Transcripts of Maxim's testimony on behalf of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company in the legal cases resulting from the Black Tom explosions are included.

**Food**

Maxim's correspondence with canning companies, seed merchants, and state and federal agriculture departments, 1917-1918, concerning his experiments with the preparation and canning of various foods, particularly soybeans. Also included are recipes, unused labels for Maxim's Baked-Bean-Butter, typescript copy for labels, and printed material, 1910s-1920s.

**Writings**

Typescript drafts of an autobiography, parts of which were incorporated into *Hudson Maxim: Reminiscences and Comments*, by Clifton Johnson, pub. 1924; correspondence, 1910-1923, concerning *The Science of Poetry and the Philosophy of Language* with mailing lists of people to whom the book was sent; typescript drafts of Maxim's *Primer of Science* (probably not published) with related notes, clippings, and printed material, 1889-1921. Also included are copies of Maxim's letters to newspaper editors on various topics, 1919-1922; poems; and other writings, ca. 1880s-1920s. Anti-Prohibition speeches, articles, and letters to newspaper editors, with related clippings and printed material, 1920s, are included.
Photographs

Twelve photograph albums (three postcard albums have been taken apart) kept by Hudson and Lilian Maxim contain snapshots, full-sized photographs, and photographic postcards dating from the turn of the century through the 1930s. Many of these show the Maxims with friends and family members at their house at Lake Hopatcong. Included is a large group of photographic postcards showing both town and lakeside views of Lake Hopatcong, ca.1900s-1920s. These were removed from two postcard albums labeled "Souvenir of Lake Hopatcong." Early twentieth century interior and exterior views of the Maxims' houses at 891 Sterling Place and 698 St. Mark's Avenue in Brooklyn are also included.

Photographs include many portraits of Hudson and Lilian Maxim, and show Hudson Maxim working in his laboratory; cooking; boating; driving his car; boxing; playing tennis; costumed as Neptune at an Atlantic City, New Jersey pageant, 1921 and 1922; at an aviation meet in Asbury Park, New Jersey, 1910; and with the United States Naval Consulting Board, (called the Civilian Advisory Board at the time of the photograph), 1915. This photograph shows, among others, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, Assistant Secretary Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Maxim, and Thomas Edison.

Portraits of Luther Burbank, and photographs of poet Edwin Markham and poet and western scout J.W. (Captain Jack) Crawford with the Maxims at Lake Hopatcong are included.

One album contains late nineteenth century tintype and cabinet card portraits of Maxim family members. Photographs post-dating Hudson Maxim's death document the activities of his widow.

New Jersey Affairs and Personal Matters

Correspondence, legal and tax documents, and minutes, 1891-1919, of the Byram Cove Land Co., an organization that bought and sold real estate at Lake Hopatcong, of which Hudson and Lilian Maxim were directors; correspondence with the Colonial Motion Picture Company, 1914, and a list of shareholders (Maxim was one); an inventory of the Hotel Durban, 1909; correspondence, ca. 1899-1900 concerning his efforts to obtain patents in foreign countries for the Maxim Powder Torpedo; Maxim's correspondence, with related documents, 1913-1921, as President of the Inter-Municipal Park Commission, advocating the abandonment of the Morris Canal in New Jersey; and Christmas cards made by the Maxims, 1913-1921.
Patent Specifications and Maxim Munitions Corp.

Specifications for Maxim's patents, 1880s-1910s. Also, a small file containing correspondence, minutes, and legal documents, 1915-1925, of the Maxim Munitions Corp.

Volumes

Six account books contain both household and business accounts, ca. 1900s-1930s. Included are accounts of the Hotel Durban, 1908, and accounts Maxim kept with the U.S. Naval Consulting Board and with the du Pont Company. Also, two address books; an album containing calling cards gathered by Maxim, with notes; three books published by Maxim and Knowles in Pittsfield, 1880s; four memorandum and sketch books; a scrapbook containing clippings concerning Hiram Maxim's Maxim-Nordenfeldts Guns and Ammunition Co., 1880s, and clippings of advertisements for beauty products; an autograph album belonging to Lilian Maxim (including an autograph from Edwin Markham); a datebook containing notes on the last few months of Maxim's life, 1927; a volume containing published specifications for patents held by Hiram Stevens Maxim; two volumes listing articles and pamphlets, possibly owned by Hudson Maxim; two volumes containing clippings and reprints of articles by or about Hudson Maxim; and a volume listing Hudson Maxim's patents and patent applications.
Maxim - Container list

Box

I. Correspondence, 1890-1927

a. Early

1 Miscellaneous, 1890-1891; personal, 1909-1912; "good letters not sent," 1912-1918; "amusing," 1907-1926; "important," ca.1914-1921.

b. General

1925

1 A
2 B - G
3 H - M
4 M - R
5 S - W

While in Europe

December 1925 - March 1926

1926

1 A
2 B - J
3 K - S
4 T - W

1927

1 A - J
9 K - W

II. Speeches, 1907-1927

9 1907 - 1908
10 1907 - 1913
11 1913 - 1919
12 1920 - 1925; speeches and articles, 1925 - 1927

13 III. Explosions, ca. 1911-1920
IV. Food, 1917-1924
   13  1917 - 1918
   14  1917 - 1924

V. Writings, ca. 1880s-1920s
   14  Biography - drafts
   15  "   "
   15  The Science of Poetry and the Philosophy of Language, letters, 1910-1923 and mailing lists
   16  Primer of Science, drafts and related material, 1889-1921;
   16  Verse
   16  Letters to editors, 1919-1922
   17  Other writings
   18 - 19  Anti-Prohibition speeches and writings, 1920s

VI. Maxim Munitions Corp.
   19  Correspondence, minutes, legal documents, 1915-1925

VII. Patent Specifications, 1880s-1910s

VIII. New Jersey affairs and personal matters
       Christmas cards, 1913-1921; Colonial Motion Picture Co., 1914;
       inventory of Hotel Durban, 1909; Maxim Powder Torpedo correspondence,
       ca.1899-1900; Morris Canal, 1913-1921.

IX. Photographs, ca. 1890s-1930s
   21  Photographs and postcards removed from albums
   22 - 23  Albums

X. Account Books, ca. 1900s-1930s
Maxim - Container list, 3

Box

XI. Other volumes

24  2 address books; 1 calling card album;

25  Real Pen Work Self Instructor in Penmanship, 1881, 2 editions, and Pen Work Album, 1885; 4 memorandum and sketch books; 1 scrapbook; autograph album of Lilian Maxim; 1927 datebook;

26  specifications for patents of Hiram Stevens Maxim; 2 volumes listing articles; 2 volumes of clippings and reprints of articles by or about Hudson Maxim; 1 volume listing Hudson Maxim's patents and patent applications.
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General Correspondence

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55  1924, R,S
56  1924, T-W
57  Personal letters, chiefly from Europe, 1911-1918

Subjects Correspondence and Papers

58  Canning and merchandising of beans and other foodstuffs, 1919-1920; Maxim's book, Science of Poetry and the Philosophy of Language, mostly 1911; New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, 1913, 1914
59  Maxim Gun and Maxim Munitions Corp., 1915
60  Proposed abandonment of the Morris Canal, 1911-1914
  " " " " 1913, 1914
61  " " " " 1914-1915
62  " " " " 1913-1914; 1922; 1923
63  " " " " Unsorted
64  Borough of Hopatcong, 1888-1905
65  Lake Hopatcong, 1923, 1924, 1925
66  Hopatcong taxes, 1919, 1920
67  Japanese Beetle, 1923

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69-71  Borough of Hopatcong
72,73  Patents
74-76  Prohibition
77,78  Articles
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Printed Material

Journals, periodicals, pamphlets, etc. dealing with Prohibition, the Japanese beetle, canning and preservation of foodstuffs, Lake Hopatcong, theory of relativity, agriculture, etc. Copies of Maxim's books, Lake Hopatcong, the Beautiful, Defenseless America, and Clifton Johnson's, Hudson Maxim: Reminiscences and Comments.

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Map case

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<td>TWILIGHT CLUB, Jan. 29, 1914. On WHAT I WOULD DO WITH $10,000,000</td>
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<td>MANHATTAN CHESS CLUB, Mar. 38, 1914. On CHESS and MARSHALL</td>
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<td>RUMSON CLUB, Labor day, 1914. Aeronautical Warfare</td>
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<td>TOME INSTITUTE, Sept. 26, 1914. Aeronautical Warfare</td>
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<td>AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY, Oct. 1, 1914</td>
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<td>MAXIM PARK YACHT CLUB, Oct. 24, 1914</td>
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<td>MEDICO-LEGAL DINNER, Nov. 18, 1914</td>
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<td>BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Dec. 31, 1914</td>
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NOTE: All SPEECH HEADS for 1914 are in a red Binder marked SPEECH HEADS for 1913 and 1914.
SPEECHES MADE 1915.

Jan. 24th. Central Presbyterian Church, 3:30 P.M.
Marcy & Jefferson Aves., Brooklyn, N.Y.


Feb. 7th. Brooklyn Philosophical Association, 3:30 p.m.
At Long Island Business College,
So. 8th St. & Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Feb. 11th. Church of Beloved Disciple, 8:30 p.m.,
67 E. 89th St., N.Y.C. (Men's Club)

Mar. 1st. Central Congregational Church, 8 P.M.
Hancock & Franklin, Brooklyn, N.Y.
(‘Men's Club Dinner) (Dr. Cadman)


Mar. 7th. Brooklyn Civic Forum, 8:30 p.m.,
at P.S. 84, Stone & Glenmore Aves.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mar. 19th. Yale Dinner, Class 1914,
Yale Club, Vanderbilt Ave. &
44th St., N.Y.C.

Mar. 31st. Junior League, Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue,
2 W. 76th St., N.Y.C. 8:45 p.m.

Apr. 4th, West End Forum, Bath Ave. & Bay 23rd St.,
Brooklyn, N.Y. 8:30 p.m.

April 20th. Michigan Agricultural College, 7:30 p.m.
East Lansing, Michigan.

April 21st. Western Normal School,
Kalamazoo, Michigan.

May 12th. Aldine Club, Luncheon, 12:30,
200 5th Ave., N.Y.C.

May 23rd. Elbert Hubbard Memorial Service, 3:00 p.m.,
Playhouse Theatre, 48th St., N.Y.C.

June 14th. Convention of National Security League, 2 p.m.
Opening Exercise, Army Session, Hotel Astor.

June 25th. Conference on International Relations under the
Auspices of the World Peace Foundation, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. 8 p.m.
June 26th. Conference on International Relations under the Auspices of the World Peace Foundation, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 11 a.m.


Sept. 15th. American Defense Society of N.Y.C., 8 p.m., Hotel Astor, N.Y.C. (Spoke extemporaneously)


Nov. 7th. James M. E. Church, Reid Ave. & Monroe St., Brooklyn, N.Y. (Afternoon)


Nov. 24th. Business Men's League of St. Louis. Luncheon, St. Louis, Mo.

Nov. 24th. Mayor's Office, Meeting of National Security League. St. Louis, Mo. (Extemporaneously)
SPEECHES IN 1916

Jan. 7th. Aeronautical Society, 29 W. 39th St., N.Y.C.
         Naval Consulting Board, Evening.

Jan. 10th. National Civic Federation, Woman’s Dept.,
         at New Colony Club, Park Ave. & 52nd St., N.Y.C.
         3:30 p.m.

Jan. 14th. Men’s Club, All Soul’s Church, Ocean & Ditmas
         Aves., Brooklyn, N. Y. 8:15 p.m.

         Luncheon.

Jan. 24th. Brooklyn Institute of Arts & Sciences, Academy
         of Music. Preparedness Debate. 8:15 p.m.

Feb. 3rd. Patriotic Societies Dinner at Bellevue-Stratford,
         Phila., Pa.

Feb. 5th. Edison Birthday Banquet, Newark, N. J. Evening.

Feb. 14th. Park Theatre, Opening performance motion picture
         play, Defense of Tribute, 8 p.m.

         "Reporters I have met."

Feb. 28th. Naval & Military Order of the Spanish-American

March 5th. Marjory’s Battleship Fund Benefit, at the
         Hippodrome, Evening. Under the auspices of the
         New York Tribune.

March 7th. Bushwick Ave. Congregational Church, Brooklyn.
         Banquet. Evening.

March 10th. E.A.R., Jersey City. 3 p.m. At the Woman’s Club.

March 15th. Father Prout’s Church-Entertainment, Central
         Opera House, N.Y.C. Evening.

March 18th. National Democratic Club, 617 5th Ave., N.Y.C.
         Luncheon.

March 31st. 9th Regiment Armory, Meeting of Spanish War
         Veterans. Evening.

April 5th. Aldine Club, 300 5th Ave., Luncheon.

April 10th. Williamsburg Medical Society, Willoughby Mansion,
         Brooklyn, N.Y. Evening.
Speeches in 1916, Continued.


April 24th. Throop Ave. Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. Annual Dinner of the Men's Club. Evening.


July 4th, Stanhope, Fourth of July Celebration, 11:30 a.m.

Aug. 6th. Montague Assembly, 6 p.m. Weapons & Methods, of War, Past, Present and Future. (No written speech)

August 9th. 11 a.m., Montague Assembly, Science of Poetry and Philosophy of Language. (Williams College Speech also Rhode Island 1913) 1911

August 9th, 8 p.m. Montague Assembly, Defenseless America.

Nov. 9, 1916. Dover High School. Williams College poetry speech


SPEECHES MADE IN 1917.

March 5th. Y.M.C.A., Hanson Place, Brooklyn. National Defense.

March 23rd. Home Economics Association, Rumford Hall, 50 E. 41st St., N.Y.C.

March 24th. Manhattan Chess Club banquet. 7:30 p.m. Hotel Brevoort

March 27th. Engineering Society, 38 W. 39th St., N.Y.C.

April 11th. Twilight Club. Biltmore Hotel.

May 5th. Hubbell Camp, Spanish War Veterans. Prospect Hall.

May 18th. Speech at Dover on National Defense. High School

July 4th. Roycrofters' Convention, Aurora, N.Y.

Nov. 4th. Mt. Morris Baptist Church, 5th Ave. bet. 126th & 127th Sts., N.Y.C. Morning Lecture Forum, 10 a.m.

Dec. 3rd. 2 p.m. Schoolhouse at Franklin Furnace, for increasing membership of National Red Cross.
SPEECHES MADE IN 1918.


Mar. 24th. E. V. Brewster, La Boheme, 310 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.


May 17th. Boot and Shoe Travelers Assn., N.Y.C. 9:00 p.m. America's part in the War. Extemporaneously.


July 23rd. International Arms & Fuze Co. Bloomfield, N.J. Speech to War Workers

Sept. 1st. Metcog-Stanhope branch, American Red Cross. at Budd's Lake, 2:30 p.m. Extemporaneously.

Sept. 2nd. Chemists of Hercules Powder Co., Kenvil, N.J. 8:30 p.m. (See Heads)

Nov. 25th. American Institute of the City of N.Y., Polytechnic Section. Poetry speech used at St. Peter's College.

Can Science be Applied to Literature and Dynamics to Human Speech?
SPEECHES IN 1919


--- Bolshevism speech. at Academy of Music, Baltimore, Md. Feb. 31, 1919. For benefit of Church of the Holy Innocents. Dr. Glanville.


--- Bolshevism -- Mobism. Speech at Plymouth Church, Sunday evening, Mar. 15, 1919.

--- Speech on Constitution Day at Newton Court House, 8 p.m. Sept. 17, 1919.
SPECIALS -- 1936

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Mar. 19th. -- Hercules Club Luncheon. Wilmington, Del. Internal National Defense and Social Self-Preservation


Nov. 11th. -- Meeting of Dover Chamber of Commerce to discuss question of Morris Canal Abandonment. Extemporaneous. Evening.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 30, 1922</td>
<td>Heads for talk at Morristown Y. M. C. A.</td>
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<td>Feb. 15, 1922</td>
<td>Gothic Lodge, Masonic Temple, New York City, on Internal National Defense.</td>
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<td>April 30th, 1922</td>
<td>Radio dinner of Society of Arts &amp; Sciences, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City.</td>
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<td>May 3, 1922</td>
<td>Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, New York branch, at Madison Square Garden, New York City.</td>
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<td>May 4, 1922</td>
<td>Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, Adelphia Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.</td>
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<td>June 7, 1922</td>
<td>Hotel Men's Association Convention, Hotel Alamac, Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey.</td>
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<td>June 15, 1922</td>
<td>Commencement Exercises, Hackettstown High School, June 15, 1922.</td>
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<td>June 31, 1922</td>
<td>Motion Picture Theater Owners of New Jersey, Inc., dinner at Alamac Hotel, Lake Hopatcong.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26, 1922</td>
<td>Dinner given to the State Highway Commission of New Jersey by Members and Officials of the Board of chosen Freeholders of Morris County, at Alamac Hotel, Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey.</td>
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S P E E C H E S    --  1923

Jan. 7th.  THE EVOLUTION OF TRUTH. Before the Freethinkers' Society of New York, 236 West 46th Street, New York City.

Feb. 23rd.  MAN or BUG, Which Shall Inherit the Earth? At The Atlanta Boll Weevil Convention, Atlanta, Georgia.

Feb. 22nd.  INTERNAL and EXTERNAL NATIONAL DEFENSE. Speech delivered under auspices of Athens Sector Association, Army, U.S. Rotary & Kiwanis Clubs, Athens, Georgia. (Heads for speech only.)

Mar. 7th.  PROHIBITION SPEECH BEFORE ECONOMIC CLUB, Providence, R.I.

June 3rd.  INTRODUCTORY SPEECH at Opening of Hopatcong Theatre.

June 26th.  ALAMAC HOTEL, to the Motion Picture Owners.

Nov. 21st.  MORRIS CANAL COMMISSION.
Feb. 12th. LINCOLN and LIBERTY. Before the Freethinkers' Society of New York, Hotel Bleeclaire, 77th Street and Broadway, New York City.

Mar. 5th. LAWS THAT ARE CRIMES. At WOR radio Station, Newark.

Mar. 15th. LOOKING OUTWARD. Speech delivered before the Upper Manhattan Property Owners' Association, Hotel Astor, New York City.

Apr. 13th. RADIO SPEECH. Broadcasted at WRC Station, Washington, D.C.

SPEECHES -- 1935

July 16th. LAKE HOPATCONG DAM. Delivered at the Dedication of the New Dam at Lake Hopatcong.

AUGUST 13th FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY AND PROHIBITION. Delivered at dinner given at Bertrand Island by the Kiwanis Club of Phillipsburg.

August 14th THE RISING TIDE OF TAXATION Delivered at a luncheon of the Freeholders of the State of New Jersey, Spring Brook Country Club, Morristown, N.J.

Memorandum

The New York Public Library

Re: Hudson Maxim blueprints and drawings

To: Dossier, inventory

Early twentieth century blueprints and charge loader, a projectile, a Motorite, and other projects, some of which were done for the United States government, are now located in the map case and in a rolled package shelved with the collection. These could not be found at the time the original accession was done.