

# Erwin Loewy and Hydropress Inc. Documents

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*Call No.: SC MS 078  
26 Boxes: 36 linear feet*

## **Abstract:**

“Erwin Loewy and Hydropress Inc. Documents” consists of 26 manuscript boxes of correspondence, photographs, blueprints, magazines, clippings, ephemera, books, speeches, staff memorandum, reports, company histories, and passports, 1928-1959. Correspondence and photos related to donations of the materials to Lehigh University, 1990s, also added to this collection.

## **Contact Information:**

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## **Repository**

Lehigh University, Linderman Library, Special Collections

## **Creator**

Loewy, Erwin  
Loewy, Ludwig  
Linz, Brigitte Dolores

## **Title**

Erwin Loewy and Hydropress Inc. Documents

## **Restrictions to Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Erwin Loewy and Hydropress Inc., SC MS 078, Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

### **Copyright Notice**

Please inquire about copyright information.

### **Biographical Note**

Erwin Loewy was born in Pilsen, now in Czech Republic, on September 18, 1897. He and his brother Ludwig worked for a German shipbuilding firm (Schloemann), designing and managing, until the rise of the Nazi state. He escaped from Germany in 1935, and from France in 1940. He came to the United States and worked to influence the Armed Forces and industry to accept the need for large extrusion presses to form airplane parts, as had already been developed in Europe. After World War II, he helped relocate some large presses from Europe. He and his company continued to develop extremely large presses for civilian use in the United States. Erwin Loewy died July 13, 1959.

The Loewy Family Foundation selected Lehigh University to carry on the excellence that the brothers had exhibited, and established the Loewy Chair (1992) and the Loewy Visiting Professorship (1999) in Materials Forming and Processing.

The chronology of the life of Erwin Loewy (as supplied by Mrs. Linz) as follows:

before 1915 in Berlin, Ludwig had a Tool and Machine Tool factory

1913 Schloemann and Ludwig Loewy went into business together

1914 Mr. Schloemann dies

1916 Company incorporated, 50% Ludwig Loewy and 50% Mr. Multhaupt

1925 Erwin joins his brother Ludwig at Scholoemann

1933 Ludwig establishes Loewy Engineering Co. Ltd. in England

1933 Erwin heads Scholoemann after his brother's departure for England

1935 Erwin leaves Germany, joins Ludwig in England. Then settles in Paris and establishes SPIDEM (Societe pour l'installation d'Etablissementes Metalligues)

1935 The Hydropress Company, chartered Nov. 9, 1935 in England

1939 Erwin left France for the U.S.

1940 Incorporates Hydropress in the U.S.

Hydropress Inc. divisions:

Loewy Construction Co.

Loma Machine

## Machinery & Supply Sintercast

1942 Ludwig dies

1954 Erwin becomes chairman of the City Symphony Orchestra.

1955 Hydropress and Loewy Construction were bought by Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton

1959 Erwin Loewy dies July 13.

Loewy Engineering Co., Ltd, in England sold to Tube Investing

Loma Machine was sold to Hill Acme

Sintercast was sold to Chrome Alloy

Loewy Machine Supply was owned and operated by another brother, Alfred

Loewy and his wife Rose Loewy, and is now in the hands of an in-law nephew.

### **Scope and Content Note**

“Erwin Loewy and Hydropress Inc. Documents” consists of 28 manuscript boxes of correspondence, photographs, blueprints, magazines, clippings, ephemera, books, speeches, staff memorandum, reports, company histories, passports, and other miscellaneous material, 1928-1959. Correspondence and photos related to donations of the materials to Lehigh University, 1990s, also added to this collection.

### **Organization of the Content**

Boxes 1--11, and 18--20 contain business, and personal files. Boxes 12 through 17 contain photographs, magazines, clippings and other ephemera. Three oversize volumes titled “The Heavy Press Program of the U.S.A.F.” by the Loewy Construction Co. (primarily photographs) are catalogued and filed separately under the call number SC T Z0058.

The material here is scattered business records, and personal material, donated by Mr. Loewy's daughter, Brigitte Dolores Linz, in 1994 and 1995. The materials in the Boxes 21 through 26 were donated in 1999.

In 1992, The Loewy Family Foundation established a memorial chair at Lehigh University, known as the “Loewy Chair in Materials Forming and Processing” held by Professor Betzalel Avitzur from 1993 until xxxx. The current chair is Wojciech Z. Misiolek (as of July 2007).

### **Catalog Terms and Keywords**

Loewy, Erwin

Loewy, Ludwig

Schloemann, Walter

Schloemann Engineering  
Schloemann-Siemag (Dusseldorf, Germany)  
Hydropress, Inc. (New York)  
Loewy Construction Co., Inc. (New York)  
Loewy-Hydropress Division of the Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton Corporation  
U.S. Air Force Heavy Press Program  
Extrusion  
Metal forming  
Hydraulic presses  
Oil hydraulic machinery industry  
Institute for Metal Forming, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, USA  
Misiolek, Wojciech Z.  
Avitzur, Betzalel  
Linz, Brigitte Dolores

### **Related Material**

Loewy Construction Company, Inc. The Heavy Press Program of the U.S.A.F . SC  
T Z0058 (3 oversize volumes)

Betzalel Avitzur and Loewy Endowment. (Lehigh Collection Vertical File) SC  
LVF B565

Loewy Brothers Exhibition (Lehigh Collection Vertical File) SC LVF L827

IMF, Institute for Metal Forming, Lehigh University  
<http://www.lehigh.edu/~inimf/index.htm>

## **Detailed Description of Collection**

### **Box 1: Personal**

Folder 1.01 Biographical material (some in longhand) 1940s  
Folder 1.02 Miscellaneous personal material (photocopies) 1930s-1950s  
Folder 1.03 Money matters 1950s  
Folder 1.04 Memberships  
Folder 1.05 Personal-persons he helped 1940s  
Folder 1.06 Estate of Ludwig Loewy 1950s

- Folder 1.07 Overseas business 1950s
- Folder 1.08 Correspondence re releasing foreign properties and restitution 1950s
- Folder 1.09 A wedding invitation and dinner menu 1958
- Folder 1.10 Correspondence and other material re Longpont, Loewy's Paris residence

## **Box 2: Business Files 1950s**

Correspondence to/from Erwin Loewy. Arranged alphabetically by personal and company names.

- Folder 2.01 A
- Folder 2.02 B
- Folder 2.03 C
- Folder 2.04 D
- Folder 2.05 E
- Folder 2.06 F
- Folder 2.07 G
- Folder 2.08 H
- Folder 2.09 I, J
- Folder 2.10 K
- Folder 2.11 L
- Folder 2.12 M
- Folder 2.13 N-P-Q
- Folder 2.14 R
- Folder 2.15 S
- Folder 2.16 T
- Folder 2.17 U-V-W
- Folder 2.18 X-Y-Z

## **Box 3: Business Files**

- Folder 3.01 Keelevite Rotary Pumps description and blueprints 1941
- Folder 3.02 London Mails (kept back during war) correspondence 1940
- Folder 3.03 Schloemann Engineering correspondence and blueprints 1940s
- Folder 3.04 Schloemann Engineering correspondence and blueprints 1940s
- Folder 3.05 Schloemann Engineering
- Folder 3.06 Lists of orders received
- Folder 3.07 Orders, open - for Bournemouth 1940s
- Folder 3.08 French hydraulic contracts 1940s

Folder 3.09 Four 'high foil' mill 1952  
Folder 3.10 Other employees 1950s  
Folder 3.11 History of Loewy Construction Co. 1950s  
Folder 3.12 Estate of A.B. Cudabec. 1940s

#### **Box 4: Engineering Proposals and Reports**

Folder 4.01 K.B. Wolfe correspondence (re Air Force) 1950s  
Folder 4.02 Sterling Engineering correspondence 1950s  
Folder 4.03 Albert Lustig (correspondence) Gafit Ltd. 1940s  
Folder 4.04 Ganz automobile new design 1948  
Folder 4.05 Report on the establishment of a Duplex and Bessemer Steel Plant for the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. of Hammond, ID: 1941 (photocopy)  
Folder 4.06 Modernization report on extrusion and forging facility plant, Adrian, MI 1956 (bound)  
  
Folder 4.07 Survey, "Brass forging, small tubing" by W. W. Cotter 1945 (bound)  
Folder 4.08 Extrusion in Gersman 1945 (bound copy)  
Folder 4.09 "Plastic forming of metals" A talk by Alexander Zeitlin 1955 (bound)  
Folder 4.10 Report on an extrusion plant prepared for Bridgeport Brass Co., by Loewy Construction Co. 1953 (bound)  
Folder 4.11 Harvey Machine Co. proposal for Copper & Brass Rod mills by Loewy Construction Co. 1953 (bound)

#### **Box 5: Loewy Construction Co. correspondence, including replies**

Folder 5.02 Gafit 1950s  
Folder 5.03 Gumbel, E.J. correspondence and reports by him on fatigue of metals  
Folder 5.04 Gunex 1950s  
Folder 5.05 India. Spelting & Refining Co., Aliem Industries 1950s  
Folder 5.06 Jerex Corp. extrusions 1950s  
Folder 5.07 Kritscher, A.F. 1950s  
Folder 5.08 Malaxa, Constantin letter in longhand 1958  
Folder 5.09 McNair, L.W. Dow Chemical 1950s  
Folder 5.10 Moskovics, F.E. and report 1950s  
Folder 5.11 Nehlsen, Gertrude 1950s  
Folder 5.12 Randak, (Loan) and correspondence 1950s  
Folder 5.13 Spidem 1950s  
Folder 5.14 Trimback, R.F. (Dick) Air Force 1950s  
Folder 5.15 Van Campen, J.H. correspondence and report 1950s

Folder 5.16 Wester Copper Mills, Ltd. 1950s

### **Box 6: US Air Force**

- Folder 6.01 Air Force correspondence 1950s
- Folder 6.02 Staff memos correspondence 1950s
- Folder 6.03 Contracts and correspondence 1950s
- Folder 6.04 Air Force correspondence to and from 1950s
- Folder 6.05 Personnel 1950s
- Folder 6.06 Air Force mission papers 1940s-1950s
- Folder 6.07 Air Force correspondence late 1950s
- Folder 6.08 Wright Field clipping and correspondence 1940s-1950s
- Folder 6.09 Wright Field plans and correspondence 1940s
- Folder 6.10 Testimonials, publicity re Armed Services 1950s

### **Box 7: Miscellaneous materials**

- Folder 7.01 Envelope of Railroad schedules
- Folder 7.02 3 Western Union telegraph blank books, some carbons remain
- Folder 7.03 2 sheets of blank notepaper with company pictures on front
- Folder 7.04 3 issues of "Loewy Visioneer" 1958
- Folder 7.05 copies of company articles, employees etc. 1940s
- Folder 7.06 Security clearance information
- Folder 7.07 Speeches given (several) 1940s-1950s
- Folder 7.08 Missiles publicity
- Folder 7.09 Miscellaneous files inc. organization chart of Loewy Construction Company.

### **Box 8: Publications, Publicity**

Full box of publications, publicity, press releases of various companies (not described in item level)

### **Box 9: More Company Files**

- Folder 9.01 Publicity files news releases
- Folder 9.02 Folder listing acquisitions?? #22000-220099 (1936-1939)
- Folder 9.03 Metal protection
- Folder 9.04 Colombia 1941
- Folder 9.05 Correspondence 1940s
- Folder 9.06 Correspondence 1940s

Folder 9.07 Names, finances 1940s

### **Box 10: Blueprints**

Miscellaneous, unsorted blueprints of machinery, details of parts, etc. (Approx. 55 items. Some include description and identification. Not described in item level)

### **Box 11: 3 Loose-leaf notebooks of photos**

Folder 11.01 Speech and presentation to Munitions Board, Feb. 20, 1950

Folder 11.02 Large Press Photos

Folder 11.03 Confidential report and pictures of "Visit to England, 1942"

### **Box 12: Photographs**

Photographs number 1 through 50 (all approx. 7 x 9 in.) of Loewy and others and factory (some identified)

### **Box 13: Photographs**

Photographs number 51 through 104

Numbers 51 through 92 of factory (all approx. 7 by 9 inches)

Numbers 93-98 are small ones of Loewy and "Bud" Rentschler at the signing of the transfer of Loewy Hydropress to a division of Baldwin Lima-Hamilton.

Numbers 99-104 are colored prints taken at a Holiday party for employees

### **Box 14: Photographs [Larger prints]**

Two shots from William Knox Pre-Christmas luncheon, Dec. 1958, with Loewy in them. (includes information and identifications)

Two shots in factory

Thirteen shots showing crack in forging

Presentation to 9020th Air Reserve Squadron, Nov. 1958; speech and photos in notebook

Framed certificate "Assoc. of Iron & Steel Engineers"

Small framed portrait of Loewy

Three large group shots taken at IAS Honors Night Dinner (1 in 1958; 2 in 1959)

### **Box 15: Ephemera**

Samples of aluminum coatings  
Stack of temperature charts from temperature chart  
Rolled print  
Mounted bookend "First Extrusion 8000 Ton Press 'Rhoda' Designed and built by Loewy Construction Co.; erected by Pacific Crane & Rigging Co. Extrusion ratio 32-1 Sept. 1956"

### **Box 16: Magazines and clippings**

Montreal Star Weekly, May 16, 1959  
Colliers, April 27, 1956  
Radio News, August 1946  
Radio Electronics, January 1946  
Man, November 1956  
Iron Age, January 1951  
New Yorker, January 1957  
Business Week, June 1950  
Seaports and the Transport World, July 1956 (2 copies)

12 misc. clippings from newspapers

### **Box 17: Magazines**

6 Fortune Magazines  
November 1943; December 1946; October 1948; December 1951;  
February 1954; March 1957.

### **Box 18: Proposals and Publicity**

Proposal for 60" Loewy Sheet Feed for Gary Sheet & Tin Mill, 1955  
Loewy Construction Company Data Book, 1955  
Hydropress Publicity Pages (in two green folders)  
Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton Annual report, 1954 and 1959  
"Past and present developments and advances in Hydraulic Press manufacturing methods"  
2 speeches and photos from Society of Automotive Engineers, 1950 (bound)  
"The Production of large forgings for airplanes on hydraulic die forging presses,"  
1950

Loewy Plant, London, 1952 (description and drawings)  
“Techniques Francaises” English issue, January 1953.  
Wyman-Gordon pamphlet on heavy presses  
Presidential address by W.R. Barclay, Institute of Metals, London, 1936.  
Reprint from Fortune Magazine, “New Ways to Shape Metal,” 1957.  
Business Week, Mar. 26, 1955, with article about heavy presses.  
Tube Investments Ltd. Director’s report and accounts, and Chairman’s statement, 1965.  
Esso Oilways, Feb. 1957  
American Aviation, March 28, 1955.  
“Extrusion of Nickel alloys” reprinted from Machinery, April, 1945.  
BLH Loewy-Hydropress Division, publicity folder  
The Loewy Visioneer, Sept. 1959  
“The Story of Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton”

### **Box 19: Miscellaneous Personal and Business**

Folder 19.01 Hannach, Kurt biography & references (and mention of Ludwig Loewy Co.)  
Folder 19.02 Loewy Engineering Company Business 1937-1940  
Folder 19.03 Loewy Engineering Ltd. Housewarming, 1954 (program and photos)  
Folder 19.04 Other People, getting out of Germany  
Folder 19.05 Erwin Loewy, getting out of Europe  
Folder 19.06 Erwin Loewy, escape speech  
Folder 19.07 Erwin Loewy, death of  
Folder 19.08 Settling estate  
Folder 19.09 Taper Prints  
Folder 19.10 Alexander, Robert. Correspondence  
Folder 19.11 Sterling Engineering (Loewy owned)  
Folder 19.12 Steinkraus-Bridgeport Brass  
Folder 19.13 Trip to Europe with Gen. Clark, 1946  
Folder 19.14 Personal, and New York traffic--

### **Box 20: Articles of Incorporation and Publicity Photos**

Folder 20.01 History of Ludwig Loewy and Schloemann  
Folder 20.02 Loewy Const. Co., Incorporation  
Folder 20.03 Sale to Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton, Dec. 1954  
Folder 20.04 Articles of Incorporation, Hydropress Co. 1935.

34 photos of large presses (one with Erwin posed with press)  
New York Times Magazine, Nov. 25, 1956, with article about Space Program

New York Times Magazine clipping, Jan. 8, 1956 with photo of big press

**THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL WAS DONATED IN 1999.**

**Box 21: Material**

Folder 21:01 Correspondence re leaving Germany 1930s-1940s  
Folder 21:02 Original letters 1940s  
Folder 21:03 Patents  
Folder 21:04 Machinery  
Folder 21:05 Yields, etc. (charts)  
Folder 21:06 Aktiebolaget Sewedish Artid, power of attorney, 1945  
Folder 21:07 Piece lists available 1941  
Folder 21:08 Correspondence re death of Erwin Loewy 1959  
Folder 21:09 Correspondence re death of Ludwig Loewy 1942  
Folder 21:10 Correspondence 1928-29  
Folder 21:11 Correspondence 1940  
Folder 21:12 Correspondence 1040-41  
Folder 21:13 Correspondence 1942  
Folder 21:14 Correspondence 1943

**Box 22: Material and Photographs**

Folder 22:01 Photos  
Folder 22:02 Defense Department material  
Folder 22:03 Correspondence in German  
Folder 22:04 Patents-lawsuits-agreement 1940s  
Folder 22:05 Colonel Randak 1958  
Folder 22:06 Biographies of Lowenstein and Meyerbach  
Folder 22:07 Reports of Nonferros Institute  
Folder 22:08 Correspondence re German plants 1939-43  
Folder 22:09 Trip arrangements 1941-43  
Folder 22:10 Correspondence re trip to England to settle Ludwig Loewy estate 1943  
Folder 22:11 Correspondence re trip to England by Erwin Loewy 1943-44  
Folder 22:12 Correspondence with Freeman re delivery of presses  
Folder 22:13 Navy visits to companies  
Folder 22:14 Correspondence re contracts  
Folder 22:15 Advertising  
Folder 22:16 Statements of company 1951

### **Box 23: Material**

Folder 23:01 Blueprints of office in Empire State Building 1956, and office staff list 1944

Folder 23:02 Production charts 1940s

Folder 23:03 Copies of Government letters re Hydropress 1945-55

Folder 23:04 Price charts and trends (Elements)

Folder 23:05 Set of Canadian tool charts

Folder 23:06 Statements - drawings and correspondence re extrusion press 1940s

### **Box 24: Published material**

Box of published pamphlets and magazines...advertising and some with article about Hydropress

### **Box 25: Correspondence and photographs**

Folder 25:01 Correspondence re donations to Lehigh and photos

Folder 25:02 Correspondence and photocopies 1940s

Folder 25:03 Photos and clippings

Folder 25:04 Photos

Folder 25:05 Published material

### **Box 26: Material and photographs**

Folder 26:01 Rocket spar model

Folder 26:02 Ten passports for Loewy family

Folder 26:03 Clippings, Holiday Greeting cards, and JUDE applique

Folder 26:04 Photos of European trip 1945

Folder 26:05 Travel and ticket stubs

Folder 26:06 German map, 1945

Folder 26:07 Air Force publicity

Folder 26:08 Correspondence and photos

Folder 26:09 Photos - Gunex

Folder 26:10 Photos

Box 27: Sound recordings

3 wax cylinders: "Ediphone" brand. Numbered 1, 2, 3.

"Audograph Correspondence Folder". 3 folders include vinyl discs, instruction manuals, etc.

1 Scotch magnetic tape

1 Wire tape: Dated 12/27/1954 4:15 P.M. "Speech of Mr. E.L. to staff of  
Hydropress and LCC re affiliation"

B-L-H Dictated from L.P. and released to staff on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:15"

1 Wire tape: "Christmas Party Speech. 1953. E. Loewy."

Box 28:

Victory Registered

Plywood Jig-saw puzzle. Sealed, unopened. Color illustration depicting Loewy  
Press on the cover.