

Air Force Museum Wright Brothers Collection

MS-157

Wright State University
Archives and Special Collections

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INTRODUCTION

The Air Force Museum materials on the Wright brothers consist of clippings and articles, correspondence, photographs, programs and speeches from dedications, and publications related to the Wright brothers achievements in flight as reported and celebrated locally and around the world. The collection spans 1903-1979 and was given to the Wright State Archives by the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The date of transfer is unknown.

The collection is 7.5 linear inches filling one document box and one half box. Clippings are fragile and should be handled with care.

There are no restrictions on the use of the collection.

The collection is arranged into the following series:

Series I: Clippings and articles

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Pamphlets and speeches

Series IV: Photographic prints and photostat negatives

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Clippings and articles, correspondence, pamphlets and speeches, and photographic prints document the accomplishments of the Wright Brothers as reported by the media and celebrated by the public. The collection is arranged into four series. Series I contains the bulk of the collection and consists of clippings and articles about the Wright brothers which appeared in local, national and international newspapers and journals from 1903-1979. The clippings and articles are arranged into eight topics: Interviews, Personal history; Flights and planes of the Wright Brothers; Smithsonian and Langley controversy; Honors museum sites, memorials; Buildings moved to Dearborn and Carillon Park; Flights by others, non-aviation; Obituaries, funerals, tributes; and recollections of the Wright Brothers by others.

Series II. contains correspondence which briefly covers a variety of topics. Included is a memorandum regarding speed tests for the Wright aeroplane in 1909 and in 1913, a request from Rep. Fitzgerald in 1922 for funding of aircraft research endorsed by Orville Wright, as well as notes from a conversation with Orville Wright in 1934 concerning measurements of the Wright brothers' machines. Of note is correspondence from 1936-1937 between Fred Black of Ford Motor Co., James Piersol from the Detroit News, and Orville Wright discussing plans for moving the Wrights' family home and cycle shop to Greenfield Village. Additional correspondence between James Piersol and Orville Wright discusses a claim that Gustave Whitehead made the first flight. Also included is correspondence from Air Corps Major A.W. Stevens to Orville Wright in 1939 regarding plans for an aviation exhibit at the New York World's Fair. Correspondence from the Air Force Museum relates to Wright brothers' artifacts and research.

The majority of the photographs in Series III are reprints. Images are of the Wright brothers experimenting on the Miami River in Dayton in 1907; the interior of the superintendent's office at the Wright Aeroplane Co. of Dayton; an Army Air Corps "Flying Fortress" flying over the Wright Brothers Monument at Kitty Hawk; the Wright Brothers Plant; and a Print of a Wright Cycle Co. drawing. Also included is a photostat negative of the Dayton Evening Herald from Dec. 18, 1903, and of an article reporting on the Ft. Myer, VA accident in 1908.

Series IV consists of pamphlets and speeches from dedications and celebrations. Included are programs from the homecoming celebration in Dayton in 1909, 25th anniversary celebrations at Dayton and Kitty Hawk in 1928, dedication in 1938 at Greenville Village of the Wright brothers' family home and cycle shop, and the 1948 Smithsonian ceremony for the Wright brothers 1903 Aeroplane. Also included are speeches given at the dedication of the Wright Brothers' Monument in 1940 and Kitty Hawk memorial in 1950, as well as a 1950 Dayton Chamber of Commerce ceremony commemorating the first flight.

CONTAINER LISTING

Series I: Clippings and articles about the Wright Brothers

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Interviews, personal history (34 items)	1917-1978
	2	Flights and planes (66 items)	1903-1979
	3	Smithsonian and Langley controversy (21 items)	1928-1948
	4	Honors, museum sites, memorials (72 items)	1909-1978
	5	Buildings moved to Dearborn & Carillon Park (15 items)	1907-1968
	6	Flights by others; non-aviation (24 items)	1909-1978
	7	Obituaries, funeral, tributes (14 items)	1936-1948
	8	Recollections by others (13 items)	1935-1978

Series II: Correspondence

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Signal Corps on speed tests for Wright aeroplane	[1909], 1913
	2	Rep. Roy Fitzgerald on funding aircraft research	1922
	3	Notes on conversation with Orville Wright	1934
	4	Fred Black, James Piersol and Orville Wright on Greenfield Village plans	1935-1936
	5	Orville Wright and James Piersol on Gustave Whitehead	1937
	6	Air Corps Major Stevens to Orville Wright	1939
	7	Air Force Museum regarding artifacts and reference	1949-1971

Series III: Pamphlets and speeches

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	8	Wright Brothers home celebration	1909
	9	Anniversary of flight celebrations	1928, 1948, 1950
	10	Dedication of buildings in Dearborn	1938
	11	Dedication of Wright Brothers Monument	1940

Series IV: Photographic prints and Photostat negatives

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	12	Experiments by Wright brothers on Miami River, Dayton	1907
		Wright Aeroplane Co. of Dayton, Ohio (3 prints)	1911
		Army Air Corps "Flying Fortress" at Kitty Hawk monument	n.d.
		Wright Brothers Plant as Inland Mfg. Co.	n.d.
		Print of Wright Cycle Co. drawing	n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	12	Photostat neg. of "Song of the Wright Boys" cover Photostat neg. of Dec. 18, 1903 Dayton Evening Herald Photostat negative of article on 1908 crash at Ft. Myer	n.d.