

Collection Number: MS-381

Title: Don Roetman Papers

Dates: 1928-2008, (Bulk 1960s-1970s)

Creator: Don Roetman

Summary/Abstract:

The Don Roetman Papers are a collection of materials primarily concerning helicopters. The collection includes materials concerning various helicopter and aircraft projects from his career, as well as a substantial amount of corporate materials from various helicopter companies.

Quantity/Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number), MS-381, Don Roetman Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition: Donated by Mr. Roetman's daughter, Rainey Stolp, June 17, 2008

Separated Material:

There are two oversized folders located in map case location 74, files 9 and 10.

Processing Information:

While processing two binders were removed and the contents placed in folders. These materials remain in the collection. One binder was a scrapbook of Don Roetman and the other was a binder of Sikorsky documents. Also, due to preservation concerns all newspaper was photocopied and replaced in the collection. The originals were discarded.

Processed by: Erica Wainwright, Winter 2009

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in two series. The series are:

Series I. Professional

Series II. Photographs

Biographical/Historical Note:

Donald Edmond Roetman was born June 13, 1928, in Ames, Iowa. He graduated from Ridley Park High School in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania in 1946. Roetman then enrolled in Parks College of Aeronautical Technology, St. Louis, Missouri in 1948. While in college he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp to help pay for school. Roetman would learn to fly during his time at Parks College and in 1951 he performed his first solo flight. He graduated from Parks College in 1951 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Immediately after graduating, Roetman served in the Air Force from November 1951 to September 1953 as a maintenance officer and production officer. Upon his honorable discharge, Roetman began a civil service career as an Aeronautical Engineer at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. He worked there until he retired in 1982. During his professional career he served as a Production Engineer on the H-21 helicopter, Project Engineer on the H-43, HU-1 and HC-1 helicopters, System Project Engineer on the T-38/F-5, C-5A and drone aircraft, and Lead Engineer on the H-53 helicopter. His career highlight was serving as the System Project Engineer on the T-38 Talon aircraft from 1961 to 1965 and actually being able to fly the T-38 in March 1961.

Roetman married Ethel Susan Roman in 1955. Together they had a son, Raylan Howard and a daughter, Rainey Kay. As a child Roetman became fascinated by model airplanes. He maintained this hobby until late in his life when it was replaced by restoring antique cars, mostly Huppmobiles. He was so interested in this hobby that he held the position of Parts Locator for the Hupp Club, a worldwide organization of Huppmobile owners, for thirty-five years. Roetman's wife, Ethel, died in 1999 and he eventually remarried to Joanne Hamilton. They both remained active in car clubs until Don Roetman's unexpected death on April 22, 2008, in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Scope and Content:

The Don Roetman Papers contain personal information about Don Roetman and his professional career as an aeronautical engineer. The collection also contains a large amount of technical and corporate reference material that would be of use to researchers interested in the development of helicopters primarily used by the United States Air Force during the 1960s and 1970s.

Series I, Professional, includes documents related to Don Roetman's professional development and career as an aeronautical engineer working at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. It includes his thesis on Ram Jets from Parks College, and certificates of further education throughout his career. This series also contains multiple performance reviews and acknowledgements of achievement concerning Roetman's career. There are multiple folders containing documents in regard to the multiple research and development projects that he worked on. The majority of this series consists of newsletters from aeronautical organizations and corporations, such as Sikorsky Aircraft and the American Helicopter Society, as well as aircraft manuals and corporate guides to

aircraft, which are primarily helicopter related. Box two in the collection contains a large amount of materials about the HH-53B helicopter, produced by the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation that has been removed from a binder, but has remained in its original order. This series contains oversized materials that can be found in Location 74 File 9. These oversized materials are blueprints of aircraft and a few maps of Wright-Patterson AFB.

Series II, Photographs, contains photographs from Don Roetman’s personal life, including his childhood, family, and time at Parks College in the Air Force ROTC program. However, the vast majority of the photographs in this series are of aircraft, primarily helicopters, and most are unidentified. This series also contains a folder of oversized material that can be found in Location 74 File 10. The file contains a few larger photographs and posters.

Subject Terms: The following subjects are found in the collection.

Persons/Families

Roetman, Donald, 1928-2008

Organizations/Corporate Names

American Helicopter Society- Periodicals

Places

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Aeronautics
T-38 Talon (Training plane)
Sikorsky helicopters

Material Types

Blueprints-Aircraft
Photographs-Aircraft
Documents-Research

Collection Inventory

Series I		Professional	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Certificate, “Order of the Talon”	Mar 24, 1961
	2	Certificates	1962-1973
	3	Professional Recognition/Certificates	1950, 1971-1984
	4	Certificate of Appreciation, USAF	Jun 1, 1984
	5	Test Flight Records, Wright Field	1930-1936
	6	Model Designations of Airplanes	Nov 15, 1937
	7	Thesis, “Design and Construction of Subsonic Ram Jets”	Mar1951
	8	Research	[Aug 21, 1966]
	9	Research, Vertol Corporation	May 20, 1957

Box	File	Description	Date
1	10	Research, C-5A	1965-1967
	11	Research, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation	1945, 1966
	12	Research	1971
	13	Research	1972
	14	Research	Jul 23, 1973
	15	Research	Sep 15, 1975
	16	Research	1979-1984
	17	Research	Undated
	18	Blueprints (see Location 74 File 9)	Undated
	19	F-5B Characteristics	Sep 1964
2	1	HH-53B, General Arrangement	Undated
	2	HH-53B, Cockpit Instruments	Undated
	3	HH-53B, Rotors	Undated
	4	HH-53B, Transmissions	Undated
	5	HH-53B, Flight Controls	Undated
	6	HH-53B, Engines	Undated
	7	HH-53B, Hydraulic	Undated
	8	HH-53B, Electrical	Undated
	9	HH-53B, AAP	Undated
	10	HH-53B, Fire Detection/Extinguishing	Undated
	11	HH-53B, Fuel	Undated
	12	HH-53B, Landing Gear	Undated
	13	HH-53B, Ramp, Hoist, and Wench, etc	Undated
	14	HH-53B, Armament	Undated
	15	Work Tools	Undated
	16	Plane Fire Articles	Apr 21, 1954
	17	Aeronautical Engineering Humor	Undated
3	1	Textbook, "Airplane Assembly"	1950
	2	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Oct 1958
	3	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Jan-Jul 1960
	4	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Aug-Dec 1960
	5	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Jan-Feb, Apr-Aug 1961
	6	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Jan-May, Jul 1962
	7	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Aug-Dec 1962
	8	Newsletter, American Helicopter Society	Jan-Mar 1963
4	1	F-5 Service News	1964-1973
	2	Talon Service News	1961-1965
	3	Sikorsky News	1953, 1963
	4	Tandemeer, Piasecki Helicopter Corporation	1948-1951
	5	Tandemeer, Piasecki Helicopter Corporation	1952-1953
	6	Tandemeer, Piasecki Helicopter Corporation	1953-1954
	7	Tandemeer, Piasecki Helicopter Corporation	1954-1957
5	1	Tandemeer, Piasecki Helicopter Corporation	1957-1962
	2	Veriflite Newsletter	1970
	3	Vertol Division News	Mar 25, 1965
	4	Progress Notes, American Helicopter Corporation, Inc	Aug 1952
	5	Offering Circular, American Hoppi-Copters Inc	Jul 12, 1956
	6	Bell Helicopter Corporation, Guides	Undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	7	Cessna CH-1 and YH-41 helicopters, Corporate Guides	Undated
	8	Doman Helicopters, Inc, Guides	Undated
	9	Farrington Aircraft Corporation, Guide	Undated
	10	Lockheed, Air Force, C-5, Guides	1966-1968
	11	Northrop F-5 and T-38, Guides	Undated
	12	Hiller Helicopters, H-23D, Guide	Aug 1957
	13	Hughes Aircraft Company, HAC Model 190-4A helicopter	Aug 18, 1951
	14	Kaman Aircraft Corporation, Model K-600 helicopter	Undated
	15	McCulloch Motors Corporation, MC-10 and MC-9 helicopters	1952
	16	Piasecki Helicopter Corporation, Guides	Undated
	17	Sikorsky Aircraft, H-19, HH-53C, CH-53, Guides	Undated
6	1	Sikorsky S-61, Guides	1959
	2	Sikorsky S-62, S-65A, and other models, Guides	1959-1963
	3	Vertol, Chinook, Guides	Aug 1, 1960
	4	Vertol, Vertol 107 Model II-I, Guide	Mar 1, 1960
	5	Classic Aircraft, Waco Price List	Mar 1, 1993
7	1	Calendar, VTOL, Sikorsky Aircraft	1965
	2	Calendar, Sikorsky Aircraft	1966
	3	Calendar, Bell Helicopter	1967
	4	Calendar, Sikorsky Aircraft	1967
	5	Calendar, Sikorsky Aircraft	1968
	6	Calendar, Sikorsky Aircraft	1969
	7	Calendar, Bell Helicopter	1969
	8	Calendar, Bell Helicopter	1970
	9	Calendar, Bell Helicopter	1973
	10	Maps of Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio	undated
Series II		Photographs	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	Personal Photographs	1930s-1940s, 1962
	2	Roetman's First Flight, T-38 Talon	[Mar] 1961
	3	Personal Photographs	[1930s-1990s]
	4	Magazine Clippings of Aircraft, removed from Roetman's scrapbook	Undated
	5	Photographs of Aircraft, removed from Roetman's scrapbook	Undated
	6	Photograph and Articles about Roetman's model airplanes	Undated
	7	Photographs-Unknown	Undated
	8	Photographs-Airplanes	Undated
	9	Photographs-Airplanes and Helicopters	Undated
	10	Photographs-Airplanes and Helicopters	Undated
	11	Photographs and Posters-Airplanes and Helicopters (see Location 74 Files 9 and 10)	Undated
	12	Photographs-Helicopters	Undated
	13	Photographs-Helicopters	Undated
	14	Magazine Clippings of Airplanes and Helicopters	Undated
		Oversize Materials	
OS		Location 74 File 9	
	1	Panel Arrangements, C-5	

OS		Location 74 File 9	
	2	Inboard Profile, C-5	
	3	General Arrangement Baseline, C-5	
	4	Troop Seat and Litter Arrangements, Veritol 107 Helicopter	
	5	Inboard Profile, Veritol 107 Helicopter	
	6	Inboard Profile, CH-3C, CH-3E USAF Helicopter (1 of 2)	
	7	Inboard Profile, CH-3C, CH-3E USAF Helicopter (2 of 2)	
	8	Isometric Structure Arrangement, CH-53A Helicopter	
	9	Inboard Profile, CH-53A Helicopter	
	10	Inboard Profile, CH-53A Helicopter	
	11	Isometric Structure Arrangement, CH-53A Helicopter	
	12	Insignia Marking and Color Scheme, HH-53B USAF Helicopter (3 of unknown)	
	13	Insignia Marking and Color Scheme, HH-53B USAF Helicopter (4 of unknown)	
	14	General Arrangement, HH-53B USAF Helicopter	
	15	Armament Modification Kit 7.62mm Minigun, HH-53B Helicopter	
	16	Insignia Marking and Color Scheme, HH-53B, HH-53C USAF Helicopter, L.H. View	
	17	Insignia Marking and Color Scheme, HH-53B, HH-53C USAF Helicopter, R.H. View	
	18	Insignia Marking and Color Scheme, HH-53B, HH-53C USAF Helicopter, Top View	
	19	HH-53C Helicopter, Blueprint	
	20	Blueprint- Unknown Helicopter	
	21	Panel Arrangement, Flight Engineers Station, 2 Views- Unknown Aircraft	
	22	Panel Arrangement, Flight Engineers Station, 2 Views- Unknown Aircraft	
	23	US Army Air Forces, Wright Field Areas A and D	
	24	WPAFB Area B	
	25	WPAFB Basic Layout Plan Area B	
	26	WPAFB PT of Area C Building Plan	
	27	Photograph- US Army H-25A Helicopter, Piasecki Helicopter Corporation, Morton, PA	
	28	Photograph- F-5A Tactical Fighter, includes 27 signatures	
OS		Location 74 File 10	
	1	Photograph- Military Helicopter	
	2	Photograph- Military Helicopter	
	3	Poster, "1941: Tomahawks Put Teeth in Our Challenge," Phillips Petroleum Company, Historical Aviation Series, Plate 3-1	
	4	Poster, "1942: Wildcats Claw for Precious Time," Phillips Petroleum Company, Historical Aviation Series, Plate 3-2	
	5	Poster, "The Sopwith 7F.1 Snipe," Phillips Petroleum Company, Historical Aviation Series, Plate 8	