

MS-412, Hans Dam Aviation Collection

Collection Number: MS-412

Title: Hans Dam Aviation Collection

Dates: 1912-1997

Creator: Dam, John J. "Hans"

Summary/Abstract:

Hans Dam was a 50-year collector of aviation memorabilia, especially photographs and newspaper and magazine clippings. His primary areas of interest included air races and air shows, early flight, WACO aircraft, and the history of aviation in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky. At the time of his death he was working on a book about aviation in southwestern Ohio which is included in the collection. The collection consists of twenty-nine albums containing more than 2500 photographs organized into three series.

Quantity/Physical Description: 29.2 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-412, Hans Dam Aviation Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition: The Hans Dam Aviation Collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives by Thomas E. Kullgren of Midland, MI on July 17, 2008.

Custodial History: The donor, Thomas E. Kullgren, obtained the Hans Dam Aviation Collection from the Dam family in 2007 after Hans Dam's death. Mr. Kullgren donated the collection to Special Collections and Archives when the Bill Sweet Aviation Collection was purchased from Mr. Kullgren in July 2008.

Related Material:

MS-412, Bill Sweet Collection

MS-223, William F. Yeager Aviation Collection

Processing Information: When received, the collection was stored in 29 3-ring binders ranging from 3 to 6 inches thick. All photographs and clippings were in document protectors. The collection was initially removed from the 3-ring binders and placed in file folders. During processing, the photographs and clippings were removed from the document protectors and placed in archival document protectors and filed in Hollinger album boxes. The identification of aircraft photographs was verified or corrected by two volunteers from the Huffman Prairie Aviation Historical Society. As much as possible, the material in the collection was kept in the original order found in the 3-ring binders. The arrangement of the collection was based on the topics of the binders.

Processed by: John Armstrong, 2010.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into three series:

Series I: National Air Shows and Air Racing

Series II: Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio Aviation

Series III: General Aviation

Biographical/Historical Note:

John J. "Hans" Dam, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was a 50-year collector of aviation memorabilia, especially paper items and photographs. He was particularly interested in air races, air shows, early flight, WACO aircraft, and the history of aviation in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky. Mr. Dam accumulated more than 2500 aviation photographs and a large number of aviation-related clippings which he stored in large 3-ring binders. At the time of his death in 2007, Mr. Dam was assembling source material for a possible book about aviation history in Cincinnati and southwest Ohio. The materials for this book are included in the collection.

Scope and Content:

The Hans Dam Aviation Collection is a wide-ranging collection of aviation material, with an emphasis on the history of aviation in southwestern Ohio, significant aviation events in the United States, and the Bill Sweet National Air Shows of the 1940s to the 1970s. Researchers will note many original or one-of-a-kind photographs in the collection, but the photographs are not always filed in a logical sequence.

Series I, National Air Shows and Air Racing, consists of eight album boxes. Most of the albums contain photographs of Bill Sweet's National Air Shows, including photographs of many of the aviation personalities that performed the aviation stunts in the show and photographs of the stunts being performed. There are also photographs of racing airplanes and their pilots. Intermixed in the 8 album boxes are photographs of a variety of aircraft, not all of which are stunt or racing airplanes.

Series II, Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio Aviation, consists of eight album boxes and is probably the strength of the collection. Hans Dam was very interested in aviation in southwest Ohio. At some point he began research for a book on aviation history in southwest Ohio. Several of the albums in this series contain Mr. Dam's notes about a specific event or events. Of particular interest for researchers are photographs and articles about the many airports in the area, aviation companies such as Triangle Parachute Company and Aeronca, and Charles Lindbergh's visit to Cincinnati in 1927. Much of the material is arranged in chronological order.

Series III, General Aviation, is the most diverse of the three series. The box and folder listing provides a brief description of the contents of each box in this 14-box series. However, because the albums are not organized in an easily identifiable pattern, researchers will need to go through each box to locate a specific photograph. The box and folder list does provide a brief description of the contents of the box. The strength of the series is the photographs of aircraft from the 1920s and 1930s. Unfortunately, the photographs are not grouped according to manufacturer or model number. There are some unique photographs in this series, including photographs of Charles Lindbergh, a photograph of the Korn Brothers of Jackson Center, Ohio, several of Amelia Earhart, and several of the "Three Musketeers of the Air" (Koehl, Fitzmaurice, & von Huenefeld) who made a cross-Atlantic flight in April 1928. Box 30 contains photographs of Hans Dam as a boy and as an adult, several aviation publication, and a 1929 brochure on the "Dayton School of Aviation."

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Dam, John J.

Places

Cincinnati (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Airplanes
Aeronautics
Airports
Air shows
Airplane, racing
Stunt flying
Air pilots – United States
Accidents, aviation
Aviation history

Material Types

Photographs
Negatives
Newspaper Clippings
Magazine Clippings

Collection Inventory

Series I: National Air Shows and Air Racing

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1		National Air Show, Harold Krier & Great Lakes Special	1957-1971
2		National Air Show, Ford Tri-Motor "America"	1948-1971`
3		National Air Show, Air Shows, Unusual Aircraft	1923-1971
4		National Air Show, Bob Hoover, WACO Aircraft, Piper Air Show, Variety of Aircraft	1921-1993
5		National Air Show, Bill Sweet, National Air Races, Cleveland Air Races, Bee Gee Racer	1929-1968
6		National Air Show, Roy Miller, Bill Adams, Charles Hilliard, Red Grant, Mel Robinson, Shirley Stafford, Bevo Howard, Bob McComb, Rod Jocelyn	1951-1968
7		Air Show, Racing Airplanes, Davis Aircraft, Kreider-Reisner Aircraft	1951-1968
8		Air Shows, Post and Rodgers, Racing, Crashes, Rebuilding Airplanes	1930-1990

Series II: Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio Aviation

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9		Recorded Cincinnati Aviation History – Newspaper and magazine clippings, hand-written notes, photographs. Grouped by year	1932-1941, 1945-1987
10		Little Known Events; Boyer's Airport, KY; Edward Lay's Field; Stephenson Field, Lionel, KY; Hill Streamliners, Cincinnati, OH; Lancett Airport, Harrison, OH; Triangle Parachute Co., Cincinnati, OH; International Aircraft Co., Cincinnati, OH; Aeronautics School Information	1815-1937
11		Watson Airport, Mt. Healthy Airport, Hugh Watson, Grouped by year.	1914, 1922-1950

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12		Turkey Bottoms, Lunken Airport, Lindbergh Visit, Metal Aircraft Company, Aeronca, Mason-Dixon Airline, Embry Riddle Flying School, other Airlines in Cincinnati	1920-1931
13		Turkey Bottoms, Lunken Airport, Aeronca, 1948 Flood	1932-c.a.1970
14		Lexington, KY Air Races, Moundsville, WV, Boyer's Airport, Ross, KY, "The Lone Eagle (X—570E), Freddie Lund	1931-c.a.1960
15		Western Hills Airport, Crosley Airport, Crosley Aircraft – hand-written notes and photographs. Grouped by year.	1928-1946
16		Recorded Cincinnati Aviation History – Newspaper and magazine clippings, hand-written notes, photographs. Grouped by year	1918-1931

Series III: General Aviation

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
17		WACO Aircraft, WACO Factory, Aristocraft	1920s-1949
18		WACO Aircraft, "Erector Set" airplane plans, Sensenich Propeller article	c.a.1930-1997
19		Pre-WWII U.S. Army Air Service Aircraft, Wright Field Photos	1917-1941
20		Pre-WWII U.S. Army Air Service Aircraft, Wright Field Photos	1917-1941
21		WWI U.S. Army Air Service Aircraft, Crash photos, Rigid Airships, Variety of biplanes	1917-1940
22		Various Aircraft, U.S. Air Mail Service, Crashes, Rigid Airships	1918-1940
23		Seaplanes, Consolidated Commodore, Sikorsky "Clipper," Other Aircraft	1920-1940

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
24		Various Aircraft, "Three Musketeers of the Air," Letters, Northrop X-216	1925-1940
25		Various Aircraft, WACO Factory, Chanute Field Aerial Photograph Class, Ford Air Tours	1920-1940
26		Various Aircraft, WWII WASP Ferry Flights, Magazine Articles, Early Airplanes, Amelia Earhart	1910-1966
27		Various Aircraft, Seaplanes, Crashes, Newspaper and Magazine Articles	1919-2003
28		1912 Original Photos, Lindbergh, Selfridge Field, Fred Marshall Photo, Korn Brothers, Aviation Valentine Cards, Commercial 3"x5" Aviation Photo Cards	1925-1940
29		"Unique" Aviation Magazine Clippings	1975-1997
		Miscellaneous Material	
30	1	Certification of Appreciation for War Services, Army Air Forces – John J. Dam	c.a.1945
	2	Photos – Hans Dam	Undated
	3	Requarth Lumber Co. Photos with Brukner & Koestner Letters	Feb. 1973
	4	Photo – World's Shortest Airport – Autographed	1993
	5	Photos – Unidentified	Undated
	6	Article – The Dayton Bear Airplane Engine	1929
	7	Civil Airplane Register – Indiana	1929, 1930
	8	Certificate – National Air Mail Week	May 1938
	9	Newspaper Article – Richard B. Holt	Jan. 1967
	10	Article – "Huffman Prairie," by G. Allison Long, Cdr/USN (Ret)	1978
	11	Article – "Lunken: An Airport's Role in Aviation History" by Stephen B. Smalley	c.a. 1980
	12	Articles – Lunken Airport	Undated
	13	Publication – " <i>The Civigram</i> ," Official Publication of the Flying Chamber of Commerce"	Sep. 1926
	14	Publication – "The Dayton School of Aviation"	1929
	15	Publication – John Airplane & Supply Company	c.a.1930
	16	Publication – <i>The Beacon</i> , Ohio Oil Company – "Linco Flying Ace Wins Honors at Miami Air Races"	Apr. 1937

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
30	17	Publication – “The Barnstormin’ Barnhills Flying Circus”	c.a.1960
	18	Program – “1963 National Air Show, As Seen of the CBS Sports Spectacular,” Bill Sweet Autographed	1963
	19	Publication – <i>Ohio History</i> – “Putting Aircraft to Work, The First Air Freight”	1967
	20	Publication – <i>Dayton Speedway</i>	Sep. 1968
	21	Publication – “Logan Aviation Company”	Undated