

**MS-570: Laurence Potter Warner Aviation Scrapbook**

**Collection Number:** MS-570

**Title:** Laurence Potter Warner Aviation Scrapbook

**Dates:** 1917-1935

**Creator:** Warner, Laurence Potter, 1900-1985

**Summary/Abstract:**

The scrapbook contains primarily newspaper clippings concerning the various long-distance flights of the 1920s. The main focus of the scrapbook is the first aerial circumnavigation in 1924. Laurence Potter Warner was the son of early aviator Arthur Pratt Warner.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 1 linear foot

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (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:**

[Description of item, Date], MS-570, Laurence Potter Warner Aviation Scrapbook, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by Laurence's daughter Suzanne Warner Jackson, on August 31, 2001.

**Other Finding Aid:**

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms570.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

**Processed by:**

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Jesse Sturgill and Lisa Rickey, June 2019

**Arrangement:** The scrapbook is arranged in original order.

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Laurence Potter Warner was born on July 2, 1900, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up in Beloit, Wisconsin, near the Illinois border. Laurence's father Arthur Pratt Warner was a pioneer aviator, inventor, and businessman. A. P. Warner was the first American private citizen to purchase an airplane, a Curtiss Pusher, which he assembled himself and flew for the first time at Beloit, Wisconsin, in November 1909, making him the first person to fly an airplane in the state of Wisconsin. A. P. Warner also invented the automobile speedometer and the Warner electric brake. Given his father's avid interest and activity in aviation, it is not surprising that Laurence had an interest in it as well.

Laurence attended the Pennsylvania Military College at Chester, PA. In June 1919, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was a veteran of World War I. By 1920, he had returned to live with his parents in Beloit. In 1923, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Commerce. He soon became a secretary-treasurer of his father's businesses, the Warner Manufacturing Company, as well as the Warner Electric Brake Corporation.

On June 18, 1924, at Jerseyville, Illinois, he married Vera Eastman, and they had three daughters: Joanne, Jacqueline, and Suzanne. By 1930 census, the family of 5 was residing in Royal Oak, Michigan, where Laurence was a department manager at Fruehauf Trailer Co. (Detroit), a company which had recently (1929) purchased A.P. Warner's a trailer manufacturing business. By 1935, the family had moved to La Grange Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. In the April 1940 census, Laurence is listed as a factory representative for an automotive products firm. In October 1940, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was released May 4, 1945.

Laurence returned to La Grange, where he died forty years later on May 9, 1985. He is buried in Oakridge Cemetery, in nearby Hillside, Illinois.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The scrapbook contains primarily newspaper clippings concerning the various long-distance flights of the 1920s. The main focus of the scrapbook is the first aerial circumnavigation of the world in 1924 by four aviators in the U.S. Army Air Service: Lowell H. Smith, Erik H. Nelson, John Harding, Jr., and Henry H. Ogden. The scrapbook does not contain any original photographs and very few types of documents besides newspaper clippings. Clippings are mostly from the *Philadelphia Record*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Beloit (Wisconsin) Daily News*, *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, *Philadelphia Ledger*, and *New York Times*.

Additional topics covered in the collection include: the *Columbia*, a Bellanca Monoplane which made the first flight from the U.S. to Germany (pilot Clarence D. Chamberlin and financial backer Charles A. Levine); the deaths of Will Rogers and Wiley Post on takeoff in Alaska on 1935 August 15; the first flight from California to Hawaii; the 1928 flight from Australia to Fiji; Major F. L. Martin's disappearance and the finding of Major F. L. Martin; McCook Field, Dayton; zeppelins, blimps, and airships, including the Graf Zeppelin; Captain Charles A.

Lindbergh's flight from New York to Paris on 1927 May; and Italo Balbo and his Italian Air Armada.

**Related Material:**

Arthur Pratt Warner Papers, Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives,  
<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/data/173700987>.

**Subject Terms**

**Persons/Families**

Balbo, Italo, 1896-1940

Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974

Post, Wiley, 1898-1935 -- Death and burial

Rogers, Will, 1879-1935 -- Death and burial

Warner, Arthur Pratt, 1870-1957

Warner, Laurence Potter, 1900-1985

**Organizations/Corporate Names**

Graf Zeppelin

**Places**

McCook Field (Ohio)

Dayton (Ohio)

**Subjects (General)**

Flights around the world

Long-distance flying

**Material Types**

Clippings (information artifacts)

Newspapers

Postcards

## Collection Inventory

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1</b>		<b>Aviation Scrapbook</b>	<b>1917-1935</b>
<b>2</b>		<b>Loose items from the scrapbook</b>	<b>Circa 1917-1935</b>
2	1	Loose items, front of scrapbook	Circa 1917-1935
2	2	Loose items, pages 97-98: World Flyers (Lowell Smith, etc.) clippings	1925
2	3	Loose items, pages 99-100: Graf Zeppelin clippings	1928
2	4	Loose items, pages 117-118: Graf Zeppelin clippings	1928
2	5	Loose items, pages 121-122: Charles Lindbergh clippings	1927 May
2	6	Loose items, pages 129-130: Print of painting by Gerd "The Flight of Lindbergh"	Circa 1927?
2	7	Loose items, back of scrapbook: Mitchel Field Observer, Aerial Carnival program	1923 Nov 10
2	8	Loose items, back of scrapbook: Trans-Pacific Flight clippings	1928
2	9	Loose items, back of scrapbook: Around the World in 8 ½ Days via Air clippings	1931
2	10	Loose items, back of scrapbook: Italo Balbo clippings	1933
2	11	Loose items, back of scrapbook: "Official Book of the Flight of Gen. Italo Balbo and his Italian Air Armada to a Century of Progress" (from Chicago Century of Progress)	1933
2	12	Loose items, back of scrapbook: clippings (1 of 2)	Circa 1917-1935
2	13	Loose items, back of scrapbook: clippings (2 of 2)	Circa 1917-1935