

MS-600, John Houser Aviation Prints

Collection Number: MS-600

Title: John Houser Aviation Prints

Dates: 1959-1969

Creator: Houser, John, 1923-2014

Summary/Abstract: The collection contains three different sets of aviation art prints collected by John Houser: 10 prints from the Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Reprints of WWI and WWII aircraft, circa 1960s; 4 prints from the Edo Floater Collector Series depicting floatplanes from 1929 and 1933; and 42 offset lithographs of WWI planes and pilots from the Leach Corporation Heritage of the Air Collection copyrighted from 1959-1969.

Quantity/Physical Description: .25 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, 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, Box #, Folder #], MS-600, John Houser Aviation Prints, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The collection was donated to Special Collections & Archives at Wright State University by Jenni Beckner, daughter of John Houser, in 2015.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at

http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms600.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

MS-486 William Laufer Aviation Collection

(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms486.pdf>) contains Leach

Corporation Heritage of the Air Collection prints and Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Series plates.

MS-381 Don Roetman Papers

(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms381.pdf>) contains Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Series plates.

MS-294 Seymour Dunham Collection

(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms294.pdf>) contains Leach Corporation Heritage of the Air Collection prints.

Separated Materials: A total of 27 aviation books, 239 issues of Vintage Airplane magazines for the years 1980-1999, and volumes 1-13 of National Aeronca Association magazine (TL686 .A42 .N3) for the years 1988-2000 were separated and cataloged for the reading room.

Processed by: Toni Vanden Bos, August, 2017

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into 3 series:

- Series I: Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Reprints, Circa 1960s
- Series II: The Edo Floater Collector Series, undated
- Series III: Leach Corporation Heritage of the Air Collection, 1959-1969

Biographical Note:

John Wallace Houser was born November 29, 1923 in Springfield, Ohio to Howard and Virginia (Westfall) Houser. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps with the 425th Bomb Squadron (part of the 308th Bombardment Group). During WWII, John was a B-24 engine mechanic in China. He was honorably discharged in September, 1945. John went to Purdue for one year in engineering and then 2 years at Cal-Aero in Glendale, California. He was an engineer at Aeronca for 40 years, retiring in 1989. The company allowed him to do service engineering on the side, providing information to people all over the world so they could restore their vintage Aeronca aircraft. After he retired, John continued to provide information and copies of drawings to people who were restoring their planes. He passed away December 24, 2014 in Middletown, Ohio.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of aviation prints of historical aircraft collected by John Houser. They are arranged into three series by collector sets.

Series I: Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Reprints, circa 1960s, contains ten monochrome reprints from the Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Reprints series produced in the 1960s. The reprints measure 11" x 8 1/2" and depict aircraft produced by early airlines, early warbirds from World War I, and aircraft flown in World War II. The back of each reprint provides information about the aircraft or airline represented in the image.

Series II: The Edo Floater Collector Series, contains four prints of 1929 and 1933 floatplanes by the Edo Aircraft Corporation. Each print measures 11” x 14” and has a caption providing historical information about the featured floatplane in the image.

Series III: Leach Corporation Heritage of the Air Collection, 1959-1969, contains 42 color offset lithographs made from original watercolor paintings by Merv Corning. The original paintings were commissioned by Leach International to depict heroic scenes of early WWI planes and pilots to be used as advertising art. The series was originally intended to be 3-4 images, but were so popular that they expanded the series to 45 paintings which were featured in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine for about 10 years starting in 1959. The prints in this collection measure 11” x 14” and each have a caption explaining the historical significance of the image portrayed in the lithograph.

Subject Terms:

Persons/Families

Houser, John, 1923-2014

Organizations/Corporate Names

Phillips Petroleum Company

Leach Corporation

Edo Aircraft Corporation

Subjects (General)

Airplanes in art – Pictorial works

Airplanes, Military, in art – Pictorial works

Floatplanes – Pictorial works

World War, 1939-1945 – Pictorial works

World War, 1914-1918– Pictorial works

Material Types

Offset lithographs

Prints (visual works)

Collection Inventory

Series I			Phillips Petroleum Company Historical Aviation Reprints, Circa 1960s	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	1	April, 1918 – Eddie Rickenbacker, in pursuit of an Albatros DV, gains his first victory	Circa 1960s
1	1	2	April, 1918 –The last sortie of the “Red Knight”, Baron von Richthofen...on his tail, Captain A.R. Brown in a Sopwith Camel	Circa 1960s
1	1	3	September, 1918 – Low-level attack on a well-protected observation balloon ... the “Balloon Buster”, Frank Luke in a Spad	Circa 1960s
1	1	4	July, 1927 – Maddux Air Line uses Ford Tri-motors for regular passenger schedules between Los Angeles and San Diego	Circa 1960s
1	1	5	Early in 1928 – A Robertson Cessna Cabin Monoplane arrives at Chicago on the afternoon flight from St. Louis	Circa 1960s
1	1	6	1941: “Flying Tigers” sweep the skies of enemy planes over China	Circa 1960s
1	1	7	1942: Mitchells take off from U.S.S. Hornet ...destination: Tokyo	Circa 1960s
1	1	8	1942: Flying Fortresses carry the battle to the enemy in daylight	Circa 1960s
1	1	9	1943: Corsairs steal the Zero’s thunder	Circa 1960s
1	1	10	1943: Liberators leap into hell at Ploesti	Circa 1960s
Series II			The Edo Floater Collector Series, undated	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	2	1	5-AT-CS Ford “Tri-Motor”, 1929	undated
1	2	2	CA-6 Buhl Airsedan, 1929	undated
1	2	3	Lockheed Sirius, 1933	undated
1	2	4	SEV-3 Amphibian Floatplane, 1933	undated
Series III			Leach Corporation Heritage of the Air Collection, 1959-1969	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	3	1	The Man Without Fear	1959
1	3	2	The Red Knight of Germany	1959
1	3	3	The King of Air Fighters	1959
1	3	4	The Killer Camel	1959
1	3	5	Moment of Decision	1959
1	3	6	The Two-Seater Ace	1959
1	3	7	Airdrop to the ‘Lost Battalion’	1959

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	3	8	The Arizona Balloon Buster	1959
1	3	9	Kazakov and his 'Katze'	1960
1	3	10	Great London Air Raid Scare	1960
1	3	11	The Strange Story	1961
1	3	12	Fall of the Flying Fool	1961
1	3	13	The Jenny vs. Pancho Villa	1961
1	3	14	Immelmann: the "Eagle of Lille"	1961
1	3	15	The Last Salute	1961
1	3	16	The Raid on Vienna	1961
1	3	17	Rickenbacker: America's Ace of Aces	1962
1	3	18	The Hi-Jacking Hero	1962
1	3	19	Warneford and Goliath	1962
1	3	20	The Five O'Clock Taube	1962
1	3	21	They Watched the First Dog Fight	1962
1	3	22	The Rascalitrant Sausage	1962
1	3	23	Balloon Fever	1963
1	3	24	The Boy in the Dark Trunks	1963
1	3	25	On a Wing and Two Prayers	1963
1	3	26	Compassionate Hunter	1963
1	3	27	Surprise Party	1963
1	3	28	Dangerous Baby	1963
1	3	29	Rees and the Ten Walfische	1963
1	3	30	Bloody Paralyser	1963
1	3	31	The Man Who Wouldn't Die	1964
1	3	32	The Sergeant and the Cow	1964
1	3	33	China's German Air Force	1965
1	3	34	The Last Kill	1966
1	3	35	The Day the Navy Sank Itself	1967
1	3	36	The First of the Flying Tankers	1967
1	3	37	The First Bail-Out	1967
1	3	38	Requiem for the Daughter of the Skies	1967
1	3	39	The Race that Never Was	1968
1	3	40	The Airfield that Went to Sea	1968
1	3	41	The Day the Marines Made Air History	1968
1	3	42	Another First for the Flying Admiral	1969