



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Samuel Donovan "Don" Swann Collection

Patti Williams

2022

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Samuel Donovan "Don" Swann Collection
Date:	1910-1942 (bulk August 31, 1917 to December 31, 1918)
Identifier:	NASM.1987.0062
Creator:	United States. Army. Signal Corps
Extent:	.25 Cubic feet (One slim legal document case)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This accession is a collection of military records, including orders, travel papers, memos, equipment lists, and other correspondence concerning Don Swann while he was stationed in Paris in 1918.
Digital Content:	Image(s): NASM-9A20017: Orders issued by Headquarters, U.S. [Army] Troops Paris [France] American Expeditional Forces [AEF] to Lieutenant S. D. Swann to proceed to the 3rd Aviation Instruction Center; August 8, 1918.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mr. S. Donovan Swann, Jr., Gift, 1987, NASM.1987.0062

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2022; updated by Melissa A. N. Keiser to add folder listing, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Samuel Donovan "Don" Swann Collection, NASM.1987.0062, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Samuel Donovan "Don" Swann (1899–1954) was a World War I aviator and an American artist. Fascinated by aviation from the time he was 17, Swann attended St. John's College in Annapolis as a cadet. In November 1917, Swann was sent to Kelly Field, Texas, to attend Ground Officer's Training School, where he graduated as a first lieutenant. During World War I Swann was an officer in the Signal Reserves Corps, Aviation Section, until January 1918, at which point he was assigned to the 62nd Squadron with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. During his service overseas, Swann was placed in charge of supplying Air Service material for all aviation training schools in France. As he was interested in flying, he petitioned to be switched over to piloting and by the beginning of October 1918, he received dispensation to be allowed to make flights. After his discharge at the end of the war, Swann was employed as the superintendent of the American Propeller Manufacturing Company of Baltimore which was a primary source of aeronautical propeller supplies. He later also worked at the Monumental Aircraft Company at College Park, Maryland, which consisted entirely of aeronautical supplies. As an artist, Swann studied in Germany and Italy, and was known for historic Americana; his art was exhibited in many United States cities and is part of many permanent collections, including the Metropolitan Museum and the Smithsonian Institution.

Scope and Contents

This accession is a collection of military records, including orders, travel papers, memos, equipment lists, and other correspondence concerning Don Swann while he was stationed in Paris in 1918. Also included are: a souvenir program from the International Jacques Schneider Cup Races, dated October 24, 1925, and annotated by Swann with notes about the pilots of the day; an American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Tentative Equipment Manual for Supply Squadron; April 20, 1918 propaganda leaflets in German regarding President Wilson's speech; and miscellaneous notes by Swann written about early aviation in Baltimore, MD, his hometown.

Arrangement

Materials in this collection are grouped into two series by type: Documents (Series 1) and Photographs (Series 2). In 1998, the six photographs in this collection were reproduced on the second side (Side B) of *National Air and Space Museum Archival Videodisc 7*, a LaserDisc CAV format 12-inch (30 cm) optical disc published by the Smithsonian Institution. Print numbers applied during videodisc production are used as item-level image numbers (print numbers NASM 7B06404 to NASM 7B06409, videodisc frame capture numbers VD-7B06404 to VD-7B06404) and the images are stored in videodisc number order.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Military records -- 20th century -- United States
- United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Aerial operations

Names:

- Swann, Don, 1889-1954

Container Listing

Documents

Box 1

Box 1, Folder 1	Swann's notes on early aviation, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	<p>"Official War 1919 Papers" [World War I, Swann's American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) training and service in France], August 31, 1917 to December 31, 1918</p> <p>Notes: In additional to the World War I documents, this folder also includes the license for the marriage of Samuel Donovan Swann to Margherita Kinnier Harrell (dated February 23, 1910) and two letters from early 1942 from the US Army Air Forces to Swann relating to how to apply for a commission in the US Army.</p>
Box 1, Folder 3	US Propaganda in German: President Woodrow Wilson's Speech, October 23, 1918
Box 1, Folder 4	"Training Centers Under the Jurisdiction of the Training Department" [Memo], May 16, 1918
Box 1, Folder 5	Office of the Chief of Air Service Training Section Memos (Supplies), June-August 1918 and undated
Box 1, Folder 6	"The Organization of the French Infantry Division" [Memo], undated, circa 1918
Box 1, Folder 7	"American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Materiel Division Supply Section, Requisition No. 8, Material for Aerial Gunnery School: St. Jean-de-Monts, Space Parts Required for 200 LeRhone 110-120 H.P. Motors" [2 carbon copies], March 29, 1918
Box 1, Folder 8	"American Expeditionary Forces Tentative Equipment Manual for Safety Squadrons, Air Service, S.C.", April 20, 1918
Box 1, Folder 9	<p>NASM-9A20016: Program, Jacques Schneider Cup International Seaplanes Races [annotated], October 24, 1925</p> <p>Notes: Note that the original document (which was heavily annotated in pencil by Don Swann) is in very poor physical condition; only the front and back covers have been digitized at this time.</p>

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Photographs

Box 2

[Image\(s\)](#)

Arrangement: In 1998, the print photographs in this collection were photographed for reproduction on NASM Archival Videodisc 7. The "videodisc frame capture" images reproduced in this section are small 100 ppi RGB JPEG image files, 624 x 480 pixels each, created 2001-2003 by NASM Archives as still video frame captures of the NTSC video format output from an original copy of the videodisc. Each videodisc frame capture displays a black-edged white number in the upper left quadrant; the first two digits (00) are the videodisc chapter (not used on NASM videodiscs), the second set of five digits are the videodisc frame number. These numbers are an artifact produced by the videodisc player and do not appear on the original archival materials.

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