



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Charles Ingram Stanton, Sr., Papers

Michael Sean Margolius and David Schwartz

2001



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Charles Ingram Stanton, Sr., Papers
Identifier:	NASM.1987.0076
Date:	1917-1977
Extent:	4.22 Cubic feet (1 slim legal document box; 4 legal document boxes; 3 flatboxes)
Creator:	Stanton, Charles Ingram, 1893-1986
Language:	English
Summary:	This collection consists of Stanton's personal papers. The material includes correspondence, photographs, news clippings and articles, reunion memorabilia and records, and personal and professional writings over the course of his aeronautical career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Charles I. Stanton, Jr., gift, 1987, NASM.1987.0076

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Michael Sean Margolius and David Schwartz, 2001. Revised and digital assets attached by Elizabeth C. Borja, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Charles Ingram Stanton, Sr., Papers, Acc. NASM.1987.0076, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Charles Ingram Stanton was born on July 28, 1893, in Medford, Massachusetts. He graduated from high school in Revere, Massachusetts in 1911; and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Tufts College in 1917. After graduation, he joined the United States Army and was assigned to the Signal Corps. Upon graduation from the Corps flight school, Stanton was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Although he served in the Air Service during World War I, he was never assigned overseas, but remained in the United States conducting research regarding radios and their effects in aircraft. In December of 1918, Stanton was formally discharged from the Army.

Prior to his military discharge, Stanton accepted a position with the United States Post Office Department of Aerial Mail, and began work as a test pilot. On September 15, 1920, Stanton was promoted to Superintendent of Operations, United States Air Mail Service. He later resigned from the Post Office and went to work for the National Aeronautic Association (NAA). His tenure there was terminated for unknown reasons in 1923; he then went to work for the U.S. Engineer Corp as a surveyman. From 1925 through 1926, he was employed as a civil engineer in Miami, Florida. On January 17, 1927 Stanton returned to government service as an airplane and engine inspector for the United States Department of Commerce. He was named the Chief of Airways Engineering Division, Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) on May 4, 1937. While working there, he obtained patent number 2,147,679 for an illuminating system for runways. On June 29, 1940 Stanton was named Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of Federal Airways. Stanton served as Administrator for the CAA from 1942 to 1944 before returning to his previous position as Deputy Administrator. During his tenure with the CAA, Stanton attended several conferences and important meetings for the establishment of international airways. Stanton was instrumental in establishing the Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization. In 1944 he received an honorary doctorate from Tufts College for his contribution to the field of civil aeronautics.

On March 8, 1948 Stanton retired from the United States Government and took a teaching position at the Technological Institute of Aeronautics of Brazil as Professor of Air Navigation, and Chief of Airway Division. Upon returning to the United States in 1952, Stanton went to work for Bell Telephone Laboratories. He returned to work for the CAA in 1957, where he remained until his retirement in 1962.

Charles Ingram Stanton's love of flying did not end with his work. He remained an active member in the OX-5 Club, the Society of Air Mail Pioneers, Society of Airway Pioneers, and the Washington Air Derby Association. In addition to flying clubs, Stanton was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity. Charles Ingram Stanton passed away in 1986.

Scope and Contents

This collection of the papers of Charles Ingram Stanton contains work-related photographs, personal writings on his career, periodicals, programs, financial records, published materials, maps, charts, plans, scrapbooks and audiotapes. At the time of processing, no attempt was made to transcribe the audiotapes. Please contact the Archives for information about duplication.

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as follows:

Series I, Professional Life Subseries I: Military Career Subseries II: Civilian Career

Series II, Personal Life

Series III, Miscellaneous Oversize Material

Timeline

<i>1893 July 28</i>	Born in Medford Massachusetts
<i>1911</i>	Graduated from Revere High School
<i>1917</i>	Graduated from Tufts College
<i>1917 December 8</i>	Joined United States Army
<i>1918 December 12</i>	Joined United States Post Office Department of Aerial Mail
<i>1918 December 18</i>	Discharged from the United States Army
<i>1920 September 15</i>	Appointed Superintendent of Operations, Air Mail Service
<i>1923 November 13</i>	Terminated from National Aeronautic Association
<i>1924</i>	Worked for United States Engineer Corp as Surveyman
<i>1925</i>	Worked as a Civil Engineer in Miami
<i>1927 January 17</i>	Worked for U.S. Department of Commerce as an Airplane Inspector
<i>1937 May 4</i>	Selected as Chief of Airways Engineering Division, Civil Aeronautics Authority
<i>1939 June 1</i>	Granted U.S. Department of Justice Patent Number 2,147,679
<i>1940 June 29</i>	Appointed Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau of Federal Airways, Civil Aeronautics Authority
<i>1942 July 20</i>	Appointed Administrator of Civil Aeronautics, Civil Aeronautics Administration
<i>1944 June 18</i>	Received Honorary Degree from Tufts College
<i>1944 September 23</i>	Resigned as Administrator to return to former position as Deputy Administrator, Civil Aeronautics Administration.
<i>1948 March 8</i>	Took leave of absence to serve as head of Department of Airways Engineering, Aeronautical Technical Institute of Brazil.
<i>1952</i>	Returned to America to work for Bell Laboratories
<i>1956 November 16</i>	Left Bell Laboratories
<i>1957 January 23</i>	Worked for the Air Navigation Development Board, Civil Aeronautics Administration
<i>1957 November 6</i>	Worked as Electrical Engineer (Gen.) of Airways Modernization Board Civil Aeronautics Administration

1957	Worked as Chief of Airports Division, Civil Aeronautics Administration
1962	Retired from the Federal Aviation Agency
1986 January 1	Passed away

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautical engineers
- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Law and legislation
- Aeronautics -- Safety measures
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Aeronautics, Commercial -- United States
- Aeronautics, Military
- Air mail service
- Air pilots
- World War, 1914-1918

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Audiotapes
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Publications

Names:

- Bell Telephone Laboratories
- Civil Aeronautics Administration
- Federal Aviation Administration
- National Aeronautic Association (U.S.)
- Stanton, Charles Ingram, 1893-1986
- United States. Air Navigation Development Board
- United States. Army. Air Service
- United States. Post Office Department. Air Mail Service

Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Life

Charles Ingram Stanton spent most of his career in public service. His professional papers are arranged into two subseries and then chronologically within the subseries.

1.1: Military Career

Charles Stanton began his career in public service when he was drafted into the United States Army during World War I. He learned to fly while in the Signal Corps, and tested early radio equipment during the war. With his discharge from the Signal Corps in 1918, he went to work for the United States Post Office Department of Aerial Mail. This subseries contains military orders, official correspondence, training material and photographs.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | United States Army, Orders and Official Correspondence, 1917-1918
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | United States Army, Air Service Training, 1917
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | United States Army, Photographs, 1917-1918, 1971
Image(s) |

1.2: Civilian Career

Charles Ingram Stanton's civilian career spanned the years 1918 - 1962. This subseries contains correspondence, documents and photographs pertaining to Stanton's tenure with various departments of the United States Government, positions with private industry, and foreign government service. It is arranged chronologically.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 4 | United States Air Mail Service, 1918-1923
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | United States Air Mail Service, Cox-Klemin DH-4 Modified and Wittemann DHM-2 Mailplanes, 1922
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | United States Air Mail Service, Photographs
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | National Aeronautic Association of U.S.A., 1923
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Department of Commerce: Lighthouse Division and Civil Aeronautics Administration, 1927 January 17 - 1948 March 12 |

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 9 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Patent No. 2,147,679 [Runway] Illuminating System, 1939 February 21
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 10 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Training Glider Project, 1942
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 1 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Spanish Mission, 1944-1945
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 2 Civil Aeronautics Administration, International Civil Aviation Organization, 1944-1957
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 3 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization, 1946-1947
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 4 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Photographs, 1927-1948
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 5 Aeronautics Technical Center, Brazil, 1947-1952
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 6 Bell Telephone Laboratories, 1952-1957
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 7 Radio Technical Commission of Aeronautics, 1953-1956
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 8 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Air Navigation Development Board, 1953-1957
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 1 Civil Aeronautics Administration, Airways Modernization Board, 1957-1962
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 2 Federal Aviation Administration, History Project, 1926-1943, 1960-1962
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 3 Federal Aviation Administration, Retirement, 1962
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 3, Folder 4 Miscellaneous Photographs

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 97 (Shared), Folder 1987.0076 Civil Aeronautics Administration, White House Acceptance of Resignation as Administrator, 1944 August 21

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 2: Personal Life

This series contains Charles Stanton's personal writings, event programs and photographs relating to educational institutions and professional organizations.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Writings Regarding Early Military Experience
Image(s) |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Writings Regarding Early Flying Interest and Early Air Mail History, 1973-1977, 1918-1922
Image(s) |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Writings Regarding Air Mail Service and National Aeronautic Association, circa 1923
Image(s) |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Tufts College, 1917-1967
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Scheduled Air Mail Service, 25th Anniversary, 1943
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Scheduled Air Mail Service, 40th Anniversary, 1958
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | Scheduled Air Mail Service, 50th Anniversary, 1968
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Air Mail Service Reunions, 1953-1956
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Air Mail Pioneers, 1943-1981
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | 122nd Aero Squadron Reunions, 1945-1953
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Society of Airway Pioneers, 1959-1981
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 8 | Order of Daedalians, <i>Daedalus Flyer</i> , 1982, 1976
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 9 | OX-5 Club of America, 1971-1981
Image(s) |
| Box 4, Folder 10 | Revere High School, Reunions and Correspondence, 1981 |

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 5, Folder 1 *Path of Flight*, George Sidney Stanton. Washington, DC: United States Department of Commerce, 1945
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 2 *Realm of Flight*, George Sidney Stanton. Washington, DC: United States Department of Commerce, 1945
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 3 *Saga of the U.S. Air Mail Service*, Dale Nielson, ed. Air Mail Pioneers, Inc., 1962
- Box 5, Folder 4 Miscellaneous Clippings and Publications, 1918-1986
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 5, Folder 5 Miscellaneous Material
[Image\(s\)](#)
Captions and photographs appeared in the book *Death in the Air: The War Diary and Photographs of a Flying Corps Pilot*, published anonymously in 1933, but was a photographic hoax created with models built and photographed by Wesley Archer.

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Series 3: Miscellaneous Oversize Material

These boxes contain large-format documents, scrapbooks and audiotapes. At the time of processing, no attempt was made to transcribe the audiotapes. Please contact the Archives for information about duplication.

Box 6, Folder 1	Diplomas , 1911-1944 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 2	Governmental Appointments, 1918-1944 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 3	Certificates of Retirement and Appreciation, 1948-1984 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Certificates of Membership, 1914-1944 Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Photographs Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 6	Cartoon Drawing of Charles Ingram Stanton Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 7	Copy of Declaration of Independence Image(s)
Box 7, Folder 1	Scrapbook, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Retirement, 1948 Image(s)
Box 7, Folder 2	Scrapbook, Civil Aeronautics Administration, 1942-1948 Image(s)
Box 8, Folder 1	Audio: Stanton Farewell Party, 1948
Box 8, Folder 2	Audio: WWDC 2/20/75 Fred Fiske TWA 514 Crash , 1975 February 20
Box 8, Folder 3	Audio: "6 PM News"
Box 8, Folder 4	Audio: SLX CON, 13 September 1955
Box 8, Folder 5	Audio: HFD, 13 September 1955

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