



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Admiral Gago Coutinho Collection

2014

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Collection Overview | 1 |
| Administrative Information | 1 |
| Scope and Contents..... | 1 |
| Biographical / Historical..... | 1 |
| Names and Subjects | 2 |
| Container Listing | |

Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | Admiral Gago Coutinho Collection |
| Date: | (bulk 1922) |
| Identifier: | NASM.1988.0091 |
| Extent: | 0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder)) |
| Language: | English . |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Embassy of Portugal, Gift, 1988

Preferred Citation

Admiral Gago Coutinho Collection, Accession 1988-0091, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Admiral Gago Coutinho was a pilot for the Portuguese Navy in the 1920s. He is famous for his 1922 flight across the South Atlantic with fellow navigator, Commander Sacadura Cabral, the first flight to use celestial navigation for an oceanic crossing. Admiral Coutinho designed the instrument and developed the methods for the flight. He worked with C. Plath, a German manufacturer of nautical instruments, to improve the sextant over the next 15 years.

Scope and Contents

This accession includes a map of the flight and seven photographs. Two photos are of the Fairey IIID Mk. II Seaplane "Lusitânia," Three are of the Fairey IIID Seaplane "Santa Cruz," the airplane which made the flight, and one of those three includes the pilots, Carlos Viegas Gago Coutinho and Artur de Sacadura Cabral. The remaining two photos are of sextants. The first is the original sextant used on the 1922 flight. The second is the commercial version manufactured by C. Plath. Finally, there are the manuscripts on the new sextant: one in English, one in Spanish, and one in German.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Fairey IIIID Seaplane
- Navigation
- Transatlantic flights

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Names:

- Gago Coutinho, Carlos Viegas
- Sacadura Cabral, Artur de (Artur de Sacadura Freire Cabral)

Places:

- Portugal