



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Rufus Porter Collection

Porter, Rufus, Collection

Patti Williams

2011

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | Rufus Porter Collection |
| Date: | 1826 1849 |
| Identifier: | NASM.1991.0033 |
| Creator: | Porter, Rufus, 1792-1884 |
| Extent: | 0.01 Cubic feet (1 folder) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | This donation consists of the two booklets written by Rufus Porter on aerial navigation. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Robert B. Stephens, Gift, 1991, NASM.1991.0033

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Rufus Porter Collection, NASM.1991.0033, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Rufus Porter (1792-1889) was the inventor of an airship 'the Aerial Locomotive' in the early 19th century. The original design for the airship was produced in 1820. In 1850 Porter organized a stock company to obtain funds for experimental purposes that failed to receive sufficient funds. Porter also invented a revolver, a horse power wood sawing apparatus and other mechanical devices. He was publisher of 'The New York Mechanic' and one of the founders of 'Scientific American.'

Scope and Contents

This donation consists of the following two booklets written by Rufus Porter: 1) 'Select Collection of Valuable and Curious Arts and Interesting Experiments which are well Explained, and Warranted genuine, and may be Performed Easily, Safely and At Little Expense,' Concord (New Hampshire), J.B. Moore Printers, 1826; and 2) Aerial navigation: The Practicability of Traveling Pleasantly and Safely from New York to California in Three Days, Fully Demonstrated: With a Full Description of a Perfect Aerial Locomotive, with Estimates of Capacity Speed and Cost of Construction,' New-York, Published by H. Smith, John Hall Printer, 222 Water Street, 1849.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged at the item level. One of the two items has been digitized.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- pre-1903
- Airships
- Airships -- pre-1903
- Navigation (Aeronautics)

Types of Materials:

- Booklets
- Publications

Names:

- Aerial Locomotive (Airship)

Container Listing

Select Collection of Valuable and Curious Arts and Interesting Experiments which are well Explained, and Warranted genuine, and may be Performed Easily, Safely and At Little Expense, 1826

Aerial navigation: The Practicability of Traveling Pleasantly and Safely from New York to California in Three Days, Fully Demonstrated: With a Full Description of a Perfect Aerial Locomotive, with Estimates of Capacity Speed and Cost of Construction, 1849