



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

J. Gordon Vaeth Collection

Jessamyn Lloyd

2020

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | J. Gordon Vaeth Collection |
| Identifier: | NASM.1994.0011 |
| Date: | 1908-1992 |
| Extent: | 1.97 Cubic feet (4 legal document boxes and 1 oversize folder) |
| Creator: | Vaeth, J. Gordon (Joseph Gordon), 1921-2012 |
| Language: | Multiple languages This collection contains materials in English, French, and German. |
| Summary: | This collection, compiled by J. Gordon Vaeth, consists of documents, reports, news clippings, scrapbooks, publications, and photographs relating to rigid and non-rigid airships worldwide. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

J. Gordon Vaeth, Gift, 1993, NASM.1994.0011

Processing Information

Arranged and described in 1993 by Christina T. Simcox. Updated and encoded in 2020 by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

J. Gordon Vaeth Collection, NASM.1994.0011, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

J. Gordon Vaeth (1921-2012) was an accomplished author and historian on the subject of airships. He was known as the 'leader of the airship underground' during his earlier days with the Naval Airship Program at the start of World War II. During his active duty in the U. S. Navy (1942-1946), he was assigned to Commander Airship Patrol Group One, later Commander Fleet, Airships, Atlantic, then to Naval Air Station Lakehurst. He entered civilian life in 1947, continuing to work with programs relating to airships, including at the Office of Naval Research, the Helios Project, and on Skyhook. Vaeth held many positions for the federal government and was the director of systems engineering for the National Environmental Satellite Service at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at the time of his retirement. Vaeth was a frequent lecturer, including appearances in television documentaries, as well as the author of numerous professional articles and books.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of documents, reports, news clippings, scrapbooks, publications, and photographs relating to rigid and non-rigid airships worldwide, including the USS Shenandoah; USS Akron; USS Macon; USS Los Angeles; Schütte-Lanz; R-23; TC-14; and the Zeppelins Hindenburg and Bodensee. It was compiled by J. Gordon Vaeth for personal and research reasons.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by type of material. Most publications are housed individually in folders.

General

Additional materials: Mr. Vaeth also donated a number of books and volumes of "The Airship Quarterly" which are housed in National Air and Space Museum Branch Library.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Airships
- United States Navy TC-14 (Airship)

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Photographs
- Publications

Reports

Names:

LZ 120 Bodensee (Airship)
LZ 129 Hindenburg (Airship)
Project Helios
Project Skyhook
United States. Navy -- Aviation
United States. Navy. Naval Airship Program
United States. Office of Naval Research
Vaeth, J. Gordon (Joseph Gordon), 1921-2012
ZR-1 Shenandoah (Airship)
ZR-3 Los Angeles (Airship)
ZRS-4 Akron (Airship)
ZRS-5 Macon (Airship)

Container Listing

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| Box 1, Folder 1 | Scrapbook [1], 1930s |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Scrapbook [2], 1930s |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | U. S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Design Memoranda, 1925-1934 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | U. S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Design Memoranda, 1935-1937 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | U. S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Design Memoranda, 1938-1944 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | U. S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Technical Note No. 185, "Extracts Relating to Airships", 1928 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Publication, <i>L'Aerostation Maritime et ses Constructions Pendant La Guerre</i> , 1919 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Publication, U. S. Bureau of Mines, "About Helium", 1933 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Publication, Zeppelin Calendar, 1939 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Publication, Souvenir Booklet on the USS <i>Akron</i> and USS <i>Macon</i> , 1931 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Publication, Souvenir Booklet on the USS <i>Akron</i> , 1931 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Publication, Souvenir Airships Publication, Naval Air Station Lakehurst, 1936 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Publication, <i>Leaves from my Logbook</i> , Captain George F. Meager, 1961 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Publication, Louis Godard Catalogue, 1914 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Publication, <i>Les Dirigeables Tragiques</i> , Jacques Mortane, 1938 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Publication, <i>Die Zeppelin Fahrt</i> , 1928 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Publication, <i>Weatherwise</i> , December 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Publication, <i>Instruction Pratique sur le Service des Aérostats Militaires</i> , 1911 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Publication, <i>Les Grands Dirigeables</i> [Photocopy], 1925 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Publication, <i>Les Grands Dirigeables</i> [Original], 1925 |

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| Box 3, Folder 1 | Publication, <i>Report on Airship Rescue Operations</i> , 1945 |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Publication, Souvenir Booklet on Naval Air Station Lakehurst, 1943 |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | Publication, Airship Flight Training Manual, 1934 |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | Publication, Booklet on the USS <i>Shenandoah</i> , 1965 |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Publication, Booklet on the Zeppelin LZ 129 <i>Hindenburg</i> , 1964 |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Publication, "Building the World's Largest Airships," Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Publication, "History of United States Navy Airships Since World War II," Commander Fleet Airship Wing One, Circa 1960 |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Miscellaneous Lighter than Air (LTA) Articles and Chronology, 1958-1974 |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | USS <i>Akron</i> Flight Listing, 9/23/1931 to 4/3/1933 |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Naval Air Station Lakehurst LTA Reunion Program, 1971 |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | Instructions, Goodyear Type FA Dirigible, 1918 |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | Publication, "Building the World's Largest Airship Factory and Dock," Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation, Circa 1929 |
| Box 3, Folder 13 | Paper on U. S. Naval Aviation in France |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | Paper on Schütte-Lanz SL 9 and SL 12 Airships, 1938 |
| Box 3, Folder 15 | Publication, <i>The Metalclad Airship</i> , 1931 |
| Box 3, Folder 16 | USS <i>Los Angeles</i> Flight Listing, 8/27/1924 to 6/30/1932 |
| Box 3, Folder 17 | Publication, Report on the R 101 Wreck Inquiry, 1931 |
| Box 3, Folder 18 | Publication, Two Reports from the Special Committee on Airships, Science Advisory Board, 1936, 1937 |
| Box 3, Folder 19 | Publication, <i>Das Zeppelinluftschiff für Amerika</i> , 1924 |
| Box 3, Folder 19 | Article on the History of Naval Air Station Richmond |

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| Box 3, Folder 20 | Official Documents on the History of Naval Air Station Richmond, 1945 and undated |
| Box 3, Folder 21 | Publication, <i>Airship Flight Emergency Bill</i> [ZPK Type] |
| Box 3, Folder 22 | Document on Characteristics of Rigid Airships |
| Box 3, Folder 23 | Publication, "LTA Structures and Materials Technology" , 1980 |
| Box 3, Folder 24 | Publication, <i>Naval Aviation News</i> , November 1981 |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Publication, "Special Report on Lighter-Than-Air Craft", 1940 |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Publication, German Magazine on Zeppelin Airships, 1936 |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | Article on the Development of German Airships, 1920 |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Publication, Reprint of Article on Zeppelin Decor by Vaeth, <i>The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts</i> , Winter/Spring 1990 |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | U. S. Navy Rigid Airship Manual, 1928 |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | Miscellaneous Articles and Publications, 1938-1948 |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Miscellaneous Articles and Publications |
| Box 4, Folder 8 | Publication, Booklet on Airship Operation in World War II", 1946 |
| Box 4, Folder 9 | Publication, Reprint of Article on USS <i>Macon</i> by Vaeth, <i>National Geographic</i> , January 1992 |
| Box 4, Folder 10 | Publication, <i>The Rigid Airship in Peace and War</i> , 1942 |
| Box 4, Folder 11 | Photographs, Folder 1 of 2 |
| Box 4, Folder 12 | Photographs, Folder 2 of 2 |
| Box 134 (Shared), Folder 1 | Oversized Photographs |