



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

J. Gordon Vaeth Collection

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2020

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	J. Gordon Vaeth Collection
Date:	1908-1992
Identifier:	NASM.1994.0011
Creator:	Vaeth, J. Gordon (Joseph Gordon), 1921-2012
Extent:	1.97 Cubic feet (4 legal document boxes and 1 oversize folder)
Language:	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

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, L'Aerostation Maritime et ses Constructions Pendant La Guerre, 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 Akron and USS Macon, 1931
Box 2, Folder 5	Publication, Souvenir Booklet on the USS Akron, 1931
Box 2, Folder 6	Publication, Souvenir Airships Publication, Naval Air Station Lakehurst, 1936
Box 2, Folder 7	Publication, Leaves from my Logbook, Captain George F. Meager, 1961
Box 2, Folder 8	Publication, Louis Godard Catalogue, 1914
Box 2, Folder 9	Publication, Les Dirigeables Tragiques, Jacques Mortane, 1938
Box 2, Folder 10	Publication, Die Zeppelin Fahrt, 1928
Box 2, Folder 11	Publication, Weatherwise, December 1990
Box 2, Folder 12	Publication, Instruction Pratique sur le Service des Aérostats Militaires, 1911
Box 2, Folder 13	Publication, Les Grands Dirigeables [Photocopy], 1925
Box 2, Folder 14	Publication, Les Grands Dirigeables [Original], 1925
Box 3, Folder 1	Publication, Report on Airship Rescue Operations, 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 Shenandoah, 1965
Box 3, Folder 5	Publication, Booklet on the Zeppelin LZ 129 Hindenburg, 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 Akron 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, The Metalclad Airship, 1931
Box 3, Folder 16	USS Los Angeles 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, Das Zeppelinluftschiff für Amerika, 1924
Box 3, Folder 19	Article on the History of Naval Air Station Richmond
Box 3, Folder 20	Official Documents on the History of Naval Air Station Richmond, 1945 and undated
Box 3, Folder 21	Publication, Airship Flight Emergency Bill [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, Naval Aviation News, 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, The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts, 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 Macon by Vaeth, National Geographic, January 1992
Box 4, Folder 10	Publication, The Rigid Airship in Peace and War, 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