



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

A. Leo Stevens Glass Plate Photography Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	A. Leo Stevens Glass Plate Photography Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1997.0039
<b>Date:</b>	1900-1915
<b>Extent:</b>	0.52 Cubic Feet ((1 slim legal document box) (1 shoebox) (1 small shoebox)) 0.89 Linear Feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Stevens, Albert Leo, 1873-1944
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Chris and Maureen Lynch, Valhalla Aerostation, Purchase, 1997, 1997-0039, Public Domain

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

Albert Leo Stevens (1873-1944) was an accomplished balloonist and aviation pioneer. Stevens began making ascensions when he was twelve and began manufacturing balloons and dirigibles at the age of 20. Stevens was an exhibitor in parachute, balloon, dirigible, and human cannonball shows and also was a participant in races such as the Gordon Bennett Balloon Races. Stevens flew one of the very first successful dirigibles in the United States in 1906 and opened the first private airfield in the nation in 1909. In the latter part of his career, Stevens became a flight promoter and worked with such pioneering aviators as Harry Atwood, Harry Bingham Brown, George Beatty, and Harriet Quimby. Stevens also played a key role in the development of safety features for parachutes.

## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 37 glass negatives, 22 glass lantern slides, and 4 transparencies depicting the life and career of Stevens, circa 1900-1915. There are also corresponding negatives and contact prints for these 63 images.

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## General

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Airships
- Balloons

Types of Materials:

- Glass negatives
- Lantern slides
- Transparencies

Names:

- Stevens, Albert Leo, 1873-1944