



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Weldon B. Cooke Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Weldon B. Cooke Collection
Identifier:	NASM.1998.0001
Date:	1911-1948 (bulk 1911-1914)
Extent:	0.45 Cubic feet ((1 legal document box))
Creator:	Cooke, Weldon B., 1884-1914
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	The Weldon B. Cooke Collection consists of newspaper articles and photographs relating to Cooke and the various aircraft he built or flew, including the Diamond, Wiseman-Cook, Sandusky Tractor, and Aeromaid aircraft. There are also several a few broadsides from events Cooke participated in, along with a program and ticket from the "3rd International Aviation Meet, 1912."

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Almarose Cooke Worden, gift, 1997, 1998-0001.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 1998. Digital assets attached by Allan Janus, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Weldon B. Cooke Collection, Acc. 1998.0001, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Weldon B. Cooke (1884-1914) was a flying pioneer involved in aviation as a pilot, mechanic, and builder. Cooke graduated from the California School of Mechanical Arts and the College of Electrical Engineering, University of California. In 1910, he built a Montgomery-type glider, and during the summer of 1911 he taught himself to fly in a Curtiss-type biplane: the Diamond. In this aircraft, Cooke became involved with exhibition flying and participated in several air meets, including the 1912 Los Angeles meet. Cooke soon become involved in building aircraft, beginning with his rework of an aircraft which had been built by Ben Noonan, Don Prentiss, and Fred Wiseman: the "Wiseman-Cooke." In this aircraft, Cooke participated in exhibition flying and carried the first official mail at Eureka, CA in 1912. Late in 1912, he left the exhibition flying business to form the Weldon B. Cooke Aeroplane Company in Sandusky, Ohio, where he built a Tractor Biplane Flying Boat. He left Ohio to assist with the operation of the Benoist Company's early St. Petersburg-Tampa passenger air-boat line. He returned to his Sandusky company in 1914, but the company soon became bankrupt. Cooke then returned to California, where he become involved with Silas Christofferson's airline between Oakland and San Francisco, piloting the Christofferson Flying Boat, Aeromaid. Following his time with Christofferson, Cooke returned to exhibition flying, and died in 1914 during an exhibition flight held at the Pueblo Colorado Fair Grounds.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of newspaper articles and photographs relating to Cooke and the various aircraft he built or flew, including the Diamond, Wiseman-Cook, Sandusky Tractor, and Aeromaid aircraft. There are also a few broadsides from events Cooke participated in, along with a program and ticket from the "3rd International Aviation Meet, 1912."

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

Arrangement

The Weldon B. Cooke Collection is arranged by content type.

General

NASMrev

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics

Aeronautics -- Exhibitions

Aeronautics, Commercial -- United States
Air mail service
Christofferson Aircraft Family
Cooke Aircraft Family
Diamond mines and mining
Wiseman-Peters #2 Biplane

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Publications

Names:

Cooke, Weldon B., 1884-1914
Weldon B. Cooke Aeroplane Co.

Container Listing

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Original Newspaper Articles
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Newspaper Articles - Lockeford, Elmhurst, Oakland California Flights, 1911
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Newspaper Articles, October 1911
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Newspaper Articles, September - November, 1911
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Newspaper Articles - Stockton, Oakland Motordrome, Melrose, Elmhurst California, November - December 1911
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Newspaper Articles - Mount Tamalpais, California Flight, December 1911
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | 3rd International Aviation Meet, Oakland Aviation Field (Copy), 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Newspaper Articles - Santa Rosa, California, December 30, 1911 - January 1, 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Newspaper Articles, January, 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Newspaper Articles, February 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Newspaper Articles, Aviation License, January 13, 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Newspaper Articles - Eureka, California Flights, April 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Newspaper Articles - Ferndale, California, April 30, 1912
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Newspaper Articles - Albany and Eugene, Oregon, May - June 1912 |

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 15 Newspaper Articles - Alturas, California, and Utah, July 1912
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 16 Newspaper Articles - Ohio, 1913
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 17 Newspaper Articles - Midwest, October 1912
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 18 Newspaper Articles, 1913
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 19 Newspaper Articles, 1914
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 20 Newspaper Articles - Diamond
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 21 Newspaper Articles - Death of Cooke, September 6, 1914
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 22 Newspaper Articles - Benjamin Noonan Plane, 1947
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 23 Newspaper Articles - Curtiss, Ely, Huff, Turpin
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 24 Newspaper Article - "Air Trophies Given Museum", June 1, 1948
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 25 Photographs (1 of 4)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 26 Photographs (2 of 4)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 27 Photographs (3 of 4)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 28 Photographs (4 of 4)
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 29 Program and Ticket for 3rd International Aviation Meet, Oakland, February 1912;
Miscellaneous

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 30

Miscellaneous Materials

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 1

Original Newspaper Articles

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 2

Photograph and Broadside Posters

[Image\(s\)](#)