Weldon B. Cooke Collection

2001
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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 broadsides from events Cooke participated in, along with a program and ticket from the "3rd International Aviation Meet, 1912."

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Processing Information

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

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.
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 became 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 became 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.
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