



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

John Leland Atwood Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
General.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	John Leland Atwood Collection
Date:	[ca. 1920s-1990s]
Identifier:	NASM.2000.0012
Creator:	Atwood, John Leland, 1904-1999
Extent:	19.81 Cubic feet ((9 records center boxes) (10 flatboxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

John Leland Atwood Estate, gift, 2000, 2000-0012, NASM and North American Aviation

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

John Leland Atwood (1904-1999) received a BS in civil engineering from the University of Texas in 1928, and started his aviation career as a junior airplane engineer with the Army Air Corps at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. In 1930, Atwood left that position to become a design engineer with Douglas Aircraft Company. In 1934, Atwood left Douglas to join North American Aviation (NAA) as chief engineer and vice president. Atwood continued to play a seminal leadership role throughout his career at NAA until his retirement from North American Rockwell Corporation as chief executive officer in 1970. The NAA aircraft produced under Atwood's engineering leadership include: T-6 Texan; F-51 Mustang; B-25 Mitchell; F-86 Sabrejet; F-100 Super Sabre; B-45 Tornado; RA-5C Vigilante; X-15; and the XB-70. Atwood also played key roles in NAA's aerospace ventures, including providing key leadership for the government - industry team which accomplished the Apollo missions.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of corporate materials of NAA and its successor North American Rockwell and materials created or organized by Atwood. The corporate materials include NAA house organs, i.e., newsletters, magazines and annual reports; NAA and Rockwell reports, special publications and press releases; and photographs. Materials created or organized by Atwood include manuscripts and copies of

Atwood's professional writings; reports collected by Atwood from other organizations; subject files which include a variety of material; and his professional correspondence from 1936-1999.

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, Commercial -- United States
- Astronautics

Types of Materials:

- Annual reports
- Brochures
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Publications
- Reports

Names:

- Atwood, John Leland, 1904-1999
- North American Aviation, Inc.
- North American Rockwell Corp