



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Jean Warren (J. W.) Seele
Aircraft Photography Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Jean Warren (J. W.) Seele Aircraft Photography Collection
Identifier:	NASM.2000.0057
Date:	[ca. 1950s-1970s]
Extent:	12.11 Cubic feet ((1 shoebox) (7 slide and card cabinets))
Creator:	Seele, Jean W. (Jean Warren), 1924-1993
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Charline Seele, Gift, 2000, 2000-0057, NASM, except for images not taken by Seele.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Jean Warren (J. W.) Seele (1924-1993) was born in Topeka, Kansas, and spent almost his entire life there. After his graduation from Topeka High School he was enrolled for about one and a half years at the Spartan School of Aeronautics, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although he worked for a few years at Bendix Aviation Corp, Kansas City Division during the 1950s, most of his professional career was spent as an engineering technician for the Kansas Department of Transportation. While he was not directly employed in the aviation field, Seele's hobby was photographing aircraft. Over a twenty year period, Seele photographed aircraft and at various times he was the official photographer for the National Antique Airplane Association, and for the annual fly-in sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association at Rockford, Illinois. Seele's photographs often appeared in the publications of both organizations, and several of his photographs also appeared in Jane's All the World's Aircraft during the 1970s.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately 6000 color slides and over 2000 negatives/prints (a mixture of color and black and white) of civil and military aircraft taken by Seele, circa 1950s-1970s. The shots were taken in the United States, specifically in the Midwest. Aircraft from the following manufacturers are represented: Aero Commander, Arrow, Aeronca, Beechcraft, Bell, Bellanca, Boeing, Bristol, Bucker, Callair, Cessna, Consolidated, Convair, Curtiss, Dassault, de Havilland, Davis, Dart, Douglas, ERCO, Fairchild, Fleet, Ford, Goodyear, Great Lakes, Grumman, Howard, Hawker Siddeley, Hughes, Heinkel, Jodel, Junkers, Lockheed, Ling-Temco-Vought, Lawson, Parsons, Pitts, Pitcarin, Piper, Pazmany, Piaggio, Porterfield, Republic, SAAB, Sikorsky, Stampe, Stearman, Stinson, Swearingen, Taylor, Vickers, and Waco. In June of 2001 the Smithsonian's Museum of American History transferred an additional shoebox of Seele photography that had been sent directly to them from the widow. This color images included balloon events as well as aircraft shots. The ballooning images are color prints taken mostly around Topeka, Kansas, while the aircraft images are color transparencies of aircraft taken, again, mostly around Topeka.

General

Additional materials: photographs taken by Seele of the Kansas countryside, including many of threshing demonstrations, were transferred to the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History.

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
- Aeronautics, Commercial -- United States
- Airplanes
- Balloons
- Photography

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white negatives
- Color negatives
- Color slides
- Photographs

Names:

- Aero Commander (Aircraft manufacturer)

Aeronca (Aeronautical Corp of America)
Arrow Aircraft & Motors Corp
Beech Aircraft Corp
Bell Aircraft Corporation
Bellanca
Boeing Company
Bucker (Bucker Flugzeugbau GmbH)
Callair (Call Aircraft Co)
Cessna
Consolidated Aircraft Corp
Convair (Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp)
Dassault (Aircraft manufacturer)
Douglas Aircraft Corp
Erco (Engineering and Research Corporation)
Experimental Aircraft Association
Fairchild Aircraft Corp
Fleet Aircraft Ltd.
Ford Motor Company. Airplane Division
Goodyear Aircraft Corp
Great Lakes Aircraft Corp
Grumman Aerospace Corporation
Hawker Siddeley (Aircraft manufacturer)
Heinkel (Aircraft manufacturer)
Hughes Aircraft Co
Jodel (Societe des Avions Jodel)
Junkers (Junkers Flugzeug Werke AG)
Lawson Aircraft Corp
Lawson Airplane Co.
Lockheed Aircraft Corp
National Antique Airplane Association
Pazmany Aircraft Corp (Ladislao Pazmany)
Piaggio (Industrie Aeronautiche e Meccaniche Rinaldo Piaggio SpA)
Piper Aircraft Corp.
Pitcairn (Pitcairn-Cierva)
Pitts Aviation Enterprises, Inc.
Porterfield Aircraft Corp
Republic
Saab (Svenska Aeroplan Aktiebolaget AB)
Seele, Jean W. (Jean Warren), 1924-1993
Sikorsky (Aircraft manufacturer)
Stearman Aircraft Co.
Stinson (Aircraft manufacturer)
Swearingen Aircraft
Vickers (Aircraft manufacturer)
Vought (Aircraft manufacturer)
Waco Aircraft Company
de Havilland Aircraft Company, Ltd.

Preferred Titles:

Jane's all the world's aircraft