



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Dr. Hugh L. Dryden Memorabilia

Jeremy Linden and Mark Kahn

2001



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Dr. Hugh L. Dryden Memorabilia
Date:	1903-1974 (bulk 1940-1965)
Identifier:	NASM.2001.0021
Creator:	Dryden, Hugh L. (Hugh Latimer), Dr., 1898-1965
Extent:	1.48 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Dr. Hugh L. Dryden was an aerodynamicist by training, a career civil servant, and a government official. With degrees in physics and mathematics he became chief of the aerodynamics section of the National Bureau of Standards and eventually served as the first deputy administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This collection consists of memorabilia relating to Dryden's career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mrs. Hugh L. Dryden, Gift to Astronautics Department, 1974
Space History Department, Transfer, 2001

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Jeremy Linden and Mark Kahn, 2001.
Encoded by Amanda Buel, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Hugh L. Dryden Certificates, Acc. 2001-0021, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Dr. Hugh L. Dryden was an aerodynamicist by training, a career civil servant, and a government official. He was born in Pocomoke City, Maryland, in 1898. He graduated from high school at age 14 and went on to earn an A.B. three years later from Johns Hopkins University. In 1919, he earned his Ph.D. in physics and mathematics from the same institution, even though he had been a full-time employee of the National Bureau of Standards since 1918. Dryden became chief of the aerodynamics section of the Bureau in 1920. There, he pioneered research in airflow, turbulence, and especially the problems of the boundary layer--the thin layer of air next to an airfoil that causes drag. This work ultimately contributed to the production of laminar flow wings used in the P-51 Mustang and other World War II aircraft. During the war, his work on a glide bomb named the Bat (the first U.S. guided missile successfully employed in combat) won him a Presidential Certificate of Merit. By the time Dryden left the Bureau of Standards in 1947, he was its associate director. That same year he accepted the position of director for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). He remained at that job until 1958. One of the more notable projects he undertook at NACA was to supervise the development of the X-15 experimental rocket plane. In 1958, he was appointed as the first deputy administrator of a new government agency that replaced NACA--the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Dryden stayed on at NASA in this capacity until his death in 1965.

Scope and Contents

This collection of memorabilia consists of certificates, diplomas, and awards bestowed upon Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, as well as a few miscellaneous items (sheets of commemorative postage stamps, magazine articles, a photograph, and a caricature drawing) belonging to him. These materials relate to Dryden's career as an aerodynamicist and administrator with the National Bureau of Standards, NACA, and NASA.

Arrangement

The materials in each box are arranged chronologically and by type. For preservation purposes, oversized materials have been placed in appropriate-sized containers. This would include certificates, diplomas, sheets of commemorative postage stamps, and photographs. The materials are arranged in each box by the organization or institution granting the honor and then chronologically. Boxes 2 and 3 contain all oversized memorabilia. Included are presentation folders used to hold certificates and diplomas. The contents of these folders were removed and arranged separately.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Dryden, Hugh L. (Hugh Latimer), Dr., 1898-1965

Container Listing

Series 1: Legal-sized Materials

Arrangement: Awards, certificates, diplomas, and miscellaneous materials (commemorative postage stamps, magazine articles, a photograph, and a caricature drawing) are arranged chronologically and by type.

Box 1, Folder 1	Certification of Original Fabric from Kitty HawkWright Flyer, December 17, 1903
Box 1, Folder 2	Certificate of Membership, National Geographic Society, April 4, 1934
Box 1, Folder 3	Honorary Fellow, Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, 1939
Box 1, Folder 4	Certificate of Membership, the Society of the Sigma XI, District of Columbia, May 17, 1940
Box 1, Folder 5	Certificates of Appreciation, Office of Scientific Research and Development, March 1, 1945
Box 1, Folder 6	Certificate of Appreciation, War Department, December 3, 1945
Box 1, Folder 7	Certificate, Naval Ordnance Development Award, Bureau of Ordnance, U.S. Navy, December 10, 1945
Box 1, Folder 8	Certificate of Appreciation, War Department, December 21, 1945
Box 1, Folder 9	Certificate of Merit, signed by U.S. President Harry Truman, December 18, 1946
Box 1, Folder 10	Honorary Fellow, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, October 31, 1949
Box 1, Folder 11	Honorary Doctorate, New York University, New York, New York, January 26, 1950
Box 1, Folder 12	Certificate of Life Membership, National Geographic Society, May 18, 1951
Box 1, Folder 13	Honorary Membership, Sigma Tau, George Washington University, December 13, 1952
Box 1, Folder 14	Certificate of Appreciation, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1952
Box 1, Folder 15	Certificate of Appreciation, Department of the Navy, 1953
Box 1, Folder 16	Certificate, Distinguished Achievement, Baltimore City College, March 26, 1958
Box 1, Folder 17	Honorary Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, May 14, 1958

Box 1, Folder 18	Certificates of Membership, American Rocket Society, June 1958 and September 1961
Box 1, Folder 19	Delegate Certificate, The Eighth General Assembly of the International Council of Scientific Unions, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, D.C., September 18, 1958
Box 1, Folder 20	Brigadier General John H. Rice Gold Medal, The American Ordnance Association, Washington, D.C., October 1, 1958
Box 1, Folder 21	Honorary Fellow, American Astronautical Society, Inc., December 27, 1958
Box 1, Folder 22	Citation, National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1958
Box 1, Folder 23	Honorary Doctorate, Adelphi College, Garden City, New York, June 10, 1959
Box 1, Folder 24	Certificate, Institut de France, Academie des Sciences, November 9, 1959
Box 1, Folder 25	Certificate, the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, March 7, 1960
Box 1, Folder 26	Honorary Benjamin Franklin Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, April 11, 1960
Box 1, Folder 27	Certificate of Appreciation, Kiwanis Club, Towson, Maryland, November 9, 1960
Box 1, Folder 28	Certificate of Appreciation, National Rocket Club, Washington, D.C., March 16, 1961
Box 1, Folder 29	Honorary Doctorate, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, South Dakota, June 2, 1961
Box 1, Folder 30	Honorary Doctorate, Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio, June 13, 1961
Box 1, Folder 31	Honorary Fellow, British Interplanetary Society, April 3, 1962
Box 1, Folder 32	Certificate, La Medaille D'Argent de la Ville de Paris, May 28, 1962
Box 1, Folder 33	Honorary Doctorate, American University, Washington, D.C., June 10, 1962
Box 1, Folder 34	Honorary Fellow, Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute, June 14, 1962
Box 1, Folder 35	Certificate, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft fur Luft-und Raumfahrt (WGLR), October 1962
Box 1, Folder 36	Certificate of Recognition, Omicron Delta Kappa Society, May 12, 1963

Box 1, Folder 37	Honorary Doctorate, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, June 15, 1963
Box 1, Folder 38	Certificate, Harry Edward Salzberg Memorial Award, October 7, 1963
Box 1, Folder 39	Certificate, Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, National Space Club, March 20, 1964
Box 1, Folder 40	Honorary Doctorate, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, October 9, 1964
Box 1, Folder 41	La Medaille De Vermeil Du Cenes, Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales, November 29, 1965
Box 1, Folder 42	Collier Trophy Award, National Aeronautic Association and Look Magazine, 1966
Box 1, Folder 43	Distinguished Service Award, The Methodist Union, undated
Box 1, Folder 44	Color photograph of Dryden with President Lyndon Johnson and Vice President Hubert Humphrey and one unidentified photograph, undated

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Series 2: Oversized Materials

Arrangement: Oversized flat items are arranged chronologically and by type.

Box 2, Folder 1	Certificate of Membership, Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, 1932
Box 2, Folder 1	Certificate, The Sylvanus Albert Reed Award, Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, 1940
Box 2, Folder 1	Certificate of Membership, National Academy of Sciences, June 10, 1944
Box 2, Folder 1	The Honorary Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, London, England, March 24, 1948
Box 2, Folder 1	Honorary Doctorate, The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York, June 15, 1949
Box 2, Folder 2	Certificate of Membership, The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1950
Box 2, Folder 2	The Daniel Guggenheim Medal, 1950
Box 2, Folder 2	Honorary Doctorate, Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute, Troy, New York, January 26, 1951
Box 2, Folder 2	Honorary Doctorate, Western Maryland College, May 28, 1951
Box 2, Folder 2	Honorary Doctorate, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, June 9, 1953
Box 2, Folder 2	Honorary Fellow, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, May 14, 1958
Box 2, Folder 2	Certificate of Membership, Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, February 5, 1959
Box 2, Folder 3	Certificate of Membership, the U.N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, February 5, 1960
Box 2, Folder 3	The President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, [3 copies], March 7, 1960
Box 2, Folder 3	Certificate of Commendation, Scientific Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense (Fleet Ballistic Missile Program), U.S. Navy, December 1, 1960
Box 2, Folder 3	Honorary Doctorate, American University, June 10, 1962
Box 2, Folder 3	Rockefeller Public Service Award, Princeton University, November 1962

Box 2, Folder 3	Dr. Theodore von Karman Memorial Citation, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Washington, D.C., June 19, 1963
Box 2, Folder 3	The John Fritz Medal, November 28, 1963
Box 2, Folder 4	Honorary Award, Repubblica Italiana, April 3, 1964
Box 2, Folder 4	Certificate of Membership, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, June 15, 1964
Box 2, Folder 4	The Louis W. Hill Space Transportation Award, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1964
Box 2, Folder 4	Honorary Citizen of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 30, 1965
Box 2, Folder 4	Resolution of Tribute and Congratulations, State of Michigan House of Representatives, June 4, 1965
Box 2, Folder 4	Honorary Doctorate, Princeton University, June 15, 1965
Box 2, Folder 4	Certificate of Membership, International Academy of Astronautics, August 15, 1965
Box 2, Folder 4	Certificate of Appreciation, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, November 10, 1965
Box 2, Folder 4	Resolution of Tribute, National Geographic Society [White House card signed by President Lyndon Johnson], December 1965
Box 2, Folder 4	NASA Distinguished Service Medal, NASA, October 3, 1966
Box 2, Folder 4	Certificate of Recognition, Joint U.S.A./U.S.S.R. Editorial Board, March 1974
Box 2, Folder 4	Certificate of Membership, U.S. Air Force Association, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	The Peabody Institute Award, June 16, 1913
Box 3, Folder 1	Associate Fellow, Fellow, and Honorary Fellow, The Royal Aeronautical Society, The Institution of Aeronautical Engineers, July 21, 1932; April 12, 1944; and May 17, 1956
Box 3, Folder 1	Honorary Doctorate, University of Pennsylvania, February 10, 1951
Box 3, Folder 1	Honorary Doctorate, University of Maryland, March 25, 1955
Box 3, Folder 1	Presidential Appointment to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, August 19, 1958

Box 3, Folder 1	The Elliott Cresson Medal, The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1960
Box 3, Folder 2	The National Medal of Science, awarded by President Lyndon Johnson, 1965
Box 3, Folder 3	Photograph, annual meeting, Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, Los Angeles, California, July 16, 1948
Box 3, Folder 3	Sheet of commemorative postage stamps, Echo I (communications satellite), December 15, 1960
Box 3, Folder 3	Sheet of commemorative postage stamps, Project Mercury, February 20, 1962
Box 3, Folder 3	Prophecies by Distinguished Americans of Man's Employment of Space in 2063 A.D., July 1963
Box 3, Folder 3	Bound collection of articles written by Dryden for National Geographic, March 1964, February 1956, and December 1953
Box 3, Folder 3	Caricature, Dryden landing on the Moon, undated

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