



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Myron "Dan" Beard Collection

2004

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Myron "Dan" Beard Collection
Date:	(bulk 1930s-1960s)
Identifier:	NASM.2004.0048
Creator:	Beard, Myron Gould "Dan"
Extent:	17.44 Cubic feet ((16 record center boxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mona Beard, Gift, 2004

Preferred Citation

Myron "Dan" Beard Collection, Accession 2004-0048, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Myron Gould "Dan" Beard (1896-1974) was born in Foochow, China, the son of American missionaries. Beard learned to fly at Kelly Field in 1918, and then went to the University of Michigan where he received an engineering degree in 1925. Beard was a diesel engineer for Ingersoll Rand Company for 1925-1927, before joining Fairchild Caminez Engine Company (later Fairchild Aviation Corporation) from 1927 until 1930, first as an Installation Engineer and then as a test pilot. In 1930, Beard joined American Airways (predecessor of American Airlines) and rose to the rank of chief test pilot, before his retirement from the airline in 1964. Beard accumulated over 6200 hours in all types of airplanes, most of them in engineering and experimental testing. Beard played a key role in the development of the Douglas DC-3, DC-4, DC-6 and DC-7 as test and acceptance pilot for American Airlines. During World War II, he served as Chief Military Engineering Pilot of American Airlines' Military Operations Department and he worked with teams surveying the North Atlantic routes. In 1943, Beard took a leave of absence from American Airlines to go to Brazil as a member of the Defense Supply Corporation mission, which had the mission to Americanize the Brazilian airlines which previously had been part of the German aerial network of South America.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately 15 linear feet of material relating to the aviation career of Dan Beard. This material includes the following types of archival material: correspondence, corporate reports, publications, equipment manuals, notebooks, booklets, and photographs. Besides the technical engineering material, there are also reports on airport planning, bomb detection on passengers airplanes, and cloud seeding in the southwest.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Douglas DC-3 Family
- Douglas DC-4
- Douglas DC-6
- Douglas DC-7
- Test pilots -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Manuals
- Notebooks
- Photographs
- Reports

Names:

- American Airlines
- Fairchild Aircraft Corp