



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Harper's Weekly Cover with Charles Ritchel's Airship

2004

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Harper's Weekly Cover with Charles Ritchel's Airship
Date:	(bulk 1878)
Identifier:	NASM.2004.0053
Creator:	Harper's Magazine Foundation
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jane L. Crotser, Gift, 2004

Preferred Citation

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Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1878 Charles Francis Ritchel, of Corry, Pennsylvania, invented an airship composed of a barrel-shaped gas bag attached to a frame with propellers, and powered by a hand crank. Ritchel was too heavy to fly the airship himself, and was thus always forced to find a pilot. The first public flight of his craft was in Philadelphia's Concert Hall in May 1878, and the first outdoor flight was in June 1878 in Hartford, Connecticut. He then went on to conduct many more successful flights both indoors and outdoors, mainly in New England.

Scope and Contents

The cover of Harper's Weekly in New York, on 13 July 1878, depicts Ritchel's airship in flight.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Airships

Types of Materials:

Illustrations

Names:

Ritchel, Charles F.