



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Thomas G. W. "Tex" Settle Collection

Patti Williams

2007

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | Thomas G. W. "Tex" Settle Collection |
| Identifier: | NASM.2006.0014 |
| Date: | (bulk 1932-1998) |
| Creator: | Settle, Thomas G. W. |
| Extent: | 0.5 Cubic feet ((2 boxes)) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | This collection consists articles, correspondence, photographs, logs and scrapbooks chronicling Tex Settles' historic balloon flights. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

J. Gordon Vaeth, Gift, 2006, NASM.2006.0014

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Thomas G. W. "Tex" Settle Collection, NASM.2006.0014, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Vice Admiral Thomas Greenhow Williams "Tex" Settle, US Navy, became world famous in the Golden Age of Flight (the nineteen twenties and thirties) after becoming the first person of his time qualified to pilot a free balloon, blimp, glider, and airplane, and to command a rigid airship. Winner of many races and holder of a number of aeronautical records in endurance and altitude, he was also the first American to fly a pressurized cabin into the stratosphere. He served aboard both the USS Shenandoah (ZR-1) and the USS Los Angeles (ZR-3). Tex Settle twice received the Harmon Trophy for Aeronautics and, for his service in World War II, was awarded the Navy Cross, Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the official National Aeronautics Association (NAA) log of the 1933 Gordon Bennett International Balloon Race in which T. G. W. Settle, flying with C. H. Kendall, placed second; correspondence with the NAA regarding records set by Settle; two articles by Settle, "Winning a Balloon Race" and "The Gordon Bennett Race, 1932;" a binder of Settle Flight Reports, 1927-1933; thirteen black and white photographs of Settle, his family, officers of the USS Los Angeles (ZR-3), Roland Mayer, Dr. Karl Arnstein, Wilfred Bushnell, and Ward T. Van Orman at such events as the 1932 and 1933 Gordon Bennett Races and Settle's flight, in a Lippisch Pr fling (Examination) glider, from the USS Los Angeles to Anacostia, Washington, DC. Also included are several photocopies relating to Settle's illustrious career, part of an article on the 1998 Naval Aviation Hall of Honor inductees (of which Settle was one); an article by J. Gordon Vaeth entitled, "When the Race for Space Began;" and two green 16 by 11.5 inch scrapbooks, entitled Stratosphere Flight Scrapbook, First and Second Campaign, that contain newspaper articles, correspondence, photographs and telegrams relating to Settle's historic stratospheric balloon flight.

Arrangement

Arrangement by type.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Aeronautics -- Records
- Airships
- Balloons

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Correspondence
- Photographic prints

Names:

- National Aeronautic Association (U.S.)
- United States. Navy
- ZR-3 Los Angeles (Airship)

Container Listing

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|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Tex Settle Balloon Flight Reports |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | NAA Log, Articles and Correspondence |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Photographs |
| Box 2, Item 1 | Stratosphere Flight Scrapbook |
| Box 2, Item 2 | Stratosphere Flight Scrapbook |