



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

Clifford W. Henderson Papers

2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Clifford W. Henderson Papers
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1912-1943)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2008.0035
<b>Creator:</b>	Henderson, Clifford W., 1895-1939
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Cubic foot ((3 boxes))
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Clifford W. Henderson Papers consists of one cubic feet of material documenting Clifford Henderson's aviation career, especially his role as Director of the National Air Races from 1928 until 1939. The collection includes photographs, including autographed photographs, National Air Races ephemera (programs, tickets, release and indemnity agreement, stationary), and correspondence.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Heritage Auction Galleries, Gift, 2008

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2008. Revised and encoded by Amandal Buel, 2019. Revised and digital assets attached by Allan Janus, 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Clifford W. Henderson Papers, Acc. NASM.2008.0035, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

Clifford W. Henderson (1895 -1984) was an aviation promoter and showman who managed the annual National Air Races from 1928 until 1939, bringing attention to the expanding field of sport aviation. Born in Iowa, Henderson graduated from the University of Southern California in 1917 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He served in the 35th Ambulance Unit, France, during World War I, before transferring to the 101st

Aero Squadron where he learned to fly. After the war, Henderson returned to California and was chairman of ground arrangements for the departure and return of the Army's Around the World Flight in 1924 from Clover Field. In 1928 he became Director of Aviation of Los Angeles and served as the first manager of the Los Angeles airport system. Also in 1928 Henderson became director of the National Air Races and was responsible for interesting industry leaders in competition trophies, including the Thompson, Bendix and Grieve Trophies. He retired from managing the National Air Races in 1939. Henderson served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, rising to the rank of colonel. He played an instrumental role in planning the Burma Hump air route, and also served as military governor of Dakar in North Africa. After the war, Henderson was suffering from illness and injuries sustained in Africa, and so went to recuperate in California where he founded Palm Desert, California. He remained active in the Palm Desert community until his death in 1984.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one cubic feet of material documenting Clifford Henderson's aviation career, especially his role as Director of the National Air Races from 1928 until 1939. The following types of material are included: photographs, including autographed photographs; National Air Races ephemera (programs, tickets, release and indemnity agreement, stationary); correspondence; sheet music; newspaper clippings; first-day cover; and periodicals.

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

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## Arrangement

The Clifford W. Henderson Papers are-- is arranged by content type.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Aeronautical sports
- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Airplane racing

### Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- Photographs
- Programs
- Sheet music
- Tickets

### Names:

- National Air Races

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## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	National Air Race Photographs
Box 1, Folder 2	Parachutes - National Air Race Photographs
Box 1, Folder 3	Clifford W. Henderson Pilot Championship Merit Award Trophy Photograph
Box 1, Folder 4	Abrams Air Craft Corporation P-1 Explorer Photographs
Box 1, Folder 5	Bellanca 28-92 Trimotor Photograph
Box 1, Folder 6	Boeing F3B Photograph
Box 1, Folder 7	Bücker Bü 133 Jungmeister Photographs
Box 1, Folder 8	Del Bush, Folkerts SK-4 NX 288Y Crash Photograph
Box 1, Folder 9	McCarroll Duoplane Photographs
Box 1, Folder 10	Piper J-3 Cub Photographs
Box 1, Folder 11	Thunderbird Aircraft, Inc. Photograph
Box 1, Folder 12	USS Los Angeles Airship [ZR-3] Photograph
Box 1, Folder 13	Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Engines Photographs
Box 1, Folder 14	Photograph on Platform at Air Race - David Ingalls, ADM William Moffett, Frank Hawks, Unknown - Photograph
Box 1, Folder 15	Autographed Photographs
Box 1, Folder 16	Miscellaneous Photographs of People
Box 1, Folder 17	Rudy Kling Photographs
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographs of Drawings
Box 1, Folder 19	Reception for Clifford W. Henderson - Photo Contact Sheets
Box 1, Folder 20	Aerial Photographs
Box 1, Folder 21	War Show [Military Display] Photographs
Box 1, Folder 22	First Transcontinental Delivery by Motor Truck Photographs, 1912

Box 1, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Captions
Box 1, Folder 24	National Air Races Stationary
Box 1, Folder 25	"The Texaco Star" Magazine
Box 1, Folder 26	National Air Races, 1929
Box 1, Folder 27	National Air Races Note, 1930
Box 1, Folder 28	National Air Races, 1931
Box 1, Folder 29	National Air Races, 1933
Box 1, Folder 30	National Air Races, 1934
Box 1, Folder 31	National Air Races, 1935
Box 1, Folder 32	National Air Races Schedules, 1938
Box 1, Folder 33	List of Suggestions for 1939 National Air Races
Box 1, Folder 34	Car Races
Box 1, Folder 35	First Day Covers for First Flight of Air Mail Route AM 33, 1932; STS-1 Columbia Flight, 1981
Box 1, Folder 36	Letter - Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran to Henderson, October 31, 1938
Box 1, Folder 37	Round the World Flight Aviation Day Ticket, March 16, 1924
Box 1, Folder 38	"The Goalie" - 1943 Season Program for the Southern California Hockey League
Box 1, Folder 39	"Ground Observers' Guide" - US Air Force Manual 50-12, 1951
Box 2, Folder 1	Release and Indemnity Agreement between the Chicago Air Race Corporation and Henderson, August 1, 1932
Box 2, Folder 2	"The Thompson Trophy Race" - Booklet
Box 2, Folder 3	"Hail to Aviation" by Nellie M. Gilbert - Sheet Music
Box 2, Folder 4	"On Wings of Love" by Maurice Spitalny, Ted Meyn; Lyrics by Clifford Henderson - Sheet Music
Box 2, Folder 5	"The Spirit of Aviation - Fox Trot Song" by Alice Huber and Opal Hemler - Sheet Music, 1929

Box 2, Folder 6	Official Program for the 1930 Second Annual International Aircraft Exposition, St. Louis
Box 2, Folder 7	Newspaper Clippings
Box 2, Folder 8	"Light, Heat and Power" Newsletter, January, 1934; National Aircraft Show Programs
Box 2, Folder 9	Correspondence; Telegrams
Box 2, Folder 10	National Air Races Correspondence, 1932
Box 2, Folder 11	Clifford W. Henderson Papers [Miscellaneous Printed Material]
Box 3, Folder 1	"Pilots Delight Sundae", National Air Races - Leaflets, 1930
Box 3, Folder 2	"I Believe in Aviation" Poster, 1930
Box 3, Folder 3	Oversized Photographs
Box 3, Folder 4	Bendix Aviation Corporation Products Brochure
Box 3, Folder 5	50th Anniversary Cleveland Air Races Calendar, 1979