



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Wright Brothers First Flight Story Collection [Moore]

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2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Wright Brothers First Flight Story Collection [Moore]
Date:	1903-2003
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0012
Extent:	1.78 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of approximately 1.78 cubic feet of material pertaining to Harry P. Moore and newspaper coverage of the Wright Brothers first flight on December 17, 1903.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Steve Fritts, Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0012

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Wright Brothers First Flight Story Collection [Moore], NASM.2018.0012, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Wright brothers inaugurated the aerial age with the world's first successful flights of a powered heavier-than-air flying machine. The Wright 1903 Flyer was the product of a sophisticated four-year program of research and development conducted by Wilbur and Orville Wright beginning in 1899. After building and testing three full-sized gliders, the Wrights' first powered airplane flew at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903, making a 12-second flight, traveling 36 m (120 ft), with Orville piloting. The best flight of the day, with Wilbur at the controls, covered 255.6 m (852 ft) in 59 seconds.

Harry P. Moore was a marine reporter for the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* who had been following the Wrights' work at Kitty Hawk based on a tip he overheard in a restaurant in September 1903. Moore asked several contacts in the U.S. Coast Guard to keep him apprised of any developments. Less than an hour after the

Wrights' first successful flight on December 17, 1903, C. C. Grant, assistant weather observer at Norfolk, dispatched a message to Moore from a Coast Guardsman at Kitty Hawk about the flight. Moore worked with editor Keville Glennan on a draft of the story and began offering it to various news outlets, although only five ordered the story.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately 1.78 cubic feet of material pertaining to Harry P. Moore and newspaper coverage of the Wright Brothers first flight on December 17, 1903. Materials include a handwritten draft of Moore's newspaper article on the flight; typewritten final version of the article and copies sent to various news outlets; letters about the event by telegraph operator C. C. Grant, *Virginian-Pilot* newsroom chief of staff C. G. Kizer, reporter Frank S. Wing, and managing editor T. H. Lamb; news coverage of the flight including the December 19, 1903 editions of the *Norfolk Public Ledger* and the *New York Tribune* and the January 2, 1904 issue of *Harper's Weekly*; later news clippings regarding Moore and the Wright Brothers flight story; a letter to Moore from Orville Wright written in 1928; and a First Flight Centennial program from 2003.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by topic or sometimes type of material with items put in chronological order within folders when applicable.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Wright (Brothers) 1903 Flyer

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Manuscripts
- Newspaper clippings
- Newspapers

Places:

- Wright Brothers

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	[Handwritten Draft and Typed Final Version of First Flight Story] , 1903 Language: English.
Box 1, Folder 2	[Copy of First Flight Story as sent to New York Journal and The Washington Post], 1903 Language: English.
Box 1, Folder 3	[Oversized News Clippings, Miscellaneous], 1904-2011 Language: English.
Box 2, Folder 1	[Virginian-Pilot, Front Page Reprints, 12/18/1903] Language: English.
Box 2, Folder 2	[New York Tribune, 12/19/1903] Language: English.
Box 2, Folder 3	[The Public Ledger (Norfolk, VA), 12/19/1903] Language: English.
Box 2, Folder 4	[Later Newspapers], 1951, 2003, 2003 Language: English.
Box 2, Folder 5	[Teletype of Article about Harry Moore] Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 1	[Letter from Orville Wright to Harry Moore], 1928 Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 2	[Statements from Others Present Regarding Writing of First Flight Story], 1929-1953
Box 3, Folder 3	[Handwritten Copy of First Flight Story] Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 4	[Harry Moore Personal Reference File], 1948 Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 5	[Postal Covers], 1938, 1953, 1953 Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 6	[News Clippings], 1903-2003 and Undated Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 7	[Miscellaneous Publications about the Wright Brothers], 1963-2008 Language: English.
Box 3, Folder 8	[First Flight Centennial Program], 2003

Language: English.

Box 3, Folder 9

[\[Photos\], 1902-1903, 1954, and Undated, 1954](#)
Language: English.