



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Early Boston Area Aviation Photography

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository: National Air and Space Museum Archives

Title: Early Boston Area Aviation Photography

Identifier: NASM.2018.0062

Date: circa 1911

Extent: 1.35 Gigabytes (10 digital images)

Language: English

This collection is in English.

Summary: This collection consists of digital image scans made from ten glass negatives depicting aviation related activities in the Boston, Massachusetts, area circa 1911. The first six images are views of a homebuilt version of a Santos-Dumont 20 Demoiselle (without an engine) on the ground. The remaining four images were taken from the grandstands during the 1911 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet held August 26 through September 4, 1911; two of these provide distant views of a Burgess F (Wright Model B) Moth biplane in flight.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

John Powers, original negatives loaned for copying, 2018, NASM.2018.0062

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Early Boston Area Aviation Photography, NASM Acc. 2018.0062, 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](#).

Biographical / Historical

Wealthy Brazilian aircraft designer and aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont graciously allowed free public access to his designs, many of which were extensively published in the aeronautical periodicals of the 1908-1913 period. Early in 1909, Santos-Dumont produced his most famous model, the No. 20 Demoiselle, inspiring many early aviation enthusiasts to build their own version of the Demoiselle in barns and backyards around the country. The homebuilt version seen here, probably constructed somewhere in the suburbs of the Boston, Massachusetts, area circa 1911, shows all the characteristics of a Santos-Dumont 20 Demoiselle design (square-tipped monoplane wing, cruciform tail, triangular fuselage framework, and tricycle gear) despite its lack of an engine and less-than-rigid bamboo frame. The unidentified young man seen seated at the controls in one view is presumably the builder.

The second Harvard-Boston Aero Meet (a.k.a. 2nd Annual Squantum Air Meet) was held at Harvard Aviation Field south of Boston on the Squantum peninsula (near the "Atlantic" railroad station), Quincy, Massachusetts, August 26 through September 4, 1911. The international contestants raced for money prizes, and the event attracted thousands of spectators. Among the fourteen aviators competing were three flying Burgess F (Wright Model B) Moth biplanes built by the Starling Burgess Company in nearby Marblehead, Massachusetts (northeast of Boston): Harry N. Atwood, George H. Mannor, and Clifford L. Webster. Air meet competitors challenged each other in ten events: Accuracy, Bomb Dropping, Cross-Country Flight, Quick Starting, Speed Contest, Passenger-Carrying Speed, Figure-Eight Speed, Weight Carrying and Dropping, Altitude Speed, and Exhibition Flying.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of digital image files scanned from ten 4 x 5 inch glass plate negatives loaned by the donor for copying. Six images are views of an unidentified American homebuilt version of a Santos-Dumont 20 Demoiselle, seen without an engine in the yard of an unidentified property. Four images are views taken from the half-price chairs viewing section adjacent to the grandstand seating area at the 1911 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet, providing views over the heads of spectators of the start/finish line, the scoreboard, and several aircraft seen at a distance. Two views show a Burgess F (Wright Model B) Moth biplane in flight.

Arrangement

Digital images are grouped into two folders by subject.

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 -- Competitions

Container Listing

Santos-Dumont 20 Demoiselle Type, American Homebuilt Version, circa 1911
6 Digital images (Scans from original 4 x 5 inch glass plate negatives loaned by donor for copying. Original negatives had extensive silver mirroring in dense areas (severe at edges), dust spotting, surface dirt, and chipping of emulsion at edges of plates.; 600 ppi RGB TIFF files, 6100 x 4851 pixels)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Six views of a homebuilt version of a Santos-Dumont 20 Demoiselle design (no engine mounted) on the ground in the back yard of a suburban area, probably somewhere in the Boston, Massachusetts, metropolitan area circa 1911.

These scans from the original 4 x 5 inch glass plate negatives have been processed to correct exposure and desaturated to reduce yellowing.

Topic: Aeronautics -- 1903-1916
 Airplanes -- Design and construction

1911 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet, August 26 through September 4, 1911
4 Digital images (Scans from original 4 x 5 inch glass plate negatives loaned by donor for copying. Original negatives had extensive silver mirroring in dense areas (severe at edges), dust spotting, surface dirt, and chipping of emulsion at edges of plates.; 600 ppi RGB TIFF files, 6100 x 4851 pixels)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Views of the field from the half-price chairs viewing section adjacent to the grandstand seating area at the 1911 Harvard-Boston Aero Meet held at Harvard Aviation Field on the Squantum peninsula (near the "Atlantic" railroad station), Quincy, Massachusetts, August 26 through September 4, 1911. Several items of interest can be seen in the background including scoreboard (with pennant), several aircraft on the ground (biplanes and monoplanes, and the start/finish line. Two views show a Burgess F (Wright Model B) Moth in flight.

These scans from the original 4 x 5 inch glass plate negatives are presented with minimal processed to correct exposure and desaturated to reduce yellowing.

Topic: Aeronautical sports
 Aeronautics -- Competitions
 Burgess-Wright Aircraft Family
 Wright (Co) Model B