



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Abrams Explorer Drawings [Cleary]

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Abrams Explorer Drawings [Cleary]
Date:	1938-1940
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0080
Creator:	Abrams Aircraft Corp
Extent:	0.31 Cubic feet (Two oversized folders)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of copies of six Abrams Explorer drawings, 1938-1940.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Cleary, Gift, 2007, NASM.2018.0080

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Abrams Explorer Drawings [Cleary], NASM.2018.0080, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Abrams Explorer, built in 1937, was the only one ever created and was uniquely designed for aerial survey and mapping functions. By featuring obstruction-free camera platforms, Abrams Aircraft CEO Dr. Talbert Abrams planned to market the plane to the United States armed forces for surveys, mapmaking, and aerial photography. The aircraft was successfully tested and used for government contract survey work until the beginning of the war when the military opted for more survivable, converted high-speed fighter aircraft for photo reconnaissance. Dr. Abrams lent the Abrams Explorer to the National Air Museum in 1948, and it was officially donated in 1973.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of copies of the following six Abrams Explorer drawings: two 3 views— the one from 1938 is 36 by 40 inches and the one from 1940 is 36 by 44 inches; Balance Table - Table 4, is 23 by 17 inches; Balance Diagram is 17 by 36 inches; Side Elevation of Fuselage is 36 by 59 inches; and Side Elevation of Fuselage Covering is 36 by 59 inches.

Arrangement

No arrangement.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abrams Explorer
- Aerial photography -- Equipment and supplies
- Aeronautics

Types of Materials:

- Technical drawings