Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

MacCready Aircraft Photography Collection [Monroe]

Patti Williams

2020

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	MacCready Aircraft Photography Collection [Monroe]
Date:	1977 - 1984
Identifier:	NASM.2020.0006
Creator:	Monroe, Donald
Extent:	2.36 Cubic feet (6 document boxes.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of 2.36 cubic feet of photography taken by Donald Monroe of MacCready aircraft from the 1970s to the 1980s.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donald Monroe, Gift, 2019, NASM.2020.0006

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

MacCready Aircraft Photography Collection [Monroe], NASM.2020.0006, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Paul B. MacCready Jr. (1925 – 2007) was an American aeronautical engineer known especially for his work with human-powered and solar-powered aircraft. After his high school graduation in 1943, MacCready trained as a U. S. Navy pilot. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from Yale University in 1947, a Master of Science degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1948, and a doctorate in aeronautics from Caltech in 1952. MacCready was a champion glider pilot; he was the 1948, 1949 and 1953 winner of the Richard C. du Pont Memorial Trophy, (awarded annually to the U. S. National Open Class Soaring Champion) and in 1956 he became the first American pilot to become the World Soaring Champion. During the 1970s, MacCready started his work with human-powered and solar-powered aircraft. In 1977 he won the first Kremer prize for human-powered flight with the Gossamer Condor and in 1979,

he built the Condor's successor, the Gossamer Albatross, winning the second Kremer prize, successfully flying from England to France. MacCready also received the Collier Trophy, which is awarded annually for the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics, for his design and construction of the Albatross. MacCready later created solar-powered aircraft such as the Gossamer Penguin and the Solar Challenger. In 1985, he was commissioned to build a half-scale working replica of the pterosaur Quetzalcoatlus for the Smithsonian Institution. MacCready was the founder and Chairman of AeroVironment Inc., a company that develops unmanned surveillance aircraft and advanced power systems. MacCready was the recipient of the 1982 Lindbergh Award, the 1980 Engineer of the Century Gold Medal, and was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Donald Monroe photographed much of Dr. Paul MacCready's work with human-powered flight and solar-powered flight in the late 1970s and early 1980s, including the: Gossamer Condor, Gossamer Albatross, Gossamer Penguin, Solar Challenger, and Bionic Bat.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 2.36 cubic feet of black and white negatives with corresponding contact sheets and color slides taken by Donald Monroe of the following aircraft: MacCready Gossamer Albatross; MacCready Gossamer Condor; MacCready Gossamer Penguin; MacCready Solar Challenger; and MacCready Bionic Bat, from the 1970s to the 1980s.

Arrangement

Arranged by aircraft type.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Human powered aircraft
MacCready Bionic Bat
MacCready Gossamer Albatross
MacCready Gossamer Condor
MacCready Gossamer Penguin
MacCready Solar Challenger

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white negatives
Color slides

Names:

MacCready, Paul, 1925-