



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

Charles W. Chillson Collection

Hank Brown

2000



National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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<http://airandspace.si.edu/research/resources/archives/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Charles W. Chillson Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0008
<b>Date:</b>	1950-1956
<b>Extent:</b>	3.12 Linear feet 3.5 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
<b>Creator:</b>	Chillson, Charles W., 1910-
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection largely documents Chillson's affiliation with the ARS, particularly his presidency in the early 1950s, and includes correspondence with ARS members, aerospace companies, and organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the British Interplanetary Society, the International Astronautical Federation, and the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences. There is also correspondence with Wernher von Braun and Esther C. Goddard. The collection also includes papers presented to or published by the ARS, some diagrams and photographs highlighting rocket plans or capabilities, and some pamphlets and articles on rockets.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Charles W. Tillson, Gift, 1971, XXXX-0008

### Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Hank Brown, 2000.

Finding aid encoded by Elizabeth Bauerle, December 2011.

### Restictions

No restrictions on access

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## Biographical Note

Charles W. Chillson (1910 - ) was an expert in air and rocket propulsion. Chillson received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 1931 and went to work in Chemical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology from 1931 until 1936. During those years, Chillson worked with C. K. Greene on a mechanical controllable-pitch propeller which progressed through whirl-testing at the

Army Air Force Engineering Division at Wright Field, OH. Chillson then moved to Curtiss-Wright's Curtiss Propeller Division as an engineer and project designer (1936-1940) and was later promoted to chief researcher for the years 1940 to 1947. In 1947, Chillson won the Collier Trophy for his propeller work and became chief engineer of the newly formed Rocket Department at Curtiss-Wright. In 1950, he became program chairman of the American Rocket Society (ARS) Board of Directors and was later elected vice president (1951) and president (1952-1955), before being made a fellow of the ARS in 1956.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection largely contains documents of Chillson's affiliation with the American Rocket Society (ARS), particularly his presidency in the early 1950s. The collection includes ARS organizational documents, correspondence regarding arrangements for National and Regional meetings, copies of technical papers presented at conventions and a few photographs. The collection is arranged as follows:

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## Arrangement

### Series I:

ARS National Meetings ARS Regional Meetings Director Correspondence Conventions Meetings Committees

### Series II:

Joint Meetings Technical Papers Publications

Each series was listed in chronological order. The ARS Regional Meetings are listed alphabetically by state and then in chronological order.

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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:

Astronautics  
Jet propulsion  
Periodicals

### Types of Materials:

Correspondence  
Drawings  
Manuscripts  
Photographs  
Publications

### Names:

American Rocket Society  
Chillson, Charles W., 1910-

Goddard, Esther C.  
Von Braun, Wernher, 1912-1977

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Series 1

Box 1, Folder 1	ARS directors meeting, 1952-06-23 minutes
Box 1, Folder 2	ARS directors meeting & correspondence, 1952
Box 1, Folder 3	ARS correspondence, circa 1950-circa 1954
Box 1, Folder 4	ARS correspondence, 1951 - 1954
Box 1, Folder 5	ARS business correspondence & annual reports, 1950 - 1951
Box 1, Folder 6	ARS business correspondence & annual reports, 1951 - 1952
Box 1, Folder 7	ARS business correspondence & annual reports, 1953 - 1955
Box 1, Folder 8	ARS correspondence regarding Journal of American Rocket Society , 1951 - 1953
Box 1, Folder 9	ARS corporate members: correspondence, 1955
Box 1, Folder 10	ARS Nov -- Dec convention: correspondence, 1950
Box 1, Folder 11	ARS Nov -- Dec convention: tentative acceptances, photos, 1950
Box 1, Folder 12	ARS Nov -- Dec Convention: recommendations & invitations, 1950
Box 2, Folder 1	ARS Nov -- Dec convention Rocket Propellants , 1950 correspondence regarding presentation of technical papers
Box 2, Folder 2	ARS Nov -- Dec Convention, Rocket Propellants, 1950 correspondence regarding presentation of technical papers
Box 2, Folder 3	ARS Nov -- Dec Convention, Rocket Propellants , 1950 correspondence regarding presentation of technical papers
Box 2, Folder 4	ARS 6th Annual Convention, 1951 Copies of Advance Program, papers & correspondence
Box 2, Folder 5	ARS 6th Annual Convention , 1951

- correspondence regarding presentation of technical papers
- Box 3, Folder 1 ARS 6th Annual Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey , 1951-11-28 - 1951-11-30  
program, correspondence regarding presentation of technical papers
- Box 3, Folder 2 ARS 6th Annual Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey , 1951-11-28 - 1951-11-30  
technical papers
- Box 3, Folder 3 ARS 6th Annual Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey , 1951-11-28 - 1951-11-30  
photos & correspondence
- Box 3, Folder 4 ARS 6th Annual Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey , 1951-11-28 - 1951-11-30  
correspondence
- Box 3, Folder 5 ARS 6th Annual Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey , 1951-11-28 - 1951-11-30  
Correspondence regarding presentation of technical papers.
- Box 3, Folder 6 ARS Annual Meeting, 1950
- Box 4, Folder 1 ARS Annual Meeting, correspondence, 1952, circa 1951-circa 1952
- Box 4, Folder 2 ARS Annual Meeting, brochures & correspondence, 1952-12-03 - 1952-12-05
- Box 4, Folder 3 ARS August Meeting, 1954
- Box 4, Folder 4 ARS October Meeting, correspondence, 1954-10-15, circa 1954
- Box 4, Folder 5 ARS November Meeting, correspondence, 1954-11-30, circa 1954
- Box 4, Folder 6 ARS December Meeting, correspondence, 1954
- Box 4, Folder 7 ARS January Meeting, correspondence, 1955-01-21, circa 1955
- Box 4, Folder 8 ARS February Meeting, correspondence, 1955-02-18, circa 1955
- Box 4, Folder 9 ARS March Meeting, correspondence, 1955-03-18, circa 1955
- Box 4, Folder 10 ARS June Meeting, correspondence , 1955-06-10, circa 1955
- Box 4, Folder 11 ARS National Fall Meeting, 1955-09-19 - 1955-09-21

program & brochure

Box 4, Folder 12 ARS Dr. Von Braun Dinner correspondence , 1952

Box 4, Folder 13 ARS Dinner Meeting, correspondence, 1955-10-21, circa 1955

Box 4, Folder 14 ARS Ad Hoc Space Flight Committee, correspondence & reports, 1952

Box 4, Folder 15 ARS Awards Committee, correspondence, 1952

Box 4, Folder 16 ARS Coordinating Committee, correspondence, 1951 - 1955

Box 4, Folder 17 ARS Financial Committee, 1949 - 1952

Box 4, Folder 18 ARS Membership Committee, correspondence & directory, 1952 - 1954

Box 4, Folder 19 ARS Program Committee correspondence, 1951 - 1954

Box 5, Folder 1 ARS Publicity Committee, 1951 - 1953

Box 5, Folder 2 ARS Aircraft Trade Show, correspondence, 1955-05-04 - 1955-05-06

Box 5, Folder 3 ARS Picatinny Arsenal Trip, correspondence, circa 1955, 1955-05-07

Box 5, Folder 4 ARS Press Conference, articles & correspondence, circa 1954 - circa 1955, 1955-08-16

Box 5, Folder 5 ARS questionnaires, 1955-01

Box 5, Folder 6 ARS publications, 1953 - 1956

Box 5, Folder 7 ARS Alabama Section, By-Laws , undated

Box 5, Folder 8 ARS California Section , 1956  
(Southern, CA) Ballot Instructions for Amendments to the By-Laws and for Election of Officers.

Box 5, Folder 9 ARS Florida Section, Cocoa Beach, newsletter, 1955-05

Box 5, Folder 10 ARS Fort Wayne Section, Indiana, newsletter, Rocketry, 1955-12 - 1956-01

Box 5, Folder 11 ARS Fairleigh Dickinson College Chapter, Rutherford, New Jersey , 1950 - 1955  
[Fairleigh Dickinson Rocket Society], article & correspondence



Box 5, Folder 12      ARS New York Section: By-Laws & correspondence, 1953 - 1956

Box 5, Folder 13      ARS New York Section: President's correspondence, 1955

Box 5, Folder 14      ARS New York Section: correspondence & reports, 1955 - 1956

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## Series 2: Series 2

- Box 6, Folder 1 ARS New York Section March Meeting, 1954  
Correspondence.
- Box 6, Folder 2 ARS New York Section April Meeting, circa 1954, 1954-04-23  
Correspondence & technical papers.
- Box 6, Folder 3 ARS New York Section May Meeting, circa 1954, 1954-05-21  
Correspondence
- Box 6, Folder 4 ARS New York Section June Meeting, circa 1954, 1954-06-25  
Correspondence.
- Box 6, Folder 5 ARS New York Section, Princeton University, 1955-10-01, circa 1955  
Correspondence & meeting notice.
- Box 6, Folder 6 ARS New York Section September Meeting, circa 1954, 1954-09-18  
Correspondence & 1 photo.
- Box 6, Folder 7 ARS New York Section November Meeting, circa 1955, 1955-11-18  
Correspondence & meeting notice.
- Box 6, Folder 8 ARS New York Section January Meeting, 1956-01-24  
Meeting notice.
- Box 6, Folder 9 ARS Northeastern New York Section, 1952  
Correspondence.
- Box 6, Folder 10 ARS New York Section, Special Student Meetings, 1955
- Box 6, Folder 11 ARS Cleveland-Akron Section, Ohio, 1956, 1955  
Newsletters.
- Box 6, Folder 12 ARS Washington -- Baltimore Section, 1952  
Articles, By-Laws & correspondence.
- Box 6, Folder 13 ARS Miscellaneous Masters of Correspondence, 1955
- Box 6, Folder 14 ARS Miscellaneous Masters of Presentations of Technical papers &  
correspondence, 1950 - 1954
- Box 6, Folder 15 ARS Flight Testing Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida, 1959-03-23 -  
1959-03-25  
Presentation of technical papers, brochures & personal notes.

- Box 7, Folder 1 ARS & American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Institute of Radio Engineers Meeting, 1955  
Articles & correspondence.
- Box 7, Folder 2 ARS & American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Convention , 1950  
Brochures & correspondence.
- Box 7, Folder 3 ARS & ASME Convention, circa 1951, 1950  
Correspondence & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 7, Folder 4 ARS & ASME Convention, 1950, circa 1951  
Correspondence & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 7, Folder 5 ARS & ASME Convention, 1950, circa 1951  
Correspondence & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 7, Folder 6 ARS & ASME Fall Meeting, 1951-09-26 - 1951-09-28  
Correspondence & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 7, Folder 7 ARS & ASME Chicago Meeting, 1952-09-07 - 1952-09-11  
Advance releases & correspondence.
- Box 7, Folder 8 ASME Thermal Barrier Session, 1954  
Brochures & correspondence.
- Box 7, Folder 9 American Society for Engineering Education, 1951-06  
List of Colleges/Universities.
- Box 7, Folder 10 Institute of Aeronautical Sciences (IAS) negotiations, 1950 - 1952
- Box 7, Folder 11 IAS & ARS National Convention, 1952-01-28 - 1952-02-01, circa 1952  
Correspondence, photos & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 8, Folder 1 IAS & ARS National Convention, circa 1952, 1952-01-28 - 1952-02-01  
Correspondence, photos & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 8, Folder 2 International Astronautical Federation, circa 1952 - circa 1955  
By-Laws & correspondence.
- Box 8, Folder 3 2nd International Congress of Aeronautics, 1951-09-03, 1951  
Correspondence, minutes & presentation of technical papers.
- Box 8, Folder 4 3rd International Congress of Aeronautics, circa 1951 - circa 1952, 1952-09-01 - 1952-09-06  
Correspondence.

- Box 8, Folder 5            The Early History of Rocket Research by Joseph W. Siry, 1950
- Box 8, Folder 6            Rocket Newsletter, 1956-01
- Box 8, Folder 7            Some Interaction of Circular Liquid Jets by Dexter Miller, Jr., prepared for  
presentation at November, ARS Convention, 1951
- Box 8, Folder 8            Rocket & Jet Propulsion, 1950 - 1955  
Miscellaneous publications.
- Box 8, Folder 10;  
Box 8, Folder 9            3 Negatives: Correspondence regarding November 1951 ARS Convention ,  
1951-11  
*3 Negatives (photographic)*  
Figure 7, Hydraulic Pump on Splash Plate negative, Figure 8, Spray Sheet  
formed between Adjacent Jets negative & Negative with no title & no number  
from folder
- [POOR CONDITION]

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