



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Lovell Lawrence, Jr. Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Lovell Lawrence, Jr. Collection
Date:	1943-1953
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0010
Creator:	Lawrence, Lovell, Jr., 1915-1971
Extent:	3.27 Cubic feet ((3 records center boxes)) 3.12 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mrs. Lovell Lawrence, Jr., gift, 1972, XXXX-0010, Unknown

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Lovell Lawrence, Jr. (1915-1971) was an amateur rocket experimenter in the 1930s under the American Rocket Society, of which he became president in 1946. He worked as assistant to the chief engineer of IBM from 1933 until 1941, when he joined with John Shesta, James Wyld, and Hugh Franklin Pierce to form Reaction Motors, Inc. (RMI), the first US rocket propulsion company, with Lawrence as president. Lawrence left RMI in 1951 over the gradual loss of administrative and technical authority. In 1953 he joined Chrysler's Missile Division as manager of power plant design. By 1956 he was director of the Redstone project. He went on to Chrysler's Advanced Project organization, first as chief engineer (1959), then as director (1961). In 1964 he became chief research engineer for Chrysler.

Scope and Contents

The bulk of this collection consists of documents relating to Lawrence's work at RMI, including technical reports and administrative papers, as well as personal and business correspondence. The collection also includes some material on ARS and Lawrence's Chrysler years.

General

Other materials: turbo supercharger (held by National Air and Space Museum, Aeronautics Division, acc. 1973-132)

General

NASMrev

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airplanes -- Rocket engines

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Financial records

Names:

- American Rocket Society
- Chrysler Corporation. Missile Division
- Lawrence, Lovell, Jr., 1915-1971
- Reaction Motors, Inc.