



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

Autogiro Company of America  
v. United States Collection

2001

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Autogiro Company of America v. United States Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1958-1962
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0060
<b>Extent:</b>	10.9 Cubic feet ((10 records center boxes) (2 11x14x25 transfiles)) 10.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

No Donor Information, gift, XXXX-0060, Unknown

### 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](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

The Autogiro Co. of America was formed in 1931 to hold the US licensing rights of the Cierva Autogiro Co, Ltd. of England. Autogiro sublicensed these rights to Kellet Autogiro Co [Philadelphia, PA] and Pitcairn Autogiro Co [Willow Grove, PA], which developed and manufactured a number of autogiros during the 1930s. During World War II, Kellet stopped working on autogiros in favor of helicopters. Pitcairn Autogiro became Pitcairn Larsen Autogiro in 1940 then G&A Aircraft, Inc., which was bought out by Firestone Aircraft in 1943 before fading from the aviation scene. In 1958 Autogiro brought suit against the United States, charging that the government had infringed on Autogiro's patent rights by procuring rotary wing aircraft from Bell, Hiller, McCollock, and Vertol/Piasecki, which were not sublicensees of Autogiro's patents.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains documents relating to the 1958-62 Autogiro Company of America vs. the United States. The collection includes transcripts of hearings and copies of patents and contracts relevant to the case.

## General

NASMrev

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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:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Law and legislation
- Autogiros

### Types of Materials:

- Contracts
- Patents
- Publications
- Transcripts

### Names:

- Autogiro Company of America
- Cierva Autogiro Co, Ltd.
- Kellett Autogiro Corp
- Pitcairn Autogiro Co, Inc.