



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Early Aeronautical News Clippings (Alexander Graham Bell) Collection

Amanda Buel

2019

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Early Aeronautical News Clippings (Alexander Graham Bell) Collection
Date:	1903-1974
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0086
Creator:	Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922 Beals, Jessie Tarbox
Extent:	23.64 Cubic feet (18 records center boxes; 1 11x17x3 flatbox)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Early Aeronautical Newsclippings (Alexander Graham Bell) Collection (NASM.XXXX.0086) consists of 19 boxes of material about early aviation and aeronautics collected by Alexander Graham Bell between 1906 and 1912.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, 1907.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

No donor information, NASM.XXXX.0086, unknown

Processing Information

A preliminary index was created by John Tucker between 1972 and 1974. A box list was completed by Paul Silbermann in 1987. This most recent finding aid was arranged, described, and encoded by Amanda Buel, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Early Aeronautical Newsclippings (Alexander Graham Bell) Collection, Acc. NASM.XXXX.0086, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Although best known as the inventor of the telephone, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) expressed an interest in a wide range of activities, including aviation. By the turn of the 20th century he was experimenting with kites and kite structures, including his famous tetrahedral kite "Cygnus," which carried a man aloft in 1907 and was intended to be fitted with a motor. Bell supported the experiments of Samuel Langley from 1891 on, and had some influence in obtaining War Department funding for Langley's aeronautical work. After the successful flight of the Wright Brothers in 1903 he formed, with Glenn H. Curtiss, F. W. Baldwin, J. A. D. McCurdy, and Lt. T. Selfridge, the Aerial Experimental Association, which experimented with a number of flying machines before the founders dissolved the group in 1909. Bell's contributions to aeronautics are reflected in his being issued nine patents for various advances in "aerial vehicles" and "flying machines."

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of newspaper clippings gathered by Dr. Bell during the early years of aviation. The material, compiled from American, British, French, and German papers, as well as others, covers a variety of subjects from balloon and airship ascents, air shows, races, and record flights, to accidents, technological developments, and applications. The collection ends with an album of photographs of the aeronautical exhibit at the Automobile Show held in New York in 1907. Supplemental indexes were created for the collection at later times.

Note: The digital images in this finding aid were repurposed from scans made by an outside contractor for a commercial product and may show irregular cropping and orientation in addition to color variations resulting from damage to and deterioration of the original objects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by in the following series:

1. Scrapbooks
 2. Indexes
 3. Photographs
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Aeronautics -- 1903-1916
Periodicals

Types of Materials:

Clippings

Names:

Aerial Experiment Association
Bell, Alexander Graham, 1847-1922

Container Listing

Series 1: Scrapbooks, 1903-1947

Scope and Contents: This series consists of newspaper clippings gathered by Bell during the early years of aviation. The material, compiled from American, British, French, and German papers, as well as others, covers a variety of subjects from balloon and airship ascents, air shows, races, and record flights, to accidents, technological developments, and applications. The series ends with a compilation of scrapbook materials relating to the Wrights and early flight, 1903-1947. This material was collected and associated with the collection decades after Bell's death; it is unrelated to his scrapbooks.

Box 1, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 1], November 7-December 31, 1906
Box 1, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 2], January 1-February 28, 1907
Box 1, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 3], March 1-April 30, 1907
Box 1, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 4], May 1-June 14, 1907
Box 1, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 5], August 15-September 13, 1907
Box 1, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 6], September 13-October 5, 1907
Box 2, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 7], May 15-31, 1908
Box 2, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 8], August 1-7, 1908
Box 2, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 9], August 8-17, 1908
Box 2, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 10], August 28-31, 1908
Box 2, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 11], September 1-11, 1908
Box 2, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 12], September 11-19, 1908
Box 2, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 13], September 19-October 3, 1908
Box 3, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 14], October 4-19, 1908
Box 3, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 15], October 20-November 3, 1908
Box 3, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 16], November 4-30, 1908
Box 3, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 17], December 1-19, 1908
Box 3, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 18], December 19-30, 1908

Box 3, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 19], January 1-17, 1909
Box 3, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 20], January 17-February 3, 1909
Box 3, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 21], February 3-22, 1909
Box 4, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 22], February 23-March 13, 1909
Box 4, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 23], March 13-28, 1909
Box 4, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 24], March 29-April 19, 1909
Box 4, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 25], April 19-May 10, 1909
Box 4, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 26], May 10-24, 1909
Box 4, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 27], May 24-June 6, 1909
Box 5, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 28], June 6-26, 1909
Box 5, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 29], June 26-July 4, 1909
Box 5, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 30], July 4-16, 1909
Box 5, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 31], July 16-23, 1909
Box 5, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 32], July 24-31, 1909
Box 5, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 33], August 1-13, 1909
Box 6, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 34], August 13-23, 1909
Box 6, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 35], August 23-29, 1909
Box 6, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 36], September 23-October 4, 1909
Box 6, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 37], October 4-15, 1909
Box 6, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 38], October 15-27, 1909
Box 6, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 39], October 27-November 13, 1909
Box 6, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 40], November 13-December 1, 1909
Box 6, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 41], December 1-31, 1909
Box 7, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 42], January 1-16, 1910

Box 7, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 43], January 16-31, 1910
Box 7, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 44], February 1-28, 1910
Box 7, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 45], March 1-21, 1910
Box 7, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 46], March 21-April 13, 1910
Box 7, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 47], April 13-30, 1910
Box 7, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 48], May 1-17, 1910
Box 7, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 49], May 17-29, 1910
Box 7, Binder 9	[Scrapbook 50], May 30-June 2, 1910
Box 8, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 51], June 2-8, 1910
Box 8, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 52], June 8-15, 1910
Box 8, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 53], June 15-24, 1910
Box 8, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 54], June 25-July 6, 1910
Box 8, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 55], July 6-14, 1910
Box 8, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 56], July 15-24, 1910
Box 8, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 57], July 24-31, 1910
Box 8, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 58], August 1-7, 1910
Box 9, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 59], August 7-14, 1910
Box 9, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 60], August 14-20, 1910
Box 9, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 61], August 20-September 4, 1910
Box 9, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 62], September 4-11, 1910
Box 9, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 63], September 12-20, 1910
Box 9, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 64], September 20-October 2, 1910
Box 9, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 65], October 2-13, 1910
Box 9, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 66], October 13-21, 1910

Box 10, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 67], October 22-25, 1910
Box 10, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 68], October 25-31, 1910
Box 10, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 69], November 1-8, 1910
Box 10, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 70], November 8-18, 1910
Box 10, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 71], November 18-December 3, 1910
Box 10, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 72], December 3-25, 1910
Box 10, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 73], December 25, 1910-January 3, 1911
Box 11, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 74], January 3-18, 1911
Box 11, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 75], January 18-31, 1911
Box 11, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 76], February 1-18, 1911
Box 11, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 77], February 19-March 4, 1911
Box 11, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 78], March 5-15, 1911
Box 11, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 79], March 15-28, 1911
Box 11, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 80], March 29-April 8, 1911
Box 11, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 81], April 8-16, 1911
Box 11, Binder 9	[Scrapbook 82], April 16-26, 1911
Box 12, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 83], April 26-May 6, 1911
Box 12, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 84], May 7-14, 1911
Box 12, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 85], May 14-21, 1911
Box 12, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 86], May 22-27, 1911
Box 12, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 87], May 27-June 4, 1911
Box 12, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 88], June 4-11, 1911
Box 12, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 89], June 11-18, 1911
Box 12, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 90], June 18-25, 1911

Box 12, Binder 9	[Scrapbook 91] , June 25-July 1, 1911
Box 13, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 92] , July 1-5, 1911
Box 13, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 93] , July 5-9, 1911
Box 13, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 94] , July 9-15, 1911
Box 13, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 95] , July 15-23, 1911
Box 13, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 96] , July 23-31, 1911
Box 13, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 97] , August 1-8, 1911
Box 13, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 98] , August 9-14, 1911
Box 13, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 99] , August 14-19, 1911
Box 13, Binder 9	[Scrapbook 100] , August 20-26, 1911
Box 14, Binder 1	[Scrapbook 101] , August 26-September 2, 1911
Box 14, Binder 2	[Scrapbook 102] , September 2-9, 1911
Box 14, Binder 3	[Scrapbook 103] , September 9-16, 1911
Box 14, Binder 4	[Scrapbook 104] , September 16-23, 1911
Box 14, Binder 5	[Scrapbook 105] , September 23-October 2, 1911
Box 14, Binder 6	[Scrapbook 106] , October 2-14, 1911
Box 14, Binder 7	[Scrapbook 107] , October 14-31, 1911
Box 14, Binder 8	[Scrapbook 108] , November 1-29, 1911
Box 14, Binder 9	[Scrapbook 109] , December 2, 1911-March 31, 1912
Box 18, Box 1	[Wright Brothers Scrapbook] , 1903-1947

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Series 2: Indexes, circa 1930s-1974

Scope and Contents: This series includes indexes for the Bell newsclippings scrapbooks. It is possible the subject indexes were created in the 1930s, when Paul Garber arranged for a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project to process the Bell scrapbooks. In 1972-1974, Colonel John Tucker authored his own indexes for the scrapbooks. The earlier indexes are written on index cards and housed in shoebox storage. The later ones appear in notebook binders.

Box 15, Box 1	Subject Index: A-ASC
Box 15, Box 2	Subject Index: ASC-I
Box 15, Box 3	Subject Index: I-Z
Box 15, Box 4	Index: Books Not Found
Box 16, Box 1	<p>Chronological Index: Boxes 3511, 3512, 3513, 3514 Image(s): Chronological Index Box: 3511, 3512, 3513, 3514 Notes: This chronological index covers January 1, 1907, through March 28, 1909, the contents of which are contained in boxes 1-4 of this collection.</p>
Box 16, Box 2	<p>Chronological Index: Boxes 3514 (Cont), 3515, 3516 Image(s): Chronological Index Box: 3514 (Cont), 3515, 3516 Notes: This chronological index covers March 29, 1909, through December 31, 1909, the contents of which are contained in boxes 4-6 of this collection.</p>
Box 16, Box 3	<p>Chronological Index: Boxes 3517, 3518, 3519 Image(s): Chronological Index Box: 3517, 3518, 3519 Notes: This chronological index covers January 1, 1910, through August 20, 1910, the contents of which are contained in boxes 7-9 of this collection.</p>
Box 16, Box 4	<p>Chronological Index: Boxes 3519 (Cont), 3520, 3521 Image(s): Chronological Index Box: 3519 (Cont), 3520, 3521 Notes: This chronological index covers August 20, 1910, through January 31, 1911, the contents of which are contained in boxes 9-11 of this collection.</p>
Box 17, Box 1	<p>Chronological Index: Boxes 3521 (Cont), 3522 Image(s): Chronological Index Box: 3521 (Cont), 3522 Notes: This chronological index covers February 1, 1911, through May 6, 1911, the contents of which are contained in boxes 11-12 of this collection.</p>
Box 17, Box 2	<p>Chronological Index: Box 3522 (Cont) Notes: This chronological index covers May 7, 1911, through July 1, 1911, the contents of which are contained in box 12 of this collection.</p>

Box 17, Box 3	Chronological Index: Box 3533 Notes: This chronological index covers July 1, 1911, through August 26, 1911, the contents of which are contained in box 13 of this collection.
Box 17, Box 4	Chronological Index: Box 3524 Notes: This chronological index covers August 26, 1911, through March 31, 1912, the contents of which are contained in box 14 of this collection.
Box 18, Folder 1	[John McK. Tucker Index: 1], February 4, 1972
Box 18, Folder 2	[John McK. Tucker Index: 2]
Box 18, Folder 3	[John McK. Tucker Index: 3]
Box 18, Folder 4	[John McK. Tucker Index: 4]
Box 18, Folder 5	[John McK. Tucker Index: 5], May 18, 1972
Box 18, Folder 6	[John McK. Tucker Index: 6], February 14, 1974
Box 18, Folder 7	[John McK. Tucker Index: 7], July 18, 1971
Box 18, Folder 8	[John McK. Tucker Index: 8], February 14, 1974
Box 18, Folder 9	[John McK. Tucker Index: 9]
Box 18, Folder 10	[John McK. Tucker Index: 10]
Box 18, Folder 11	[John McK. Tucker Index: 11]
Box 18, Folder 12	[John McK. Tucker Index: Supplement]

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Series 3: Photographs, January 13-20, 1906

Scope and Contents: This series consists of a large album of photographs taken by Jessie Tarbox Beals, a female photojournalist, of the aeronautical exhibits at the Automobile and Aero Clubs of America Joint Show held January 13-20, 1906, at the 69th Regiment Armory, New York City. The typed label identifying this as the 1907 show, applied to the first page of the album at a later date, is incorrect. See [1906 Automobile and Aero Clubs of America Joint Show Photographs, NASM.XXXX.0902](#) .

Box 19 [\[Bell Photo Album\], 1907](#)

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