



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Donald J. Ritchie Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
General.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Donald J. Ritchie Collection
Date:	1955-1976 (bulk 1960-1970)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0088
Creator:	Ritchie, Donald Jeanne, 1920-
Extent:	13.08 Cubic feet (12 records center boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Baron von Ritchie?, Gift, unknown, XXXX-0088, unknown

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Donald Jeanne Ritchie (1920-) is a mathematician and physicist who has been active in missile guidance system design and development and in arms control and disarmament studies. He began work as a production engineer at Bell Aircraft Corp (1940-42) before joining the Design Branch of Wright Air Development Center, Wright Field, OH (1942-45), where he participated in preliminary design work on jet aircraft. Following World War II, he attended Wayne University, completing degrees in Mathematics and Physics (BS, 1949) and Applied Mathematics (MS, 1951). He spent most of the next two decades at Bendix's Research Laboratory Division (Senior Mathematician, 1949-54; Project Engineer, 1955-57; Supervisory Mathematician, 1958-65; Assistant Department Head, Surveillance, Navigation, and Guidance, 1965-67) working on missile systems. He spent several brief periods outside Bendix, at Atomic Power Development Associates (Senior Mathematician, 1954-55), Crosley Division, Avco Manufacturing Co (Supervisor, Missile Systems, 1957), and Corvy Division, Melpar Inc, Scientific Analysis Office (Branch Leader, 1957-58). He then joined the faculty of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Institute (now Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University) as Professor of Aeronautical Engineering, Director of Research, and Chairman of the Aeronautical Engineering Division (1967-?). During this time he also worked as a consultant to the United States Air Force Foreign Technical Intelligence Division and the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Ritchie's research files. The material consists of newspaper and magazine clippings, photos, drawings, and Soviet books detailing Russian missile and rocket development during the 1960s. The collection also includes copies of Ritchie's reports during his tenure at Bendix and manuscripts of various chapters of his book 'Rocket and Missile Systems Development in the Soviet Union.'

General

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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, Military
- Aeronautics, Military -- Research
- Ballistic missiles
- Rockets (Aeronautics)
- Rockets (Aeronautics) -- Guidance systems
- Rockets (Ordnance) -- Soviet Union

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Drawings
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Publications
- Reports

Names:

- Bendix Aviation Corp. Research Laboratory Division
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- National Air and Space Museum (U.S.)
- Ritchie, Donald Jeanne, 1920-
- United States. Air Force. Systems Command. Foreign Technology Division