



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

Stephen Balzer Correspondence

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

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Stephen Balzer Correspondence
<b>Date:</b>	1898-1962 (bulk 1899-1932)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0129
<b>Creator:</b>	Balzer, Stephen M.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.56 Cubic feet ((1 16x20x3 flatbox))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

No Donor information, XXXX-0129, 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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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence between Stephen Balzer and S.P. Langley, Richard Rathbun, Charles M. Manley, and others pertaining to the 52-HP Radial Engine he designed. In addition Balzer designed and built the first automobile to run in New York City, which was exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution. Balzer's engine-building ability came to the attention of Langley in 1898, who decided that a gasoline engine would be more practical for his proposed man-carrying airplane than a steam power plant. There are five items that have no date, including a voucher for payments to Balzer by the Smithsonian Institution, a summary of the engine's progress by Balzer, and the cover of a mail package from V.W. Balzer to Philip S. Hopkins (NAM).

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## General

NASMrev

## 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  
Langley-Manly-Balzer Aero Engine of 1903 5-Cyl. Radial

### Types of Materials:

Correspondence  
Financial records

### Names:

Balzer, Stephen M.  
Langley, S. P. (Samuel Pierpont), 1834-1906  
Manly, Charles Matthews, 1876-1927  
Rathbun, Richard, 1852-1918