



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Windecker Projects Collection

2002

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:	Windecker Projects Collection
Date:	1917-1966
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0176
Creator:	Windecker, Leo J., 1921-
Extent:	2.18 Cubic feet ((2 records center boxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

No donor information, Gift, unknown, XXXX-0176, unknown

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

In the years following World War II, Dr Leo J Windecker (1921-) worked for the Dow Chemical Co as a dentist in one of their company clinics. Windecker became interested in aircraft structures and began to research and design plastic aircraft forms. Eventually Dow saw promise in his designs and sent Dr. Windecker to Hondo, Texas in the mid-1960s where he was placed in charge of an experimental research laboratory, Windecker Research Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dow Chemicals. There he experimented with composite materials and developed aircraft structures built completely from them.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains research data from Windecker's experiments with composites. The material includes market evaluations of the light aircraft manufacturing industry, and reports from the 1940s concerning the use of wood in aircraft production. The collection also includes correspondence between Dr. Windecker and Dow as well as project records.

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 -- Research
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Composite materials

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Publications
- Reports

Names:

- Dow Chemical Company
- Dow Chemical Company. Windecker Research Inc.
- Windecker, Leo J., 1921-