



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Lester D. Seymour Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
General.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Lester D. Seymour Collection
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0455
Date:	1928-1934
Extent:	1.13 Cubic feet ((1 slim legal document box) (2 legal document boxes))
Creator:	Seymour, Lester D., 1892-
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	Major Lester D. Seymour (1892-1976) was involved in both the military and commercial sides of aviation. After service in World War I, Seymour served as Chief Engineer of National Air Transport, and later become NAT's Vice President and General Manager. From 1933-1934 Seymour was appointed President of American Airlines. The collection includes airline newsletters, annual reports, photographs, and manuals.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lester D. Seymour, Gift, unknown, XXXX-0455.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 1992, updated 2014. Revised and digital assets attached by Allan Janus, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Lester D. Seymour Collection, Acc. NASM.XXXX.0455, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Major Lester D. Seymour (1892-1976) was involved in both the military and commercial sides of aviation. Seymour rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, Aero Engineer-Officer, 85th Aero Squadron during World War I. After the war, he became involved in the Civilian Aero Engineer US Air Service and in the Air Corps Reserve. In 1926, Seymour became involved with the commercial airlines industry. He started as the Chief Engineer at National Air Transport, and later become NAT's Vice President and General Manager. He was also briefly the Vice President of United Air Lines after their 1933 takeover of NAT. From 1933-1934 Seymour was appointed President of American Airlines.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the following: copies of the National Air Transport Inc. (NAT) newsletter, "NAT Flypaper", 1928 - 1933; "Survey of Projected Airmail Routes" 1926; annual reports for both NAT and American Airways (later American Airlines); NAT photographs; NAT Regulations; "A Study of Transportation by Airway as related to Competition with Rail Carriers in Continental United States", 1932; NAT Bulletin Board; and the American Airlines Procedures Manual for 1934. In June of 1999, six films were found in the Film Archives that were part of this donation. The films, evidently taken by Seymour during his airline travels, have the following titles: West (Part 1 and 2); Phoenix to Los Angeles; Flying Across America with United Airlines in 28 Hours; Memphis to Phoenix; and American Airways: Chicago - New York.

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 Lester D. Seymour Collection is arranged by content type.

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, Commercial
Aeronautics, Commercial -- Passenger traffic
Aeronautics, Commercial -- United States
Air travel

Airlines

Types of Materials:

Manuals
Motion pictures (visual works)
Newsletters
Reports

Names:

American Airlines
National Air Transport
Seymour, Lester D., 1892-
United Air Lines, Inc.

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	National Air Transport (NAT) "Fly Paper", November 1928 - November 1929 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	National Air Transport (NAT) "Fly Paper", December 2, 1929 - February, 1930 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 3	National Air Transport (NAT) "Fly Paper", December 1929 - February 1930 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4	National Air Transport (NAT) "Fly Paper", March 1930 - June 1931 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	National Air Transport (NAT) "Fly Paper", January - June, 1932 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 1	"Survey of Projected Airmail Routes - Chicago to Dallas, Chicago to Minneapolis, Chicago to St. Louis, Circa 1926" Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 2	"Summary of National Air Transport Activity as of March 1, 1929 by Lester D. Seymour, General Manager" Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 3	"Annual Report to the Executive Committee of National Air Transport, Inc. for the Year 1929" Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 4	"Annual Report to the Executive Committee of National Air Transport, Inc. for the Year 1930" Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 5	National Air Transport (NAT) photographs, (bulk undated) (bulk undated) Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 6	Miscellaneous National Air Transport (NAT) material, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 7	National Air Transport (NAT) Regulations, (bulk 1930) Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 8	American Airways, Inc. [company activities], 1933 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 9	[American Airlines Procedures Manual, 1934]

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 1 "A Study of Transportation by Airway as Related to Competition with Rail Carriers in Continental United States" - Security Owners Association, 1932

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 2 "A Study of Transportation by Airway as Related to Competition with Rail Carriers in Continental United States" - Security Owners Association [bound copy], 1932

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 3, Folder 3 "NAT Bulletin Board" [Newsletter], June 16, 1927 - June 1931

[Image\(s\)](#)