



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Gustave Whitehead Manuscript Collection [Gibbs-Smith]

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Gustave Whitehead Manuscript Collection [Gibbs-Smith]
<b>Date:</b>	1969-1970
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0603
<b>Creator:</b>	Gibbs-Smith, Charles Harvard, 1909-
<b>Extent:</b>	0.45 Cubic feet ((1 legal document box))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, Gift, unknown, XXXX-0603, Smithsonian Institution

### 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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## Biographical / Historical

Gustave Whitehead (1874-1927) was born in Hochst am Main, Bavaria. He immigrated to the United States and during the early 1900s experimented with aircraft design. According to his claims, he built several aircraft, which he flew several years before the Wrights' 1903 flight. Whitehead still has a number of followers trying to verify his claims.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of manuscripts and articles written by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, in which he refutes Whitehead's claims. The collection contains the following manuscripts: 'The Flight Claims of Gustave Whitehead,' 'Gustave Whitehead: His Flight-Claims and his Place in History,' 'Gustave Whitehead,' 'Reflections on the Whitehead Claims to Powered Flight in 1902 and 1902,' 'An Open Letter on the Subject of the Flight-Claims of Gustave Whitehead,' and 'The Sorry Affair of Gustave Whitehead and His Alleged Powered Flight.'

## 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 -- Records
- Aeronautics -- pre-1903
- Airplanes -- Design and construction
- Wright (Brothers) 1903 Flyer

### Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Manuscripts

### Names:

- Gibbs-Smith, Charles Harvard, 1909-
- Whitehead, Gustave, 1874-1927