



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Glenn Curtiss Early Aviation Photography Collection

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2019

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Glenn Curtiss Early Aviation Photography Collection
Date:	(bulk 1904-1920)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0682
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (4 folders)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Glenn Hammond Curtiss (1878-1930) is best known as an aviation pioneer and inventor and founder of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co. This collection consists of fifty-four images, predominantly photographs printed as postcards. The postcard images feature subjects relating to Glenn Curtiss and his aviation career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Unknown - found in collection, Unknown, Unknown, NASM.XXXX.0682.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Elizabeth C. Borja, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Glenn Curtiss Early Aviation Photography Collection, Acc. XXXX.0682, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Glenn Hammond Curtiss (1878-1930) is best known as an aviation pioneer and inventor and founder of the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co. Initially a bicycle repairman and designer, by 1902 Curtiss had begun to manufacture motorcycles using a lightweight internal combustion engine of his own design and founded the Curtiss Manufacturing Co. By 1904, Curtiss' engine had been co-opted by Thomas Baldwin for his airship experiments. This activity led to a connection between Curtiss and Alexander Graham Bell and, in 1907, to the foundation of the Aerial Experiment Association. In 1909, Curtiss joined with Augustus M. Herring to form the Herring-Curtiss Co to manufacture powered vehicles, but Herring's unsubstantiated claims to priority over the Wright Brother's aeronautical patents led to the Wright and Curtiss patent suits which continued

until the merger of Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor with Wright Aeronautical in 1929. Curtiss and Herring split after the Wright's filed suit and Herring sued Curtiss, claiming that Curtiss had failed to turn his air race winnings over to the company. Despite these, and other, suits, Curtiss continued to advance the cause and technology of aviation, founding the first public flying school (1910) and later a chain of schools across the US, inventing the aileron (1909), the dual-control trainer (1911) and the hydroaeroplane (1911). In 1920, Curtiss retired from active aviation pursuits.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of fifty-four images, predominantly photographs printed as postcards. The postcard images feature the following subjects relating to Glenn Curtiss and his aviation career: early Aerial Experiment Association (AEA) and Curtiss aircraft predominantly at Hammondsport, New York (H. M. Benner photographs) but also elsewhere (including one image of flight at Atlantic City dated 1920); International Air Meet (Los Angeles, 1910); US Army airship Signal Corps No. 1 (Baldwin); Gordon Bennett Aviation Trophy; ice boats on Lake Keuka, Curtiss "wind-wagon;" Curtiss motorcycles (with G. H. C. team); Glenn Curtiss with others (including Mrs. Curtiss, Louis Paulhan); group photographs which probably show Curtiss employees; and informal Curtiss family photographs.

All images have received minimal subject headings, but only some have had additional captions added.

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 fifty-four photographs have been assigned "7A" image numbers. They are arranged in numerical order (some images were assigned multiple numbers). Some photographs are in sleeves that hold two images.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Curtiss, General, Aircraft
Motorcycles

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Postcards

Names:

Aerial Experiment Association
Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company
Curtiss, Glenn Hammond, 1878-1930
Gordon-Bennett Trophy Race

Container Listing

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Item 1 | <p>7A10524 and 7A10525, 1910, undated
Notes: 7A10525 (top) Subject: Curtiss Early Pusher Types (circa 1910)
7A10524 (bottom) Subject: Photography, Ground, USA, NY, Hammondsport, Lake Keuka</p> |
| Item 2 | <p>7A10526, 1908 July 4
Notes: 7A10526 Subject: Aerial Experiment Association (AEA) Aerodrome No 3 June Bug; Curtiss, Glenn Hammond
Caption: Three-quarter right front view of Aerial Experiment Association Aerodrome No 3 June Bug in flight at Hammondsport, New York, July 4, 1908; pilot is Glenn Curtiss. This flight won the Scientific American trophy.</p> |
| Item 3 | <p>7A10527 and 7A10528, circa 1915, Summer 1914
Notes: 7A10527 (top) Subject: Curtiss Hydro (Late 1911)
Caption: Three-quarter right front view, from slightly below, of a Curtiss Hydro in flight over water, circa 1915, possibly in San Diego, California.
7A10528 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Model H "America", Twin-Engined (H-1)
Caption: circa Summer 1914</p> |
| Item 4 | <p>7A10529 and 7A10530, approximately 1910-1914, 1910 January
Notes: 7A10529 (top/right) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H.; Curtiss Beachey Special
7A10530 (bottom/left) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H.; Paulhan, Louis; Events, 1910, USA, California (CA), Los Angeles, Dominguez Field, [1st Annual] International Air Meet
Caption: Louis Paulhan (left) and Glenn H. Curtiss (right) pose standing at the [1st Annual] International Air Meet, Dominguez Field, Los Angeles, January 10-20, 1910.</p> |
| Item 5 | <p>7A10531 and 7A10532, circa 1914, circa 1914
Notes: 7A10531 (top) Subject: Curtiss J Floatplane
Caption: circa 1914
7A10532 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss J Floatplane
Caption: circa 1914</p> |
| Item 6 | <p>7A10533 and 7A10534, 1910 January, circa 1910
Notes: 7A10533 (top) Subject: Events, 1910, USA, Los Angeles (CA), [1st Annual] International Air Meet; Curtiss Model D; Curtiss, Glenn H.
7A10534 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Early Pusher Type (circa 1910)</p> |

- Item 7 [7A10535 and 7A10536, undated, 1914](#)
Notes: 7A10535 (top) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H.
 7A10536 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Model H "America" (H-1),
 Launch Ceremony; Curtiss, Glenn H.
- Item 8 [7A10537 and 7A10538, 1909, 1909](#)
Notes: 7A10537 (top) Subject: Curtiss No.1 Gold Bug (Golden Flier);
 Curtiss, Glenn Hammond
 Caption: Three-quarter right front view from below of Curtiss
 No.1 Gold Bug (Golden Flier) in flight, piloted by Glenn H.
 Curtiss.
 7A10538 (bottom) Subject: Aerial Experiment Association
 (AEA) Aerodrome No 4 Silver Dart
- Item 9 [7A10539 and 7A10540, 1909, 1909](#)
Notes: 7A10539 (top) Subject: Aerial Experiment Association (AEA)
 Cygnet II
 7A10540 (bottom) Subject: LTA, Airships, USA, Army, Signal
 Corps No.1 (Baldwin)
- Item 10 [7A10541 and 7A10542, 1909-1910](#)
Notes: 7A10541 (top) Subject: Curtiss-Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"
 7A10542 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss-Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"
- Item 11 [7A10543 and 7A10544, undated](#)
Notes: 7A10543 (top) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H. (Mr And Mrs); Curtiss-
 Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"
 7A10544 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, General, Personnel
- Item 12 [7A10545 and 7A10546, undated](#)
Notes: 7A10545 (top) Subject: Aerial Experiment Association (AEA)
 Aerodrome No 3 June Bug
 7A10546 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Motorcycles, Curtiss
 Motorcycle Team
 Caption: "Winners on Winners." Group photograph of nine
 members of the Curtiss Motorcycle Team posed with their
 motorcycles, probably at Hammondsport, New York, circa
 1904-1908.
- Item 13 [7A10547 and 7A10548, circa 1910](#)
Notes: 7A10547 (top) Subject: Curtiss Early Pusher Type (circa 1910)
 7A10548 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss CS-1 (SC-1) Scout (Model
 31)
- Item 14 [7A10549 and 7A10550, 1908 July 4, undated](#)
Notes: 7A10549 (top) Subject: Aerial Experiment Association (AEA)
 Aerodrome No 3 June Bug; Curtiss, Glenn Hammond

Caption: Three-quarter right front view of Aerial Experiment Association Aerodrome No 3 June Bug in flight at Hammondsport, New York, July 4, 1908; pilot is Glenn Curtiss. This flight won the Scientific American trophy.

7A10550 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Motorcycles, Curtiss Motorcycle Team

Item 15

[7A10551 and 7A10552, undated, circa 1904](#)

Notes: 7A10551 (top) Subject: Curtiss, General, Personnel
7A10552 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn Hammond; Curtiss Motorcycles; Curtiss, General, Facilities, Motorcycle Shop
Caption: Group photo, presumably staff of Glenn H. Curtiss' motorcycle shop. Curtiss, wearing hat, crouches behind front wheel of motorcycle at left, circa 1904.

Item 16

[7A10553 and 7A10554, 1907, 1907](#)

Notes: 7A10553 (top) Subject: LTA, Airships, USA, Baldwin (Thomas), General, Hammondsport, 1907; Curtiss, Glenn Hammond
7A10554 (bottom) Subject: LTA, Airships, USA, Baldwin (Thomas), General, Hammondsport, 1907; Curtiss, Glenn Hammond

Item 17

[7A10555, undated](#)

Notes: 7A10555 Subject: Curtiss Ice Boat, Sail Powered

Item 18

[7A10556 and 7A10557, circa 1920, circa 1910](#)

Notes: 7A10556 (top) Subject: Curtiss Model D
7A10557 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Early Pusher Type (circa 1910)

Item 19

[7A10558 and 7A10559, 1910 January, circa 1910](#)

Notes: 7A10558 (top) Subject: Curtiss Model D (Early); Curtiss, Glenn H.; Events, 1910, USA, Los Angeles (CA), [1st Annual] International Air Meet
7A10559 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Model D (Early)

Item 20

[7A10560 and 7A10561, 1910, 1910 January](#)

Notes: 7A10560 (top) Subject: Curtiss-Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"; Curtiss Ice Boat, Sail Powered
7A10561 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H.; Paulhan, Louis; Events, 1910, USA, California (CA), Los Angeles, Dominguez Field, [1st Annual] International Air Meet
Caption: Louis Paulhan (left) and Glenn H. Curtiss (right) pose standing at the [1st Annual] International Air Meet, Dominguez Field, Los Angeles, January 10-20, 1910.

Item 21

[7A10562 and 7A10563, 1909, 1907](#)

Notes: 7A10562 (top) Subject: Awards and Trophies, Bennett (James Gordon) Aviation Trophy, 1909

7A10563 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn Hammond; Curtiss Motorcycles, Curtiss 1907 V-8 Motorcycle

Caption: "Litho-Chrome" postcard showing Glenn Curtiss seated on his 8 cylinder experimental motorcycle at Ormond Beach, Fla., circa 1907.

Item 22 [7A10564/7A10565 and 7A10566/7A10567, undated](#)
Notes: 7A10564/7A10565 (top) Subject: Curtiss "Wind Wagon"; Curtiss, Glenn H.
7A10566/7A10567 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, General, Family

Item 23 [7A10568/7A10569 and 7A10570/7A10571, 1907, 1907](#)
Notes: 7A10568/7A10569 (top) Subject: Curtiss Ice Boat/Sled (1907)
7A10570/7A10571 (bottom) Subject: LTA, Airships, USA, Baldwin (Thomas), General, Hammondsport, 1907; Curtiss, Glenn Hammond
Caption: "Curtiss Descending, 6/28-07 Hammondsport, NY." Right side view of Baldwin airship in flight with Glen Curtiss at the controls, 28 June 1907. Postcard addressed to Miss Rutha Curtiss, Buffalo, NY. Postmarked 12 July 1907.

Item 24 [7A10572/7A10573 and 7A10574, undated](#)
Notes: 7A10572/7A10573 (top) Subject: Aerial Experiment Association (AEA) Aerodrome No 3 June Bug
7A10574 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn Hammond; Curtiss-Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"

Item 25 [7A10575, 1911 January](#)
Notes: 7A10575 Subject: Curtiss Model D, Ely (& USS Pennsylvania, Jan 1911)

Item 26 [7A10576/7A10677, 1907](#)
Notes: 7A10576/7A10677 Subject: Curtiss "Wind Wagon"; Curtiss, Glenn H.

Item 27 [7A10578/7A10579 and 7A10580, 1908, 1908](#)
Notes: 7A10578/7A10579 (top) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H. (Mrs)
7A10580 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, General, Family

Item 28 [7A10581/7A10582 and 7A10583/7A10584, 1908, 1908](#)
Notes: 7A10581/7A10582 (top) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H. (Mr and Mrs)
7A10583/7A10584 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn Hammond; Curtiss Motorcycles, Curtiss 1907 V-8 Motorcycle

Item 29 [7A10585/7A10586, 1908](#)
Notes: 7A10585/7A10586 Subject: Curtiss, General, Family