



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

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Glenn Curtiss Early Aviation Photography Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0682
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1904-1920)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 Cubic feet (4 folders)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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

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

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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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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:

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

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## Container Listing

- Item 1                    7A10524 and 7A10525, 1910, undated  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10525 (top) Subject: Curtiss Early Pusher Types (circa 1910)  
  
7A10524 (bottom) Subject: Photography, Ground, USA, NY, Hammondsport,  
Lake Keuka
- Item 2                    7A10526, 1908 July 4  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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.
- Item 3                    7A10527 and 7A10528, circa 1915, Summer 1914  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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, possiby in San Diego, California.  
  
7A10528 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Model H "America", Twin-Engined (H-1)  
  
Caption: circa Summer 1914
- Item 4                    7A10529 and 7A10530, approximately 1910-1914, 1910 January  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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.
- Item 5                    7A10531 and 7A10532, circa 1914, circa 1914  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10531 (top) Subject: Curtiss J Floatplane  
  
Caption: circa 1914  
  
7A10532 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss J Floatplane

Caption: circa 1914

- Item 6                    7A10533 and 7A10534, 1910 January, circa 1910  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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)
- Item 7                    7A10535 and 7A10536, undated, 1914  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10541 (top) Subject: Curtiss-Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"  
7A10542 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss-Herring No.1 "Reims Racer"
- Item 11                   7A10543 and 7A10544, undated  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

7A10555 Subject: Curtiss Ice Boat, Sail Powered

Item 18

7A10556 and 7A10557, circa 1920, circa 1910



[Image\(s\)](#)

7A10556 (top) Subject: Curtiss Model D

7A10557 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss Early Pusher Type (circa 1910)

Item 19

7A10558 and 7A10559, 1910 January, circa 1910

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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

[Image\(s\)](#)

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  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10575 Subject: Curtiss Model D, Ely (& USS Pennsylvania, Jan 1911)
- Item 26                   7A10576/7A10677, 1907  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10576/7A10677 Subject: Curtiss "Wind Wagon"; Curtiss, Glenn H.
- Item 27                   7A10578/7A10579 and 7A10580, 1908, 1908  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10578/7A10579 (top) Subject: Curtiss, Glenn H. (Mrs)  
  
7A10580 (bottom) Subject: Curtiss, General, Family
- Item 28                   7A10581/7A10582 and 7A10583/7A10584, 1908, 1908  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
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  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
7A10585/7A10586 Subject: Curtiss, General, Family