



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Floyd Smith Collection

2004

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<http://airandspace.si.edu/research/resources/archives/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Floyd Smith Collection
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0684
Date:	undated
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
Creator:	Smith, Floyd
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Paul Garber, Gift

Preferred Citation

Floyd Smith Collection, XXXX-0684, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Floyd Kenton Smith was born in Chicago, IL in 1894 and was raised there. He and his wife, Hilder, were both trapeze artists in a circus until 1912, when Smith built his own airplane and began doing exhibition flights. When he gave up his plane to pay off debts, both he and his wife turned to parachute jumping. Shortly thereafter, Smith got involved in the manufacture of parachutes, having designed and experimented with different models of chutes while he was a jumper. Eventually he created his own Floyd Smith Aerial Equipment Co., on behalf of which he engaged in several lawsuits against patent infringement on his designs. He was also engaged by the military during World War I to design a safer unattached parachute for new aircraft

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a variety of correspondence and published articles, some authored by Smith himself. One part of the correspondence is a set of letters between Arthur Lapham and Ernest Jones, on the verification of the history of the early parachute jumpers. There is also a set of letters between Floyd and Hilder Smith and Jones, and later with Lapham as well. The papers also include information on other contemporary jumpers besides Smith and his wife.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautical sports
- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Parachuting

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Correspondence