



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Kite Aerial Photography [William Eddy]

Patti Williams and Melissa A. N. Keiser

2018

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Kite Aerial Photography [William Eddy]
Date:	(bulk 1886-1897)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0752
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of photographs relating to the work of aerial kite photography pioneer William Abner Eddy (1850 - 1909).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Edward Herbert Young, Gift, 1958, XXXX.0752

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Kite Aerial Photography [William Eddy], Acc. XXXX-0752, 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](#) .

Biographical / Historical

William Abner Eddy (January 28, 1850 - December 26, 1909) developed the diamond-shaped kite that bears his name and was a pioneer in kite aerial photography. On May 30, 1895, Eddy took the first mid-air kite photograph in the Western Hemisphere, lifting a 9 x 9 cm format camera using a train of his dihedral diamond kites.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a cabinet card portrait photograph of William Eddy taken in 1886; three photographs of Eddy kites made by photographer William Snell in a studio at Bayonne, New Jersey, on July

23, 1892 (featuring children Margaret D. Eddy and Henry Wood Shelton); and three 3.5 x 3.5 inch aerial kite photographs of Washington, DC, including two of the Capitol Building, taken in September 1897 by Eddy with the assistance of Edward Herbert Young, an aviation writer and member of the Aero Scientific Club of Washington, DC. Also included in the collection is a round blue cardboard badge, with string, issued to Edward Young for the Aeronautical Trials of the Wright Military Flyer held at Fort Myer, Virginia, in 1908.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically within a single folder.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aerial photography
- Aeronautics
- Kites

Container Listing

Folder 1	Photographs and Ephemera, 1886-1908
Folder 1, Item 1	<p>NAM-A-45808: Eddy, William A., April 23, 1886 1 Cabinet photograph</p> <p>Notes: Cabinet card; formal vignetted studio bust portrait photograph of William Abner Eddy (1850-1909), April 23, 1886.</p> <p>Topic: Aeronautical engineers</p>
Folder 1, Item 2	<p>NAM-A-45808-A: Kites, Eddy (William A.), July 23, 1892 1 Albumen print</p> <p>Notes: 3 Malay Kites. Taken by W. Snell at Bayonne, N. J., Saturday July 23, 1892. Photograph showing Margaret D. Eddy. Return to W. A. Eddy. Three light wind kites. Studio photograph taken by William Snell at Bayonne, New Jersey, Saturday, July 23, 1892.</p> <p>Topic: Kites</p>
Folder 1, Item 3	<p>NAM-A-45808-B: Kites, Eddy (William A.), July 23, 1892 1 Albumen print</p> <p>Notes: 3 Malay Kites. Taken by W. Snell at Bayonne, N. J., Saturday July 23, 1892. Photograph showing Henry Wood Shelton. Return to W. A. Eddy. Showing bird shaped form and system of bracing cross stick for high winds. Studio photograph taken by William Snell at Bayonne, New Jersey, Saturday, July 23, 1892.</p> <p>Topic: Kites</p>
Folder 1, Item 4	<p>NASM-9A00247: Kites, Eddy (William A.), Storm Kite, 1892, July 23, 1892 1 Albumen print</p> <p>Notes: Taken July 23, 1892. Return to W. A. Eddy. Storm kite frame and medium sized kite covered. View of uncovered frame of William A. Eddy Storm Kite (at top) supported on a photographer's immobilizer stand above a "medium-sized" kite with covered frame. Studio photograph (probably taken by William Snell at Bayonne, New Jersey), Saturday, July 23, 1892.</p> <p>Topic: Kites</p>
Folder 1, Item 5	<p>NASM 00181712: Photography, Methods & Techniques, Aerial, Kites, Eddy (William A.) Kites (1897); Young, Edward Herbert, September 1897 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Compliments of William A. Eddy for Edward Herbert Young, who helped him take mid air kite photographs in September 1897. This is the roof from which the kites were sent out, taken from a camera sustained in mid air by Eddy Kites. Oblique aerial photograph taken somewhere</p>

on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.; Eddy and Young can be seen standing on top of the building at left, with several kites laid flat on the roof around them.

Topic: Aerial photography
Kites

Folder 1, Item 6

NASM 00181713: [Photography, Methods & Techniques, Aerial, Kites, Eddy \(William A.\) Kites \(1897\); Young, Edward Herbert, September 1897](#)
1 Photographic print

Notes: Compliments of William A. Eddy to Mr. Edward Herbert Young, who helped him to take this mid air kite photograph in Sept. 1897. Taken from a camera sustained in mid air by nine Eddy Kites in tandem. (Signed) William A. Eddy. Oblique aerial photograph of Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., from a point over the south side of the US Capitol Grounds looking roughly northwest over the south end of the United States Capitol building (east facade at right).

Topic: Aerial photography
Kites

Folder 1, Item 7

NASM 00181714: [Photography, Methods & Techniques, Aerial, Kites, Eddy \(William A.\) Kites \(1897\); Young, Edward Herbert, September 1897](#)
1 Photographic print

Notes: Compliments of William A. Eddy to Mr. Edward Herbert Young, who helped him to take this mid air photograph from a tandem line of nine Eddy Kites in September 1897. Oblique aerial photograph of Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., from a point over the south side of the US Capitol Grounds looking north; the east facade of the United States Capitol building is seen at left, with North Capitol Street extending toward the center horizon in the background.

Topic: Aerial photography
Kites

Folder 1, Item 8

NASM 00181711: [Young, Edward Herbert; Events, Wright Brothers, Fort Myer Trials, 1908, 1908](#)

Notes: Round blue cardboard badge, with string, issued for the Aeronautical Trials of the Wright Military Flyer held at Fort Myer, Virginia, 1908, to Mr. [Edward H.] Young.

Topic: Aeronautics, Military
Wright (Co) Type A Military (Signal Corps No. 1)