



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

James V. Martin vs. United States Navy Department Exhibit Book

Patti Williams

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	<i>James V. Martin vs. United States Navy Department Exhibit Book</i>
Date:	1938
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.1003
Creator:	Martin, James V. (James Vernon), 1885-1956
Extent:	0.49 Cubic feet (1 flat box.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of one 12 by 18 inch bound volume containing aircraft blueprints, and photographs, notes, typed indices to and descriptions of exhibits, and rulings from <i>James V. Martin vs. United States</i> .
Digital Content:	Image(s): James V. Martin vs. United States Navy Department Exhibit Book

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Found in Collection, Unknown, Unknown, NASM.XXXX.1003

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2019.

Preferred Citation

James V. Martin vs. United States Navy Department Exhibit Book, NASM.XXXX.1003, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

James Vernon Martin (1885-1956) was an aviator and inventor during the early days of aviation. He joined the Merchant Marine (1900) before attending the University of Virginia and Harvard (graduate degree, 1912). While at Harvard he organized the Harvard Aeronautical Society (1910), served as its first director, and, through the Society, organized the first international air meet in the United States (1910). He traveled to

England in January 1911 for flight training and received Royal Aero Club F.A.I. Certificate #55. After returning to the U.S. in June 1911, he traveled the exhibition circuit (1911-13) before rejoining the Merchant Marine as commander of USS Lake Frey (1914). During 1915 he flew flight tests for the Aeromarine Co. In 1917, he formed the Martin Aeroplane Company in Elyria, OH on the strength of nine aeronautical patents, including his automatic stabilizer (1916) and retractable landing gear (1916). In 1920 he moved his company to Dayton, OH, as Martin Enterprises and offered free use of his patents to the American aeronautical industry. He moved to Garden City (Long Island), NY in 1922, called the company the Martin Aeroplane Factory, and, two years later, sued the United States government and the Manufacturers Aeronautical Association, claiming that they conspired to monopolize the aviation industry. The suit was dismissed in 1926, but Martin continued to press his claims of collusion through the 1930s. During World War II he again returned to the sea, commanding a troop transport in the Pacific. Afterwards he tried to raise interest in a large catamaran flying boat, the Martin Oceanplane, but failed in the face of the growth in commercial trans-ocean service by conventional aircraft.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one 12 by 18 inch bound volume containing aircraft blueprints, and photographs, notes, typed indices to and descriptions of exhibits, and rulings from *James V. Martin vs. United States* .

Arrangement

No arrangement, just one item.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Lawsuits

Names:

Martin Aeroplane Factory (Martin, James Vernon)