



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## John Stringfellow 1868 Engine Sketch

2011

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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# Table of Contents

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	John Stringfellow 1868 Engine Sketch
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1868)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.1131
<b>Creator:</b>	Stringfellow, John.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.08 Cubic feet ((1 box))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Frederick J. Stringfellow, Gift, 1889

### Preferred Citation

John Stringfellow 1868 Engine Sketch, Accession XXXX-1131, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

John Stringfellow (1799-1883) was a designer and builder of steam power plants. A short time after William Henson patented his design for the Henson Aerial Steam Carriage in 1842, Stringfellow became his associate and was responsible for the engine. Between 1844 and 1847, a number of models were made, but they were not successful; Henson lost interest and moved to the United States. Stringfellow and his son Frederick J. Stringfellow later collaborated with steam engine experiments and built a number of flying machines together and individually. Perhaps the most famous of John Stringfellow's machines was his Stringfellow 1868 Steam-Powered Triplane, which was exhibited at the Crystal Palace in London, England. For this one-horsepower engine, Stringfellow was awarded a prize of 100 pounds, as it was judged the lightest engine in proportion to its power. At the time of the Exhibition, the engine featured a double piston but after the competition, Stringfellow modified the engine to have a single piston rod drive with a pulley arrangement. In 1889, the Stringfellow engine became the first object accessioned into the National Air Museum's collection and is currently on display in the Early Flight Gallery of the National Air & Space Museum, Washington, DC.

## Scope and Contents

This consists of one item, a 4.5 by 7 inch pencil drawing by Stringfellow illustrating the changed propellor drive used with his 1868 engine. This item is framed.

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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:

- Aeronautics
- Steam-engines
- Stringfellow 1868 Steam-Powered Triplane

Types of Materials:

- Sketches