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Glenn Curtiss Collection

Wright State University Library
Special Collections and Archives

Introduction

The Glenn Curtiss Collection was purchased by Special Collections and Archives and is termed the William Wait, Jr. Photo Archive formerly owned by Glenn Curtiss. The collection consists of photographs once belonging to Glenn Curtiss (1878-1930), world famous aviator and early aircraft designer. The photographs document Curtiss' early aviation involvements and include images of Curtiss and other aviators of the period, aircraft he designed and built, hydroplane experiments, and photographs of the Curtiss factory in Hammondsport, New York.

Historical Sketch

According to the descriptive materials which came with the collection, Glenn Curtiss gave these photographs to William Wait, Jr., one of the Curtiss company's chief designers, before Curtiss moved to Florida in the early 1920s. Wait worked as a designer in the airframe department and was responsible for the development of various skin radiators. In 1920 he was on the design team of the Curtiss Texas Wildcat and also developed the idea of using the wings built for the Curtiss S-3 on the Cactus Kitten. By the early 1920s, Wait headed the design team's drafting department and had much input in the experimental projects office, which was responsible for designing Curtiss racers. In early 1922, Wait was in charge of designing the racer R-6, which eventually achieved the world speed record and win the Pulitzer race. Later, as Racing Aeroplane Project Engineer, Wait also designed the R2C, R3C, and R3C-4 racers.

Scope and Content

Wait retained possession of the photos until he sold them in 1966. They were once again sold in 1991. The backs of 29 of the photos bear Wait's signature and/or notations and 51 of the backs have typed explanations. The majority of the photos are original prints and were executed by Harry M. Benenr or William Tomer, both Curtiss contract photographers. The photographs range in size from 110 mm x 165 mm to 135 mm x 170 mm, while the vast majority are approximately 125 mm x 175 mm. The total number of photographs is 299, and they date between 1910 and 1924.

The photographs are divided into the following series:

Series I: Flying Boats

Series II: San Diego and Other California Developments

Series III: Curtiss America – Construction, Testing, etc.

Series IV: Landplanes, Hydroplanes, and Miscellaneous Photos

Container Listing

Glenn Curtiss Photographs

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Flying Boats	
1	1	Special Experimental Boat built at Hammondsport. The Tadpole Flying Boat	Dec. 1913
	2	Experimental Flying Boat showing high tail and out-rigger to propeller hub	Dec. 1913
	3	Glenn Curtiss in second configuration Tadpole and Model D Hydroplane on ice, "joy riding" on Keuka Lake	Mar. 22, 1914
	4	Experimental Machine with rotating wings on the ice at Hammondsport, NY	Mar. 22, 1914
	5	Glenn Curtiss in Tadpole, second configuration on frozen Keuka Lake. Experimental machine with rotating wings	Mar. 22, 1914
	6	Flying boat on ice – experimental balancing system	Mar. 22, 1914
	7	Tadpole second configuration experimenting on the ice on Lake Keuka	Mar. 22, 1914
	8	Owl II, side view of "The Owl" center section	Dec. 24, 1913
	9	Model "E" Boat converted into experimental "scooter"	n.d.
	10	One of the early types of Model F hull	n.d.
	11	Model "F" Boat with folding spray shield over cockpit; this view shows spray shield folded down	Mar. 1, 1914
	12	One form of folding spray wing	Mar. 1, 1914
	13	Model F flying boat 4-passenger hull	Mar. 1914
	14	Group of students in front of Model F boat in Hammondsport, NY	Apr. 13, 1914
	15	Model F Flying boat at Hammondsport	Apr. 22, 1914
	16	3 passenger Model F flying boat	Apr. 22, 1914
	17	Model F flying boat hull at Hammondsport	Aug. 7, 1914
	18	Model F flying boat with students	1915
	19	Model F flying boat. G.H. Curtiss, second from right	Aug. 22, 1915
	20	Passenger in Model F flying boat	Oct. 2, 1915
	21	Model K boats at Buffalo, NY factory	Aug. 22, 1915
	22	Model F boats at Buffalo, NY factory	Aug. 22, 1915
	23	Curtiss Model F flying boat	Oct. 23, 1916
	24	Curtiss 4 passenger tractor flying boat built for Harold McCormick of Chicago	1913
	25	Construction of hull of first Model K built	Mar. 22, 1914
	26	Construction of hull of first Model K built	Mar. 22, 1914
	27	Construction of hull of first Model K flying boat	Mar. 26, 1914
	28	Construction of hull of first Model K flying boat	Apr. 15, 1914
	29	Hull of first Model K flying boat	Apr. 15, 1914
	30	Model K readying for flight	Nov. 10, 1914
	31	Curtiss-built mahogany launch	Mar. 22, 1914
	32	Curtiss-built mahogany launch	Mar. 25, 1914

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	33	Harold F. McCormick's model F tractor flying boat	1913
	34	Harold F. McCormick's model F tractor flying boat	1913
	35	Model F Flying boat: G.H. Curtiss on left	Aug. 14, 1915
	36	Model F Flying boat: Detail of rear landing skid	Aug. 14, 1915
	37	Model F Flying boat	1913
	38	Model F Flying boat	1913
	39	Model F flying boat	1913
	40	Model F flying boat	1913
	41	Model E Flying boat	1913
	42	Model K flying boat taking off	Nov. 18, 1914
	43	Model K in flight	Nov. 20, 1915
	44	Model K flying boat in flight at Buffalo, NY	Aug. 22, 1915
	45	Model K flying boat in flight at Buffalo, NY	Aug. 22, 1915
	46	3 men in Model K flying boat	Aug. 22, 1915
	47	3 men in Model K flying boat	Aug. 22, 1915
	48	Model K flying boat at Hammondsport	n.d.
	49	Model F flying boat at Hammondsport	May 1, 1915
	50	Curtiss Model K flying boat	Jan. 16, 1917
	51	Aviator Ted Hequenbergh in Curtiss Model F flying boat	Jan. 16, 1917
	52	Navy hydroplane at speed, Penn Yann Steamer	n.d.
	53	Curtiss built mahogany launch	Mar. 21, 1914
	54	Hydroplane boat	July 1915
	55	Group of men in front of boat	Aug. 14, 1915
	56	Curtiss HS-2L flying boat	c. 1917
	57	Navy hydroplane boat	1914
	58	Owl II wheel detail	Dec. 24, 1913
	59	Model D first flying boat propulsion system	1912
	60	Experimental boat as first assembled with short even length wings, Tadpole	Dec. 1913
	61	Experimental flying boat with center section surface removed to decrease the area – Tadpole	Dec. 13, 1913
	62	Curtiss US Army Signal Corp No. 15, Model E flying boat at North Island Camp	1913
	63	Model E flying boat second configuration	1912
	64	Model E flying boat experiment	n.d.
	65	Early Model E flying boat	1912-1913
	66	3 passenger Model E flying boat	n.d.
	67	Model F experimental wing over-hang panels	n.d.
	68	Model F flying boat	Feb. 2, 1914
	69	Model F flying boat	Oct. 2, 1915
	70	Model F flying boat	Oct. 3, 1915
	71	Experimental Flying Boat E (early) hull, special panels, and tail	n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		San Diego and Other California Developments	
1	72	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	73	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	74	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	75	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	76	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	77	Model E (Navy A-1) cable launch trials	1911
	78	Model E (Navy A-1) cable launch trials	1911
	79	Model D-III tractor hydro	Feb. 1911
	80	G.H. Curtiss pilot at San Diego	Feb. 1911
	81	Model D-III tractor hydro, G.H. Curtiss pilot at San Diego	Feb. 1911
	82	Adjacent to USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	83	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	84	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	85	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	86	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	87	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	88	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	89	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	90	Model D-III tractor hydro USS Pennsylvania	Feb. 17, 1911
	91	Land version of tri-plane (made from Model D & E components), G.H. Curtiss in center, Lt. Spjos Ellyson on his right	n.d.
	92	Curtiss at wheel, Ellyson on right	n.d.
	93	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	n.d.
	94	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	n.d.
	95	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego, G.H. Curtiss pilot	n.d.
	96	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego, G.H. Curtiss pilot	n.d.
	97	Hugh Robinson making short flight with 2 passengers, Model D front elevator and frame in place	1912
	98	no caption	n.d.
	99	Two passenger Model D front elevator and frame in place	1912
	100	Model E flying boat at San Diego	1912
	101	Model E flying boat at San Diego, with movie camera attached to wing	1912
	102	Curtiss Army camp, San Diego, G.H. Curtiss in center	1912
	103	Pilot trainee	n.d.
	104	Curtiss Model D-III headless machine in San Diego, G.H. Curtiss on left	n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	105	Curtiss Model D-III machines, some headless, Curtiss Camp, San Diego	n.d.
	106	Curtiss Army Camp, San Diego	191?
	107	Curtiss Army Camp, San Diego	n.d.
	108	Line-up of Army Model D-III headless at Curtiss Camp, San Diego	191?
	109	Pilot trainee at above	n.d.
	110	Tom Gunn, early Chinese pilot at Curtiss San Diego camp	1911
	111	Pilot trainee at San Diego aviation camp	1911
	112	no caption	n.d.
	113	no caption	n.d.
	114	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15 Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	191?
	115	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15 Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	191?
	116	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15 Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	191?
	117	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15 Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	191?
	118	Beachey-Curtiss tractor	late 1912, early 1913
	119	Beachey-Curtiss tractor	late 1912, early 1913
	120	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	121	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	122	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	123	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	124	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	125	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21, after modification	1913
	126	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21, after modification	1913
	127	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21, after modification	1913
	128	Curtiss Navy AH-4 hydro	Jul. 15, 1914
	129	Model E triad	1911
	130	Model E Navy (AH-1) in flight	1911
	131	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	132	Beachey-Curtiss tractor	Late 1912, early 1913
	133	Beachey-Curtiss tractor	Late 1912, early 1913
	134	G.H. Curtiss with Curtiss-Navy A-H (Model E) at San Diego	March 1911
	135	G.H. Curtiss with Curtiss-Navy A-H (Model E) at San Diego	March 1911

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	136	Pilot training at Curtiss San Diego Camp	1913
	137	Pilot training at Curtiss San Diego Camp	1913
	138	Model D headless and pilot	n.d.
	139	Pilot trainee	n.d.
	140	Model D-III tractor hydro	Feb. 1911
	141	Curtiss pilot at San Diego, Model D-III tractor hydro	Feb. 1911
	142	Curtiss Army Camp	1913
	143	Curtiss Army Camp	1913
	144	Land version of tri-plane in flight	n.d.
	145	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	Feb. 25, 1911
	146	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	147	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	148	Curtiss Model D-III at San Diego Camp	191?
	149	Pilot trainee	n.d.
	150	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	151	Early hydroplane experiment in San Diego with Curtiss at wheel, Model E	1911
	152	Triad without front wheel	Feb. 25, 1911
	153	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	n.d.
	154	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	n.d.
	155	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	n.d.
	156	Tri-plane hydro at San Diego	n.d.
	157	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15, Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	n.d.
	158	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15, Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	n.d.
	159	Aviation camp, San Diego	n.d.
	160	Charles Willard at Curtiss San Diego Camp	n.d.
	161	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15 Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	191?
	162	Curtiss U.S. Army Signal Corp No. 15 Model E flying boat at North Island, San Diego	191?
	163	G.H. Curtiss with Curtiss-Navy A-H (Model E) at San Diego	March 1911
	164	G.H. Curtiss with Curtiss-Navy A-H (Model E) at San Diego	March 1911
		Curtiss America – Construction, Testing, etc.	
2	1	Hull of America	June 27, 1914
	2	Detail of America on roller	Jul. 8, 1914
	3	Unfinished America on view at Hammondsport	1914
	4	Engine testing rig on trailer for America	1914

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	5	Group of men, including Hallet and Porte in front of engine testing rig for America	n.d.
	6	2 engined America, Hallet on left	Jul. 10, 1914
	7	Testing 2 engine America	Jul. 10, 1914
	8	2 engine America with large sponson, Hallet standing	Jul. 10, 1914
	9	Compass and airspeed indicator for America	Jul. 14, 1914
	10	Tachometer for America	n.d.
	11	America with bow sponson	Jul. 15, 1914
	12	America with bow sponson	Jul. 15, 1914
	13	3 engined America	Jul. 22, 1914
	14	3 engined America	Jul. 22, 1914
	15	3 engined America, Hallet by 2 nd engine	Jul. 22, 1914
	16	3 engined America, Hallet by 2 nd engine	Jul. 22, 1914
	17	Wing for second America	Oct. 1, 1914
	18	Wing for second America	Oct. 1, 1914
	19	America (2 nd)	Oct. 21, 1914
	20	America (2 nd)	Oct. 21, 1914
	21	Model K flying boat and America in background	Nov. 5, 1914
	22	Model K flying boat and America in background	Nov. 5, 1914
	23	Hull of one of the small Americas	Dec. 1, 1914
	24	Hull of one of the small Americas	Dec. 1, 1914
	25	Hull of one of the small Americas	Dec. 1, 1914
	26	Hull of one of the small Americas	Dec. 1, 1914
	27	Hulls of two small Americas and Model K boat	Dec. 1, 1914
	28	Hulls of two small Americas and Model K boat	Dec. 1, 1914
	29	Crating of small America	Jan. 2, 1915
	30	Crating of small America	Jan. 2, 1915
	31	Crating of small America	Jan. 2, 1915
	32	Crating of small America	Jan. 2, 1915
	33	America on rollers	Jul. 8, 1914
	34	Olmstead propellers on America	Jul. 8, 1914
	35	America with bow sponson	Jul. 15, 1914
	36	Electric tachometer for America	1914
	37	3 engined America	Jul. 22, 1914
	38	3 engined America	Jul. 22, 1914
	39	3 engined America	Jul. 23, 1914
	40	Structural support	Sept. 4, 1914
	41	Detail of structural support	Sept. 4, 1914
	42	Tachometer and electric motor for America	Sept. 29, 1914
	43	Tachometer and electric motor for America	Sept. 29, 1914
	44	Wing for second America	Oct. 1, 1914
	45	Wing for second America	Oct. 1, 1914
	46	Wing for second America	Oct. 1, 1914
	47	Crate for one of the Americas	Oct. 20, 1914
	48	Crate for one of the Americas	Oct. 20, 1914

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	49	Crate for one of the Americas	Oct. 20, 1914
	50	One of the small Americas	Dec. 1, 1914
	51	Hulls of two small Americas	Dec. 1, 1914
	52	Crating of small America	Jan. 2, 1915
	53	Curtiss machine shop machinery	1915
	54	Airplane fuel tank for America	n.d.
	55	Crated machines for express shipment from Hammondspport	Mar. 7, 1914
	56	Small America being outfitted with VX Engine	n.d.
	57	Moving parts for America	1915
	58	Construction of hull of America	Mar. 27, 1914
		Landplanes, Hydroplanes, and Miscellaneous Photos	
	59	Model D wing stress test	ca. 1912
	60	Model D wing stress test	ca. 1912
	61	Curtiss Model H tractor scout Signal Corp No. 22	1913
	62	Curtiss Model R prototype hydro attachment	1914
	63	Model R on frozen Keuka Lake	Jan. 2, 1915
	64	Later Model R variant at Keuka Lake	Apr. 7, 1915
	65	Model R variants at Keuka Lake	Apr. 7, 1915
	66	Model R variants at Keuka Lake	Apr. 8, 1915
	67	VX engine in Model R variant	Apr. 9, 1915
	68	VX engine in Model R variant	Apr. 9, 1915
	69	Inside of Curtiss factory, Model R variants under construction	Aug. 21, 1915
	70	Inside of Curtiss factory, Model R variants under construction	Aug. 21, 1915
	71	Inside of Curtiss factory, Model R variants under construction	Aug. 21-22, 1915
	72	Inside of Curtiss factory, Model R variants under construction	Aug. 21-22, 1915
	73	Curtiss-Navy AH-4 hydro	Jul. 8, 1914
	74	Curtiss-Navy AH-4 hydro	Jul. 8, 1914
	75	Model D exhibition machine	Aug. 20, 1914
	76	Model E training hydro	n.d.
	77	Experimental hydroplane	ca. 1911
	78	Model D-III military type with floats	ca. 1911
	79	Experimental hydroplane	Mar. 12, 1914
	80	Experimental hydroplane	Mar. 12, 1914
	81	Model D hydro with freak stabilizer tested by William S. Lucky	n.d.
	82	Model D hydro on ice	Mar. 7, 1914
	83	Model D hydro	Jul. 20, 1914
	84	Model E hydro, dual control	Sep. 11, 1915
	85	Model E hydro, dual control	1915
	86	Experimental hydroplane, G.H. Curtiss on left	Apr. 12, 1914

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	87	Experimental hydroplane	Apr. 22, 1914
	88	Harry Genung with 6 cylinder crankshaft at Curtiss factory	n.d.
	89	6 cylinder Curtiss engine installed in automobile	n.d.
	90	Curtiss V-8 OXX Model O motor for 1912 aeronautical show	1912
	91	Curtiss V-8 OXX Model O engine for N.Y. aeronautical show	1912
	92	Curtiss V-8 OXX Model O engine for N.Y. aeronautical show	1912
	93	Curtiss 8 cylinder Model VX engine	Aug. 12, 1915
	94	Curtiss 8 cylinder Model VX engine	Aug. 12, 1915
	95	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	96	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21	1913
	97	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21 in flight	1913
	98	Curtiss Model G tractor scout Signal Corp No. 21 in flight	1913
	99	Eugene Ely in Curtiss Gordon Bennett monoplane at Belmont Park, NY	1910
	100	Thomas Baldwin in Baldwin Biplane	1910
	101	Model D engaged in bomb throwing test	1910
	102	Curtiss Model R prototype hydro attachment	1914
	103	Curtiss Model R prototype hydro attachment	1914
	104	Model R-4	1917
	105	Model J hydro configuration	1916
	106	Model R-4	1917
	107	Model J hydro configuration	1916
	108	Model E (Navy A-1) cable launch trials	1911
	109	Model E (Navy A-1) cable launch trials	1911
	110	AH-4	n.d.
	111	Lincoln Beachey on his Model D looper	1913
	112	Baldwin Signal Corp No. 1 dirigible	1908
	113	Official test Curtiss and Baldwin flying government air ship	1908
	114	Model D semi-headless	1912
	115	Experimental hydroplane	Mar. 12, 1914
	116	Experimental hydroplane	Mar. 12, 1914
	117	Model E hydro – 1 st dual control	n.d.
	118	Douglas Round the World Fliers	1924
	119	Throw-over control	1911
	120	Curtiss Aero Club of America license	1911
	121	Hammondsport factory	May 23, 1915
	122	Express shipment on sled at Hammondsport	Mar. 7, 1914
	123	Wood samples for testing	Apr. 20, 1915
	124	Wood samples for testing	May 17, 1915
	125	6 cylinder Curtiss Model S engine	n.d.
	126	8 cylinder Curtiss Model VX engine on test stand	May 5, 1915

<u>Box</u>	<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	127	Curtiss 8 cylinder Model VX engine on test stand	Aug. 22, 1915
	128	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	129	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	130	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	131	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	132	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	133	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	134	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915
	135	Photo of drawings	ca. 1915