

Collection Number: MS-388

Title: James R. Shock Airship Collection

Dates: 1908-2005 (Bulk: 1994-1999)

Creator: James R. Shock

Summary/Abstract:

The collection covers a broad history of airships, from the late nineteenth-century endeavors of American and German aviation pioneers to corporate advertising blimps of the 1990s. James Shock has written five books pertaining to airships, four of which are included in the collection. There is also some material pertaining to hot air balloon research and world record attempts.

Quantity/Physical Description: 2 linear feet

Language(s): English, limited German and French

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number), MS-388, James R. Shock Airship Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition:

James R. Shock's research material was donated by Mr. Shock on September 21, 2007.

Related Material:

MS 99-1, Harold G. Dick Airship Collection

MS-204, Charles Lewis Aviation Collection

Lockheed Martin Collection, University of Akron Archival Services, University Libraries, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.

L. Guy Mecklem Collection, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Goltz-Murray Building, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Processing Information:

All of the articles in the collection were organized into six volumes (26-32) where each individual article was assigned a specific number. Unfortunately, the organization did not fit any conventional pattern. The articles in this collection are now arranged on the series level by topic and on the folder level in alphabetical order by title.

Processed by: Veronica Buchanan, Winter 2009.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in four series:

- Series I Personal Correspondence and Publications
- Series II Military Airships
- Series III Commercial Airships and Hot Air Balloons
- Series IV Naval Aviation Museum *Foundation* Magazine

Biographical/Historical Note

According to his personal biographical note, James R. Shock “has been studying, researching, and collecting information on airships virtually all his life.” Born in Sandusky, Ohio, Shock witnessed dozens of airships flying overhead all throughout his childhood. Shock served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following the war, Shock became a manager of engineering facilities with General Motors, retiring in 1989 after thirty-nine years with the company. He currently resides in Maineville, Ohio, and, in his retirement, has written five books and a plethora of articles on airships, airship facilities, and the U.S. Army Barrage Balloon Program, some of which are included in the collection. Shock personally donated six volumes of his research collection, along with seventeen volumes of *Foundation* Magazine and copies of his books and monographs.

Scope and Content

The James R. Shock Airship Collection documents the progression of airships from the early experimental prototypes of the late nineteenth century to the surveillance blimps used by the United States government after September 11, 2001. Much of the collection centers around the United States Navy LTA program in World War II and the ships built by Goodyear for the Navy in the late 1920s, including the USS *Akron* and the USS *Macon*. Since Shock has written a book devoted entirely to Goodyear airships, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and both their wartime and commercial efforts constitute a large portion of the commercial series on airships.

Series I, Personal Correspondence and Publications, contains Mr. Shock’s personal correspondence and primarily consists of airship, hot air balloon, and blimp-themed Christmas and birthday cards. There is a letter addressed to Shock that includes many pictures of early airships (circa 1900-1920), most of which are unlabelled. The series also includes books and monographs that Shock has either written or contributed to, including books on both U.S. Army and U.S. Navy Airships. The book, *Housing the Airship*, was placed in box 5 due to its size.

Series II, Military Airships, centers on articles pertaining to the U.S. Navy in the World War II era including the utilization of airships in combat situations and a history of the LTA program. However, there are some articles describing the Navy’s earlier airship endeavors including the USS *Shenandoah*. There are also some articles on the use of blimps for surveillance and homeland security following September 11th. Also included is an original

pamphlet from the Naval Airship Training and Experimental Command about the use of airships in World War II.

Series III, Commercial Airships and Hot Air Balloons, is fairly diverse and covers a broad range of time periods, companies, and subjects. On the commercial front, Shock has included original correspondence and articles from and about the *Hindenburg* as well as many articles on Graf von Zeppelin, the *Graf Zeppelin*, and Graf von Zeppelin's grandson's revival of the commercial zeppelin enterprise through the Zeppelin NT company, created in the mid-1990s. Shock also included articles on attempts by Steve Fossett, Richard Branson, Bertrand Piccard, and Brian Jones's at circumnavigating the globe in hot air balloons. The early airship folders cover the endeavors of various countries and include many original newspaper articles and ads on early Navy airships as well as a few secondary articles on "The City of Glendale" airship. Some of the articles in the Early Airships, Graf von Zeppelin, Miscellaneous Airship articles, and Zeppelin NT folders are in German and French.

Series IV, Naval Aviation Museum *Foundation* Magazine, contains volumes one through seventeen of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation's *Foundation* Magazine from 1980 to 1996. Some issues and volume four are missing and Shock cut out the articles pertaining to airships, most of which are not included elsewhere in the collection.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Fossett, James Stephen, 1944-2007.

Shock, James R.

Treuren, Richard G. Van

Zeppelin, Ferdinand Adolf August Heinrich, Graf von, 1838-1917.

Organizations/Corporate Names

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, OH

Lockheed Martin, Akron, OH

Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Pensacola, FL

Zeppelin NT, Friedrichshafen, Germany

Subjects (General)

Airships—Accidents

Airships--Germany--History--20th century

Airships--United States--History--20th century

Graf Zeppelin (Airship)

Hindenburg (Airship)

USS Akron (Airship)

USS Macon (Airship)

Material Types

Newspaper Articles

Newspaper Clippings

Collection Inventory

Series I		James R. Shock Personal Correspondence and Publications	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Personal Correspondence	1995-1997, 2001-2003
	2	James R. Shock, <i>American Airship Bases and Facilities</i> , Edgewater: Atlantis Productions	2002
	3	James R. Shock and David R. Smith, <i>Goodyear Airships</i> , Bloomington: Airship International Press	2002
	4	James R. Shock, <i>The U.S. Army Barrage Balloon Program</i> , Bennington: World War II Historical Society Monograph	1996
	5	James R. Shock, <i>U.S. Army Airships 1908-1942</i> , Edgewater: Atlantis Productions	2002
	6	James R. Shock, <i>U.S. Navy Airships 1915-1962: A History By Individual Airship</i> , Edgewater: Atlantis Productions	1992
	7	Architectural Association, <i>Housing the Airship</i> , Bedford Square: Architectural Association (See Box 5, file 1)	1989
	8	Article Volume Descriptions	2005
Series II		Military Airships	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	9	United States Army	[1997],2001-2005
	10	British Royal Navy	1927,1989,1996-2005
	11	United States Homeland Security/Defense & Domestic and International Spy Airships	1996,2002,2004
	12	Iraq War	2003
	13	United States Navy A-I	1945-2003
	14	United States Navy J-R	1917-2002
	15	United States Navy S-Z	1942-2004
	16	USS <i>Akron</i>	1931-2000
	17	USS <i>Macon</i>	1933,1990-2002
	18	World War II and Miscellaneous Non-Airship Related Military articles	1994-1996,2000,2005
2	1	Hugh Allen, <i>The Story of the Airship</i> , Akron: Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	1932
	2	J. Gordan Vaeth, <i>They Sailed the Skies: U.S. Navy Balloons and the Airship Program</i> Annapolis: Naval Institute Press	2005
	3	Anonymous, <i>They were Dependable</i> . Airship Operation World War II 7 Dec. 1941 to September 1945, Lakehurst: Naval Airship Training and Experimental Command, U.S. Naval Air Station (First Edition)	1946
Series III		Commercial Airships and Hot Air Balloons	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	4	Airship Related Associations and Publications	1995-1996,2000-2003
	5	Airship and Hot Air Balloon Related Book Reviews	1995,2000,2005
	6	Airship Book and Memorabilia Catalogs and Flyers	1994,Undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	7	Airship Museums and Airship Related Exhibits	1995-1999,2002
	8	Akron Airship Hangar	1994,1996
	9	American Blimp Organization	1995-1999,2005
	10	Commercial Research on or Pertaining to Airships and Hot Air Balloons	1995-2004
	11	Corporate Advertising Blimp Related Articles, Advertisements, and Pictures	1986,1995-2005
	12	Early Airships (1900-1932) A-M	1909-2002
	13	Early Airships (1900-1932) N-Z	1912,1918,1994-1999
	14	Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.	1978,1994 -2002
	15	Graf von Zeppelin and the <i>Graf Zeppelin</i>	1932,1994 -[2003]
	16	<i>Hindenburg</i>	1936-1937,1997-2005
	17	Lockheed Martin's Akron Plant and Airships	1995,1999,2003-2004
	18	Miscellaneous Airship Articles	1980,1993-2005
	19	Miscellaneous Hot Air Balloon Articles	1997-2000
	20	NASA	1994,1996,1999,2003
	21	Personal Correspondence and Publications from Richard G. Van Treuren	1995-2003
	22	Prototype/Experimental Airships or Hot Air Balloons	1994-1998,2005
	23	Richard Branson and the Virgin Corporation's Airship Endeavors	1995,1997
	24	Skyship Cruise Switzerland	2002,2004
	25	World Record Hot Air Balloon Attempts (Fossett, Martin, and Piccard)	1995-1999
	26	Zeppelin NT Airships	1994-2005
Series IV		Naval Aviation Museum's <i>Foundation Magazine</i>	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Volume 1	1980
	2	Volume 2	1981
	3	Volume 3	1982
	4	Volume 5	1984
	5	Volume 6	1985
	6	Volume 7	1986
	7	Volume 8	1987
	8	Volume 9	1988, 1989
	9	Volume 10	1989
	10	Volume 11	1990
	11	Volume 12	1991
	12	Volume 13	1992
	13	Volume 14	1993
	14	Volume 15	1994
4	1	Volume 16	1995
	2	Volume 17	1996
	3	Gold Book of Naval Aviation	1985
5	1	Architectural Association, <i>Housing the Airship</i> , Bedford Square: Architectural Association	1989