

Lawson, Alfred W., Collection

Alfred W. Lawson Collection

1913, 1948, n.d.



Title Statement

Lawson, Alfred W., Collection Alfred W. Lawson Collection, 1913, 1948, n.d. Ms.2023.053

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2023.053

Unit Date

1913, 1948, n.d.

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains materials relating to the aviation career of Alfred W. Lawson, a professional baseball player and aviator.

Creator

Lawson, Alfred W. (Alfred William), 1869-1954

Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 1 box, 1 oversize folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Alfred W. Lawson Collection was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in October 2015.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Alfred W. Lawson Collection was completed in June 2023.

The processing, arrangement, and description of this collection was created as part of the project, "Piercing the Veil: Creating Access to the Archives of American Aerospace Exploration at Virginia Tech," funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) from 2022 to 2024.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Alfred W. Lawson Collection, 1913, 1948, n.d., Ms2023-053, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Alfred William Lawson was born on March 24, 1869, in London, England, to Robert Henry Lawson and Mary Anderson Lawson. Before starting his aviation career, Lawson played professional baseball in the United States, playing for the Boston Beaneaters and Pittsburgh Alleghenys before being sent down to the minor leagues. Lawson's playing career lasted until 1885, but he later managed in the minor leagues from 1905 to 1907.

Lawson began his aviation career in 1908 when he started the magazine *Fly*, later renamed to *Aircraft*. In 1917, he founded the Lawson Aircraft Corporation. Lawson's aviation career ended in 1928 after having troubles securing funding for his ideas. After leaving the field of aviation, Lawson turned to the fields of economics and philosophy.

Lawson died on November 29, 1954.

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials relating to Alfred W. Lawson, a professional baseball player and aviator. Documents relate to the Lawson C-2 Airliner. This collection also contains a copy of the *Benefactor Newspaper* from 1948 and a copy of *Aircraft* magazine from 1913. An undated copy from "Who's Who In American Aeronautics" provides some biographical information about Lawson. There is also an oversize copy of sheet music for the song "The Airline March".

Separated Materials

The following items were transferred to the Rare Book Collection:

Lawson, Alfred. *Aircraft History* Detroit, Michigan: Humanity Benefactor Foundation, 1947.

Lawson, Alfred. *Historical Documents Aircraft History* Detroit, Michigan: Humanity Benefactor Foundation, 1982.

Lawson, Alfred. *Fly: The National Aeronautic Magazine Vol. 1* Seattle, Washington: Superior Publishing Company, 1971.

Unknown. *Lawson: Aircraft Industry Builder* Detroit, Michigan: Humanity Benefactor Foundation, n. d.

Related Archival Materials

The Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Library, Archives, and Museum Collections maintains the Alfred W. Lawson Books and Ephemera, M2003-104; M2005-041; M2011-085; M2012-058; M2014-011.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, Archives Department maintains the George Hardie Papers, UWM Manuscript Collection 65, which contain materials related to Alfred Lawson and the Lawson Airline Company.

Keywords

Aeronautics

Archives of American Aerospace Exploration (AAAE)

Science and Technology

Lawson, Alfred W. (Alfred William), 1869-1954

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged by material type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Benefactor Newspaper

Unit Date 1948

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Who's Who In American Aeronautics"

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

"Aircraft" Magazine

Unit Date 1913-11

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Lawson C-2 Airliner Documents

Unit Date 1948

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4-5 (folder)

"The Airline March"

Unit Date n. d.

oversize 1 (folder)