
The Descriptive Finding Guide for the Ryan Aeronautical Special Collection SDASM

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San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

4/1/2016

2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park

San Diego 92101

URL: <http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/>

Note

Finding Guide in work

Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

Title: Ryan Aeronautical Special Collection

Identifier/Call Number: SDASM

Physical Description: 100 Cubic Feet This collection is being processed. 100 cubic feet is a low estimate of the total.

Date (bulk): bulk

Abstract: The Ryan Aircraft company is one of the most influential in history.

Physical Description: The series are still being arranged, but a rough estimate of what the final breakdown will look like is below: SERIES I: Documents. Over 50 boxes of documents relating to the history of Ryan. A partial listing is below. SERIES II: Ryan Photo Albums collected by William Wagner. Close to 100 total. SERIES III: 200,000 Ryan Negatives detailing the entire history of the company. SERIES IV: Ryan films. Several thousand films detailing the history of the company. SERIES V: Northrop Grumman donation. This collection is extremely large, encompassing well over 100 cubic feet and is slowly being processed. As a result this finding guide is incomplete and should be considered a work in progress.

Biographical / Historical

Ryan Aeronautical was established by T. Claude Ryan, born in Kansas in 1898 and raised in Southern California from a young age. He developed a fascination with aviation early on, and enrolled in the American College of Aviation in Los Angeles at age nineteen. Ryan was then trained as an Army cadet and served briefly as a pilot for the U.S. Forest Patrol, but soon left to establish Ryan Flying School in San Diego, which also served to give visitors a birds-eye view of San Diego. With a partner, B. F. Mahoney, he also established Ryan Airlines, which he eventually sold to Mahoney. It was Ryan Airlines that built Lindbergh's famous Spirit of St. Louis. Ryan Airlines also was the first to offer regular service to and from San Diego. Later, Ryan established a flight school and Ryan Aeronautical Company. The company played an important role in American aviation and in San Diego's history overall. With aircraft such as the Navion, VTOL jets, military trainers, X-13, and XFR-1, Ryan Aeronautical Company solidified its reputation as a leader in aircraft manufacturing for military, private and commercial uses. They also are known for the creation of the Firebee drone. Ryan aeronautical was the most significant developer of UAVs in the world from 1950s through the 1990s. Teledyne acquired Ryan Aeronautical Company in 1968, becoming Teledyne-Ryan Company. In 1996, Teledyne-Ryan merged with Allegheny-Ludlum Corporation and then with Northrop Grumman Corporation in 1999.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research, but is still being processed.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a wide range of documents, including (but not limited to): financial records, labor information, newsletters, corporate historical information, executive biographies, company publications, technical reports, training manuals, catalogs, service orders, photographs and correspondence. The collection contains 200,000 negatives documenting the entire history of the company, as well as several thousand films. This collection is extremely large, encompassing well over 100 cubic feet and is slowly being processed. As a result this finding guide is incomplete and should be considered a work in progress.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Ryan Aeronautical X-13 Vertijet

Ryan Aeronautical Model 124/BQM-34A Firebee

Ryan B-5 Brougham

Ryan L-17 Navion

Ryan PT-22 Recruit

Spirit of St. Louis

Drone Aircraft

Ryan Aeronautical Company

Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus)
