

Charles W. Sirch Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval
Historical Foundation Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Michael McElderry



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Collection Summary

Title: Charles W. Sirch Papers

Span Dates: 1878-1935

ID No.: MSS82662

Creator: Sirch, Charles W.

Extent: 100 items; 1 container plus 1 oversize; 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Aeronautical engineer and airship designer. Chiefly correspondence with Washington Irving Chambers relating to Sirch's design for a military dirigible.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Chambers, Washington Irving, 1856-1934.

Sirch, Charles W.

Subjects

Airships.

Naval aviation--United States.

Occupations

Aircraft designers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Charles W. Sirch, aeronautical engineer and airship designer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1994. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History:

The papers of Charles W. Sirch were arranged and described in 1995 and the finding aid revised in 2009.

Related Material:

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the Naval Historical Foundation collection of the Washington Irving Chambers Papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles W. Sirch is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Charles W. Sirch are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles W. Sirch Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles W. Sirch span the years 1878-1935 and contain correspondence, blueprints and drawings, and printed matter documenting Sirch's contributions to airship design and the role of lighter-than-air technology in the evolution of naval aviation. Sirch was an early airship developer whose correspondence regarding his design proposal for a military dirigible with Washington Irving Chambers constitutes the most significant part of this small collection. Sirch and Chambers, a pioneer in naval aviation whose personal papers are also included among the holdings of the Naval Historical Foundation collections in the Library of Congress, correspond about the technical aspects, financial restrictions, and patent considerations surrounding the construction of the dirigible as an experimental airship for research purposes.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Blueprints, 1907-1909, 1918, 1935, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1913-1914
BOX 1	Diagram, undated
BOX 1	Patents, 1878-1910, 1917
BOX 1	Press notice, undated
BOX 1	Printed matter, 1901, 1909-1911, 1916
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Blueprints, 1907-1909, 1918, undated (Container 1)