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# Guide to the Bernard L. Whelan Collection

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# **Guide to the Bernard L. Whelan Collection**

## **UASC.034**

**Finding aid prepared by Kristina Klepacz**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University Archives and Special Collections
<b>Title</b>	Bernard L. Whelan Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1910-1982
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## Biographical Note

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Bernard Whelan became involved with aviation as a young man while employed as a sales person with the National Cash Register Company. As a resident of Dayton, Whelan was familiar with the Wright Brothers and their success as pioneers in powered flight. He took flight training from the Simms Station Flying School in the Spring of 1913 with Oscar Brindley, Jr. as his instructor. Whelan obtained pilot license number 247 on July 16, 1913, on a Wright Model "B".

Considered one of the "Early Birds" of aviation, Whelan is part of a very select group of individuals who "piloted a glider, gas balloon, or airplane, prior to December 17, 1916". In addition to achieving his pilot's license in 1913, Whelan worked as an exhibition flier, an instructor in the Army Air Corps in 1917 and a test pilot with the former Dayton-Wright Company. Whelan formed a partnership with Howard Rhinehart, another early aviator, resulting in one of the earliest charter flight services named the Rhinehart-Whelan Company. They operated their business until Whelan was hired as a test pilot for the Pratt & Whitney division of United Aircraft in 1928.

Whelan made his way through the ranks at United Aircraft as a manager of the airport division, general manager of the Sikorsky aircraft division and retiring as Vice-President of United Aircraft in 1959. He is considered a leader in the testing and development of both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 19, 1890, Whelan moved with his family to Dayton where he later attended St. Mary's College, now the University of Dayton. Bernard Whelan died at age 92 in Delray Beach, FL in March 1983

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## Scope and Contents

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Personal papers, photographs and books of early aviator Bernard L. Whelan. Also includes a typed manuscript of Whelan's diary titled "My Life is in Your Hands".

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

University Archives and Special Collections, 7/8/2015

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## **Search Terms**

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### **Subject(s)**

- Airplane industry
- Airplanes
- Flight testing
- Flight training
- Wright, Orville, 1871-1948

## Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	
1	1	Biographical, 1980-1986
1	2	Photographs, Airplanes, undated
1	3	Photographs, Airplanes and Landing Sites, 1913-1948
1	4	Photographs, Airplanes and People, 1913-1947
1	5	Early Birds of Aviation, undated
1	6	Chirp publication, 1938-1941
1	7	Articles on aviation, undated
1	8	Photograph of Oscar Brindley with brief biography, undated
1	9	Story of Dayton Wright Company by Roland Hutchinson, undated
1	10	One Man's Diary by Bernard Whelan, undated
2	1	Oversize Photograph in Frame of Bernard Whelan with Orville Wright and Oscar Brindley, undated
2	2	Oversize photograph of Howard Rhinehart, undated
2	3	Oversize photograph of Bernard L. Whelan, 1913

## Books

### Object

- 1 *Thunderstorms*. Washington, DC: Training Division
- 2 *Simple Lessons on the Weather: For School Use and General Reading*. London: Methuen, 1921
- 3 *Wrinkles in Practical Navigation*. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1919
- 4 *Flight without Formula: Simple Discussions on the Mechanics of the Aeroplane*, 1914
- 5 *Elements of Aviation: An Explanation of Flight Principles*, 1928
- 6 *Blind Flight in Theory and Practice*, 1932
- 7 *A Manual of Flight Test Procedure*, 1927