# Global Discovery of Special Collections and Archives via the SNAC Cooperative

<Social Networks and Archival Context>

Jerry Simmons
U.S. National Archives Agency Liaison to SNAC

Libraries in the Sky / IFLA April 12, 2018, Oslo, Norway

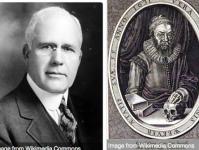
 Help → snac

## Social Networks and Archival Context

All Types Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1st: 1928-1930)



Gerstenberg, Alice Cockran, William Bourke, 1854-1923





Halsted, George Bruce, 1853-1922



OHara, Catherine



Jones, Michael D. (Michael Daniel). 1822-1898





ernet Archive Book Images

Akelev, Delia J. (Delia

Julia), 1875?-1970



## SNAC Cooperative objectives:

- Built an international membership
- Include archives, libraries and museums
- Develop reliable descriptions of entities (creators)
- Link to historical records that are primary evidence for understanding an entity's life and work
- Serve a global audience of researchers, teachers, historians, curators, and others

## Leadership:

University of Virginia Library

- Administration and technology
- 4 full-time staff

## National Archives and Records Administration

- 2 full-time agency liaisons
- SNACSchool for new member/editors

## **SNAC Working Groups:**

- Editorial Policy and Standards
- Technology
- Training / SNACSchool
- Communication



SNAC serves as a platform for discovery and sharing of traditional archival authority records ... descriptions of records creators: persons, corporate bodies and families. The authority records are part of a path to understanding the relationship between archival, special library and museum collections and the entities which created the collections.

## 🚹 Ellsworth, Lincoln, 1880-1951

Birth 1880-05-12 Death 1951-05-26 Nationality: US

Language: English, Norwegian

## Biographical notes:



Lincoln Ellsworth (b. May 12, 1880, Chicago, Illinois-d. May 26, 1951, New York City), American explorer. engineer, and scientist. Ellsworth led the first trans-Arctic (1926) and trans-Antarctic (1935) air crossings. He first attempted to fly over the North Pole in 1925 with Roald Amundsen, Their planes were forced down onto the ice short of their goal, and the explorers spent 30 days trapped on the surface. In 1926, Ellsworth accompanied Amundsen on his second effort to fly over the Pole in the

airship Norge, designed and piloted by the Italian engineer Umberto Nobile, in a flight from Svalbard to Alaska. On May 12, they made the first undisputed sigthing of the Geographic North Pole.

Lincoln Ellsworth Papers, 1921-1928
Yale University. Department of Manuscripts and Archives
Lincoln Ellsworth Papers. 1896 - 1974.
Correspondence
Holmboe, Jorgen, 1902-. Papers, 1929-1972
1934-1945.
University of California, San Diego, UC San Diego Library; UCSD Library
Ellsworth, Lincoln, 1880-1951. Letter, 1939 Dec.
21, Los Angeles, to Prof. W.H. Hobbs, Ann Arbor.
University of Michigan

Ellsworth, Lincoln, 1880-1951. Lincoln Ellsworth papers, 1921-1928 (inclusive). Yale University Library

## **Guide to the Lincoln Ellsworth Papers**

Yale University Library

Manuscripts and Archives

## MS 1311



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1981 Revised: June 1996

New Haven, Connecticut

Resolving archival diaspora ...

Staff from National Archives and Records Administration, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution, work collaboratively in SNAC to link to special collections with common creators and content. Together, these institutions donated millions of EAD (Encoded Archival Description) finding aids and/or standardized authority records to SNAC during its research and development phase.







The following demonstration highlights SNAC's power to organize and locate creator descriptions, then link to descriptions of those creators' historical record in all special collection formats. Additionally, it shows SNAC's power to link "creators to creators" in context provided by librarians and archivists.

\*Some entities described in SNAC are not people, nor are they people organized within a corporate body. Based on parameters and rules for describing corporate bodies, some corporate entities are actually inanimate objects such as expeditions, aircraft and sea-going vessels.



Dates: Birth 1899-10-23 Death 1973-10-17

Nationality: Norwegian Language: Norwegian, English

## Biographical notes:



Norway-d. October 17, 1973, Mount Kisco, New York), was an aviator, explorer, author, and Air Force officer. He participated in the Amundsen relief expedition in 1925, served as mechanic and stand-by crew member for the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Noble flight over the North Pole in the dirigible "Norge" in 1926, participated in the Byrd (1928-30) and Ellsworth (1934) Antarctic expeditions, and distinguished himself as a member of the OSS during World War II. He became a U.S. citizen in 1931 and received an

Bernt Balchen (b. October 23, 1899, Tveit,

Bernt Balchen was born in Norway in 1899, became a pilot in 1921 and

honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska in 1954.

practices are now universally used in cold weather search and rescue

operations. After the war, Balchen worked with Norwegian Airlines, then

returned to active duty with the U.S. Air Force where, in 1951, he was in charge of the construction of the air base in Thule, Greenland. Bernt

Balchen retired from the Air Force in 1956 and worked as a consultant

buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery and his

with engineering firms until his death in 1973. Colonel Balchen was

grave is located next to that of Admiral Byrd.

then served with the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Service. In 1929 he became famous as the first man to pilot a plane over the South Pole accompanied by Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the navigator and organizer of the Antarctic expedition. He was made a United States citizen in 1931, Administration appointed a captain in the Army Air Corps in 1941, and placed in charge Bernt Balchen papers, 1925-1998 of constructing an air base in Greenland to ferry bombers to England during World War II. An expert in cold weather survival skills and rescue Rasmuson Library techniques, Balchen trained military personnel in those procedures to rescue downed airmen on the icecap of Greenland. Many of those

Links to collections

27

☑ Archival Collections

creator of referenced in other Artist file, Bernt Balchen Brooklyn Museum. Libraries and Archives Bernt Balchen flying goggles, [1933]. National Air and Space Museum Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973. Balchen collection, 1927-2000. US Air Force Academy, McDermott Library Balchen, Bernt, [Letter] 1960 February 1, Chappaqua, N.Y. [to] Roy Jansen, Harrisburg, Pa. / Bernt Balchen. Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Pennsylvania State Library Colonel Bernt Balchen Papers, ca. 1899-ca. United States. National Archives and Records University of Alaska Fairbanks, Elmer E. Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973. Colonel Bernt Balchen collection, 1903-2002, San Diego Aerospace Museum Library & Archives Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957, Richard E. Byrd personal papers, 1882-1974. Ohio State University Libraries Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957. Expeditionary records, 1925-1961. Ohio State University Libraries

Bernt Balchen Personal Papers

Archives

San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and

Resolving "archival diaspora" for Norway-born aviator and polar explorer Bernt Balchen ...

His record reveals special collections created by Balchen, by title in the **creator of** tab of the collections list. Here are links to titles for his personal papers at the U.S. National Archives, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and its Archives, and the Library of Congress Manuscript and Prints and Photographs Division. All of these materials are physically located near one another in Washington, D.C.

Outside of the Washington, D.C., area:

Brooklyn Museum

Pennsylvania State Library

Univ of Alaska Fairbanks

San Diego Aerospace Museum, Library and

U.S. Air Force Academy Library, Colorado

**Archives** 

Goggles, Flying, Civilian, Bernt Balchen



SNAC facilitates location of museum artifacts as well as traditional archival and special library collections.



Papers of Colonel and Mrs. Balchen. Scrap books [microform]. 1975

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library

Bernt Balchen flying helmet, [1933] National Air and Space Museum

Bernt Balchen papers, 1913-2005 Library of Congress. Manuscript Division.

Helmet, Flying, Civilian, Bernt Balchen



Links to collections

creator of referenced in other

Artist file. Bernt Balchen
Brooklyn Museum. Librarie and Archives
Bernt Balchen flying goggles, [1933].
National Air and Space Museum
Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973. Balchen collection, 1927-2000.
US Air Force Academy, McDermott Library



**Dates:** 

Nationality: Norwegian

Birth 1899-10-23 Death 1973-10-17 Language: Norwegian, English

## Biographical notes:



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## Links to collections



creator of

referenced in

other

Colonel Bernt Balchen biography file, 1942-1996.

National Air and Space Museum (U.S.). Archives Division.

Oral History Interview with Sydney M. Wood ..., 2000.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center

Aviator Autograph Books (Mabel Perkins) 1920s-1940s.

National Air and Space Museum

Archives Division.

Richard E. Byrd personal papers, 1882-1974 The Ohio State University Library

New York Times Company records. Arthur Hays Sulzberger papers, 1823-1999 The New York Public Library. Manuscripts and 1899-1973

egian gian, English

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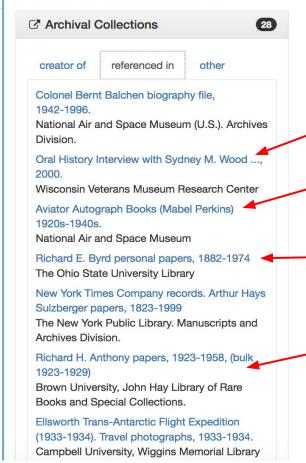
enland. Many of those

eather search and rescue

ith Norwegian Airlines, then

ce where, in 1951, he was in

Links to collections



This section of Balchen's record highlights links to library and archives collections where he is "referenced in" the materials, or treated as a subject. For example ...

Oral histories compiled by **Sydney M. Wood**, held at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center

Aviator Autograph books compiled by **Mabel Perkins** (member of the **Aero Club of Minneapolis**) in the collections of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Admiral **Richard E. Byrd**'s personal papers at the Ohio State University Library's Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center

And the **Richard H. Anthony** papers held at the John Hay Library of Rare Books and Special Collections at Brown University.

These references also provide links to the descriptions of the collection, by title and repository name.

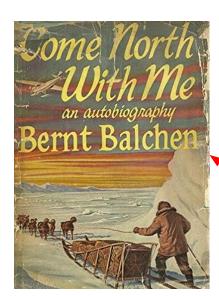
## SNAC also links to bibliographic sources ...





Oslo: Norske gymnasiaster velges ut til Amerikatur

27. nov. 1947 · Filmavisen 1947



## Links to collections



## 🚹 Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973

Dates: Birth 1899-10-23 Death 1973-10-17 Nationality: Norwegian Language: Norwegian, English

## Biographical notes:



Bernt Balchen (b. October 23, 1899, Tveit, Norway-d. October 17, 1973, Mount Kisco, New York), was an aviator, explorer, author, and Air Force officer. He participated in the Amundsen relief expedition in 1925, served as mechanic and stand-by crew member for the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Noble flight over the North Pole in the dirigible "Norge" in 1926, participated in the Byrd (1928-30) and Ellsworth (1934) Antarctic expeditions, and distinguished himself as a member of the OSS during World War II. He became a U.S. citizen in 1931 and received an

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## Links to collections



## Related names in SNAC



Target Wilkins, George Hubert, Sir, 1888-1958
http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w60p15p4

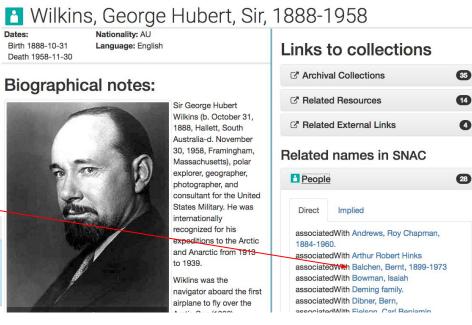
Type associatedWith x

Both aviators, George Wilkins and Bernt Balchen collaborated during

and Brent Balchen as the lead pilot.

Lincoln Ellsworth's attempt the be the first to fly across the entire width of Antarctica in December 1933, Wilkins was the expedition manager

## Linking persons to persons ...



## ■ Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973

Dates: Birth 1899-10-23 Death 1973-10-17 Nationality: Norwegian Language: Norwegian, English

## Biographical notes:



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## Links to collections



Oslo: Norske gymnasiaster velges ut til Amerikatur, 27. nov. 1947

referencedIn

Amelia Earhart with Bernt Balchen, undated

Balchen, Wilkins, og ...?, Jan. 1, 1933.

referencedIn

Skyways: the Journal of the Airplane 1920-1940, no. 95, July 11: article: The Mystery of the Josephine Ford, by Jeff Maynard.

## Linking entities ...

## Person to person in the context of archival collections ...

Wilkins, George Hubert, Sir, 1888-1958

Dates: Birth 1888-10-31 Death 1958-11-30 Nationality: AU Language: English

## Biographical notes:



Sir George Hubert
Wilkins (b. October 31,
1888, Hallett, South
Australia-d. November
30, 1958, Framingham,
Massachusetts), polar
explorer, geographer,
photographer, and
consultant for the United
States Military. He was
internationally
recognized for his
expeditions to the Arctic
and Anarctic from 1913
to 1939.

Wiklins was the navigator aboard the first airplane to fly over the Arctic Sea (1928); navigator aboard the first

airplane to fly over the Antarctica (1933); and led the Nautilus submarine expedition to the Arctic (1931). From 1942-1958. Wilkins was a

## Links to collections







Birth 1899-10-23 Death 1973-10-17

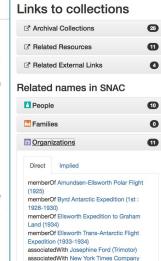
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associatedWith Norske luftfartselskap.

associatedWith Polar Star (Airplane)



Birth 1888-11-25

Gender:

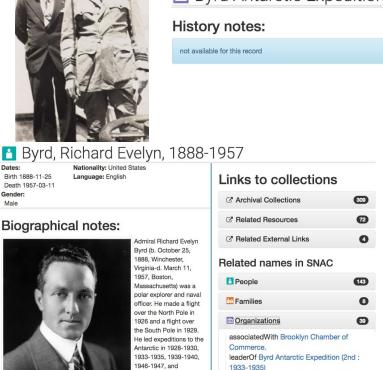
Male

Death 1957-03-11

Biographical notes:

## Linking entities ... Person to Corporate:

Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1st: 1928-1930)



leaderOf Byrd Arctic Expedition (1926)

associatedWith Concord (Ship: CL-10)

International Peace.

associatedWith Carnegie Endowment for

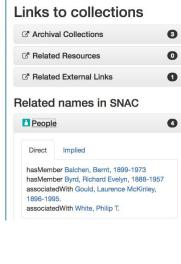
1955-1956. In 1939 he

became commander of

expedition to Antarctica.

the United States

Antarctic Service





## 🚹 Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973

Birth 1899-10-23 Death 1973-10-17 Nationality: Norwegian Language: Norwegian, English

## Biographical notes:

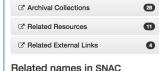


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## Links to collections



## neiated flames in SNA



Direct Implied

memberOf Amundsen-Ellsworth Polar Flight (1925) memberOf Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1st:

memberOf Ellsworth Expedition to Graham

Land (1934)
memberOf Ellsworth Trans-Antarctic Flight

Expedition (1933-1934) associatedWith Josephine Ford (Trimotor)

associatedWith New York Times Company

associatedWith Norske luftfartselskap.

associatedWith Polar Star (Airplane) associatedWith United States, Army

associatedWith United States. Army. Air Corps. associatedWith United States. Army Air Forces. associatedWith Wyatt Earp (Ship)

## Linking entities ... Person to Corporate:

m Wyatt Earp (Ship) Alternative names

## History notes:



purchased by the
American explorer and
aviator, Lincoln
Ellsworth, for his 1933
Antarctic expedition,
refitted and sheathed
with oak and armour
plate, and renamed
Wyatt Earp after the
marshal of Dodge City
and Tombstone, Arizona.

The Wyatt Earp

Wyatt Earp was used on four of Ellsworth's Antarctic expeditions between 1933 and 1939, primarily as a base ship for his aircraft.

## Polar Star (Airplane)



Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. In May 1929, Elisworth, Amundsen, and Italian dirigible pilot Umberto Nobile made the first transpolar flight in history, from Spitzbergen, Norway, to Alaska, in the airship Norge. It was Elisworth's use of the airplane for exploration, rather than his skills as a pilot, that earned him his place in aviation history.

Ellsworth first took the Polar Star to the Antarctic in 1934, Sir Hubert Wilkins, the famous Australian polar explorer, went along as advisor, and the Polar Star's pilot was Bernt Balchen. The expedition reached the Bay of Whales by ship on January 6,1934, and Ellsworth intended to make a round-trip flight with Balchen between the Bay of Whales and the Weddell Saa. However, the 15-foot-thick ice on which the Polar Star was

## Links to collections

<ul> <li>✓ Archival Collections</li> <li>✓ Related Resources</li> <li>✓ Related External Links</li> <li>Related names in SNAC</li> <li>✓ People</li> </ul>		
	☑ Archival Collections	3
Related names in SNAC	☑ Related Resources	0
	☑ Related External Links	0
People 2	Related names in SNAC	
	People	2

## People Families Organizations Direct Implied associated With Elisworth Expection to Graham Land (1934-1934)

associatedWith Northrop Sorporation. Aircraft

associatedWith Wyatt Earp (Ship)

## Links to collections \*\*The Collections\*\* \*\*The Co



associatedWith Ellsworth Expedition to Graham Land (1934–1934) associatedWith Ellsworth Trans-Antarctic Flight Expedition (1933–1934) associatedWith Polar Stan Airplane)

## Linking in context in seemingly endless "degrees of separation" ...



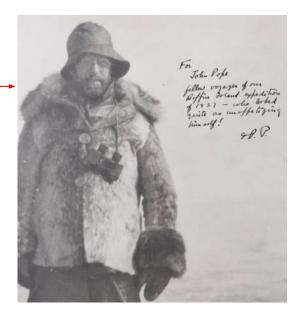
Bernt Balchen, 1920s. Balchen papers, Library of Congress.



Amelia Earhart and Balchen, 1932. Balchen papers, Library of Congress.

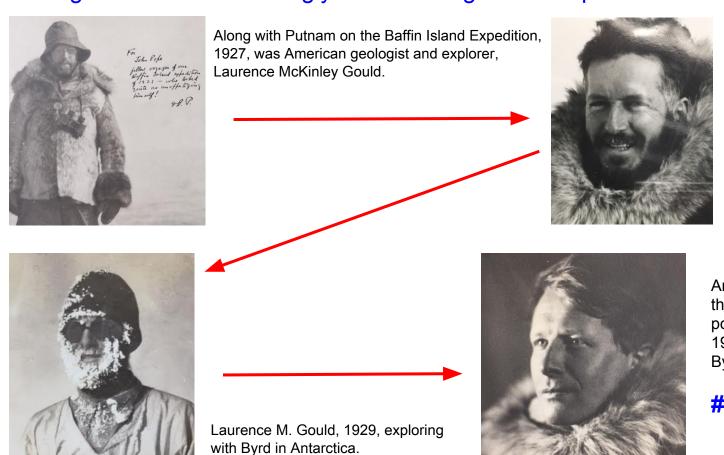


Earhart with her husband, George Palmer Putnam, 1931. Wikipedia



George Palmer Putnam during the Baffin Island Expedition, 1927. From the John A. Pope Papers (U.S. National Archives)

## Linking in context in seemingly endless "degrees of separation" ...



And back to Bernt Balchen; this time in his parka portrait taken, ca. 1928-1930, during the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition.

**#parkapic** 

Imagine the linking possibilities ... just from this single photograph from the Balchen papers



Banquet honoring aviators, 1931

Charles A. Lindbergh Amelia Earhart Bernt Balchen

## More images from Balchen's collections found in various archives, libraries and museums ...





Ellsworth and Balchen inspect the skis for the Polar Star, October 1932

Balchen, Teterboro Airport, NJ, 1927



Ellsworth, 1933





Whale breaches the ice



Balchen, 1933, loading the Polar Star onto the Wyatt Earp.



## Acknowledgements and Credits

Many thanks to the following persons who assisted me in research ...

Ellen Simmons, Smithsonian American Art Museum
Leah Wong, National Portrait Gallery (Smithsonian)
Holly Reid, National Archives Still Pictures Branch
Rick Peuser, National Archives, Reference/Research Services
Staff of the National Air and Space Museum Archives (Smithsonian)
Erik Satrum, Head Registrar, National Air and Space Museum
Dina Herbert, National Archives, External Agency Liaison to SNAC
Lesley Parilla, Smithsonian Libraries
Mary Lacy, Library of Congress Manuscripts Division
Jeff Flannery, Head, Reference & Reader Services, Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division
Lara Szypszak, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Special thanks to my Norwegian friend Lise Skogmo Austin for translations!

\*Unless otherwise noted, all images used in this presentation come from the U.S. National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and the National Library of Norway.