Global Discovery of Special Collections and Archives via the SNAC Cooperative

<Social Networks and Archival Context>

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U.S. National Archives Agency Liaison to SNAC

Libraries in the Sky / IFLA
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Birth 1880-05-12</td>
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<td>Death 1951-05-26</td>
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<td>Nationality: US</td>
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<td>Language: English, Norwegian</td>
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**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 sighting of the Geographic North Pole.

**Guide to the Lincoln Ellsworth Papers**

**Lincoln Ellsworth Papers, 1921-1928**

- Yale University. Department of Manuscripts and Archives
- Correspondence
- Holmboe, Jorgen, 1902-. Papers, 1929-1972
  - 1934-1945.
- University of California, San Diego, UC San Diego Library
- University of Michigan
  - Yale University Library

**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.*
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
U.S. Air Force Academy Library, Colorado
Pennsylvania State Library
Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks
San Diego Aerospace Museum, Library and Archives
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.

**Links to collections**

- **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
    US Air Force Academy, McDermott Library
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 honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska in 1954.

Bernt Balchen was born in Norway in 1899, became a pilot in 1921 and 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, appointed a captain in the Army Air Corps in 1941, and placed in charge of the supply group of the 334th Bombardment Group.
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 ...
Both aviators, George Wilkins and Bernt Balchen, collaborated during Lincoln Ellsworth’s attempt to be the first to fly across the entire width of Antarctica in December 1933. Wilkins was the expedition manager and Bernt Balchen as the lead pilot.
Linking entities …

Person to person in the context of archival collections …
Balchen, Bernt, 1899-1973

Dates: Birth 1899-10-23, Death 1973-10-11
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 1920, served as a mechanic and stand-by crew member for the Amundsen-Elsworth-Nobile flight over the North Pole in the dirigible "Norge" in 1926, participated in the Byrd (1928-30) and Elsworth (1934) Antarctic expeditions, and distinguished himself as a member of the OSS during World War II. He became a U.S. citizen in 1951 and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska in 1954.

Bernt Balchen was born in Norway in 1899, became a pilot in 1921 and 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, appointed a captain in the Army Air Corps in 1941, and placed in charge 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 techniques, Balchen trained military personnel in those procedures to rescue downed airmen on the icecap of Greenland. Many of those 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...
Linking entities … Person to Corporate:

**Wyatt Earp (Ship)**

**History notes:**

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

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)**

**History notes:**

In May 1929, Ellsworth, 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 Ellsworth’s use of the airplane for exploration, rather than 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 on January 6, 1934, and Ellsworth intended to make a round-trip flight with Balchen between the Bay of Whales and the Weddell Sea. However, the 15-feet-thick ice on which the Polar Star was

**Links to collections**

- Archival Collections
- Related Resources
- Related External Links

**Related names in SNAC**

- People
- Families
- Organizations

**Direct**

- **Implied**

- memberOf Amundsen-Ellsworth Polar Flight (1928-1930)
- memberOf Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1st: 1928-1934)
- 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 Norsk Luftfartstilsyn
- associatedWith Polar Star (Airplane)
- associatedWith United States, Army
- associatedWith United States, Army, Air Corps
- associatedWith Wyatt Earp (Ship)

**Links to collections**

- Archival Collections
- Related Resources
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**Related names in SNAC**

- People
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**Direct**

- associatedWith Ellsworth Expedition to Graham Land (1934-1934)
- associatedWith Ellsworth Trans-Antarctic Flight Expedition (1933-1934)
- associatedWith Polar Star (Airplane)
Linking in context in seemingly endless “degrees of separation” ...


George Palmer Putnam during the Baffin Island Expedition, 1927. From the John A. Pope Papers (U.S. National Archives)
Along with Putnam on the Baffin Island Expedition, 1927, was American geologist and explorer, Laurence McKinley Gould.

Laurence M. Gould, 1929, exploring with Byrd in Antarctica.

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, 1933

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

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

Penguins

Whale breaches the ice
Acknowledgements and Credits

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Lara Szypszak, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

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*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.