Lost Wright Brothers' 'Flying Machine' Patent Resurfaces

By Mindy Weisberger, Senior Writer

Wright patent submitted 3/23/1903

First Flight Dec. 17, 1903

Patent granted 5/22/1906

In 1978 NA lent the patent with pictures to the Smithsonian Air and Space.

Archivists noted the patent was returned 1980, but it was unable to be found later, so it was added to the missing historical documents and files list.

National archives have over 269 million pages in storage. Not hard to misplace things.

Patent filed in the wrong spot and an Archival recovery program tracked it down after a targeted search.

Patent will be exhibited starting May 20, 2016 to commemorate the 110th anniversary of receiving the patent.

http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2016/nr16-52.html

https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2016/april/06/missing-wright-brothers-patent-file-found-will-be-displayed

FILE FOUND

DOCUMENT TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES MUSEUM

http://www.archives.gov/research/recover/

Help the National Archives Recover Lost and Stolen Documents

http://www.smithsonian mag.com/smart-news/after-36-years-archivists-finally-found-wright-brothers-airplane-patent-180958649/

After 36 Years, Archivists Finally Found the Wright Brothers' Airplane Patent https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2016/summer/archivist.html

Tracking Down Missing Records

http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/10/31/where-have-the-missing-historical-treasures-from-the-national-archives-gone/

Thousands of Historical Treasures Missing from National Archives

http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/national-archives-treasures-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&videoId=67877c3a-8bdf-11e2-9400-029118418759&cbsId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&videoId=67877c3a-8bdf-11e2-9400-029118418759&cbsId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&videoId=67877c3a-8bdf-11e2-9400-029118418759&cbsId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&videoId=67877c3a-8bdf-11e2-9400-029118418759&cbsId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&videoId=67877c3a-8bdf-11e2-9400-029118418759&cbsId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/?lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134049&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=5013404040&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=5013404040&site=cbsnews-targeted-by-thieves/.lumiereId=50134040

60 minutes National Treasure archives targeted by thieves.

http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1900055,00.html

A Brief History of the National Archives

http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1572378,00.html

On the Trail of Pilfered history.

http://www.archives.gov/research/notices/new-security-procedures.html

The National Archives Increases Security in the Washington, DC Area

https://www.archives.gov/about/history/building.html

http://www.archives.gov/oig/pdf/2008/audit-report-08-01.pdf

http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc/_files/uw-archives/records-mgt.pdf

The purpose of an archives is to preserve artefacts and documents deemed important (definition of archives).

So what do we do whenever things are stolen from the archives or are misplaced. They're unable to preserve, and they're in a sense failing at their job (word this different)

Is the NARA overwhelmed? Should they be turning down or deaccessioning items that are in their possession.

How do you manage so many materials?

American Heritage Center example from class. Too many things to protect and preserve.

https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2012/nr12-133.html

Barry Landau 7 yrs for thefts

60 mins special on national archives thefts

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJ9D0kfRYW0

Archivist ethics

http://www.archives.gov/preservation/professionals/archivist-code.html

List of missing artefacts

http://www.archives.gov/research/recover/missing-documents.html

 $https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/lost-plans-for-wright-brothers-flying-machine-found-after-36-years/2016/04/02/e526fd56-f6b2-11e5-9804-537defcc3cf6_story.html$

 $https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/lost-plans-for-wright-brothers-flying-machine-found-after-36-years/2016/04/02/e526fd56-f6b2-11e5-9804-537defcc3cf6_story.html?tid=sm_tw$