



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

"Amelia Earhart: A Biography" [Rich] Collection

Elizabeth C Borja

2023

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	"Amelia Earhart: A Biography" [Rich] Collection
Date:	1890-1990
Identifier:	NASM.1991.0003
Creator:	Rich, Doris L.
Extent:	3.89 Cubic feet (8 legal document boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of material collected and organized by Doris L. Rich during research in preparation for her 1989 book, <i>Amelia Earhart: A Biography</i> . Materials include reproductions of newspapers, books, periodicals, correspondence, and typed/handwritten notes by Rich.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Doris L. Rich, Gift, 1990, NASM.1991.0003

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Elizabeth C. Borja, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Amelia Earhart: A Biography [Rich] Collection, Acc. NASM.1991.0003, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) in 1928 was the first woman to fly (as a passenger) across the Atlantic, and in 1932 the first woman (and second person, after Charles Lindbergh) to fly solo and nonstop across that ocean. She flew many record flights, published several books, and accomplished much for women in aviation before attempting, on June 1, 1937, an around-the-world flight from Miami, Florida, in a twin-engine Lockheed Electra. She and navigator Frederick J. Noonan were flying from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island when they disappeared over the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937. An exhaustive sea and air search, ordered by President Franklin Roosevelt, was unsuccessful in locating Earhart and Noonan.

Doris L. Rich (1920-2009) was a freelance journalist and photographer in Hong Kong from 1949 to 1967. She taught English in Bangladesh and Ghana before moving to Washington, DC in the late 1970s. Her first book, *Amelia Earhart: A Biography*, was published by the Smithsonian Press in 1989. In the book, Rich downplays Earhart's disappearance and instead focuses on Earhart's many contributions to the aviation field and her championing of women's rights. The book was proclaimed one of the Notable Books of the Year by the *New York Times* in 1990 and served as the basis for *Amelia Earhart: The Final Flight*, a made-for-television movie in 1994.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of material collected and organized by Doris L. Rich during research in preparation for her 1989 book, *Amelia Earhart: A Biography*. Materials include reproductions of newspapers, books, periodicals, correspondence, and typed/handwritten notes by Rich.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into 5 series, based upon the original order provided by Doris L. Rich.

- Series 1: Biographical Files
- Series 2: Amelia Earhart Chronology
- Series 3: Historical Chronology
- Series 4: Book Correspondence
- Series 5: Subject Files and Bibliography

Information added by processing archivist is in brackets. Most notably, Doris L. Rich maintained a very formal tone in her correspondence, frequently addressing women by their married name only, ex. Mollison, Mrs. James. The processing archivist has added additional name information in brackets when possible, ex. [Amy Johnson].

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Air pilots -- United States -- Biography
Periodicals
Women air pilots
Women in aeronautics

Types of Materials:

Correspondence
Photographs
Publications

Names:

Earhart, Amelia, 1897-1937
Mantz, Paul
Rich, Doris L.

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Files

Scope and Contents: This series contains biographical research material on people other than Amelia Earhart, who may be associated with her. If the material is specific to a person, it is arranged alphabetically by the person's last name. If the information is general or includes several people, it is filed by the journal or book title. Materials include correspondence, reproductions of newspapers, books, periodicals, and typed/handwritten notes by Doris Rich. The series also contains an undated telegram from Paul Mantz to Troy Vencill--it is unclear why this document is in this collection as there are no other original documents.

Box 1, Folder 1	A, 1922-1960 Notes:	Acosta, Bert; Alsterbend, Noah; Andrews, Roy Chapman; and selections from the Aircraft Yearbook [AYB] including "Chronology of Aeronautical Events" from 1921-1936, "Epochal Flights of 1927," "Wings for Women 1930," "History Making Flights of 1932," "Notable Flights of 1934," "The Navy Air Forces" (1938), "American Aviation in 1923 as Contrasted with Development Abroad," "Accidents - and the Lack of Air Law."
Box 1, Folder 2	B, 1928-1985 Notes:	Bailey, Lady Mary; Balchen Bernt; Barnes, Pancho; Mrs. James E. Bassett, Jr. [Wilma]; Bassett, Preston R.; Beard, Melba; Belinn, Clarence M.; Bingham, Hiram; Black, Richard; Bostwick [Floyd]; Boston and Maine Airways (1933); Bradley, Patrick; Bresnik, Albert; [Brittain, Sir Harry]; Brown, [Margery]; Bruno, Harry; Budwig, G.G. [George Gilbert]; Byrd, Adm. Richard E.
Box 1, Folder 3	C, 1928-1988 Notes:	Challis, Lucy "Tootie"; Chamberlain, Clarence D.; Chapman, Sally (Putnam); Chapman, Sam; Chihaya M. [Masataka]; [Christen], Harvey C.; Cobham, Alan; Cochran, Jacqueline; Collins, Paul; Collopy, J.A.; Columbia University; Coste, Dieudonne; Cotterman, Louise Van Dyne; Crosson, Marvel
Box 1, Folder 4	D, 1930-1985 Notes:	Davenport, Harkness; Burke, Davis; DeCarie, Margot; Dolan, Katherine; Doolittle, James; Dragonette, Jessica; Dwiggens, Don [correspondence dealing with Paul Mantz]
Box 1, Folder 5	E, 1929-1985 Notes:	[Earhart, Amelia--Capsule Biography]; Earhart, Amy O.; Earhart, Helen; Elder, Ruth; Elliott, Purdue [Edward C. Elliott, President of Purdue University]; Encinas, Emma C.; Equal Rights Magazine; Ernst, Mrs. Paul B. [Elizabeth "Betty" Braun Ernst]
Box 1, Folder 6	F, 1928-1983	

	Notes:	Fahy, Claire May; Fans and Critics; Fashion; Fitzmaurice, James C.; Fleet, Dorothy; Ford, Col. Vincent; Frazer, Ella May
Box 1, Folder 7	G, 1928-1982 Notes:	Garber, Paul; Gentry, Viola; Gillies, Betty Huyler; Gipson, Annette (Way); Gordon, Louis Edward "Slim"; Gorski, Edward "Eddie"; Gurr, Joseph; Gruening, Ernest
Box 1, Folder 8	GPP [George Palmer Putnam], 1930-1984 Notes:	Material dealing with, or by, George Palmer Putnam
Box 1, Folder 9	H - I, 1928-1986 Notes:	Haizlip, Jim (James A.); Haizlip, Mary May; Hamill, Pete; Hawks, Pete; Headle, Marshall; Heath, Lady Mary; Hepburn, Katherine; Hill, Edwin C.; House in Rye; Howard, Ben O.; Howland Island; Ingalls, Laura
Box 1, Folder 10	J, 1935-1986 Notes:	Johnson, Clarence "Kelly"; Johnson, Irving; Jenkinson, Sir Anthony
Box 1, Folder 11	K, 1929-1984 Notes:	Kalep, Elvy; Kimball, Dr. James H.; Kingsford-Smith, Sir Charles; Kinner, W.B. [also Cora Kinner]; Klingensmith, Florence E.; Kunz, Mrs. George F. [Opal Logan Kunz]
Box 1, Folder 12	L, 1928-1986 Notes:	Lasky, Jesse; Charles LeBoutillier; Leesh, Eleanor; Leh, Dorothea B.; Levine, Charles A.; LIACC [Long Island Aviation Country Club]; Lindbergh, Charles A.; Lindbergh, Anne Morrow; Lockheed; Lyman, Lauren Dwight (Deke)
Box 1, Folder 13	M, 1929-1986 Notes:	MacFarland [Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher]; Maddux, John Luther "Jack" and Maddux Airlines; Manning, Capt. Harry; Markham, Beryl; Marsalis, Frances Harrell; McCracken, William P.; Mcguire, Grace; [Miller, Jessie Maude "Chubbie" ("Keith-Miller")]; Miller, William T.; Mollison [James "Jim" Mollison and Amy Johnson]; Montijo, John G. "Monty"; Morrissey, Muriel [Earhart]; Musick, Capt. [Edwin Charles "Ed"]
Box 1, Folder 14	Mantz [Paul], 1935-1985 Notes:	About Paul Mantz or comments about Amelia Earhart made by Mantz
Box 1, Folder 15	Paul Mantz Telegram [reproduction], circa 1935	
Box 201 (Shared)	Paul Mantz Telegram [original] and 99s patch [Golden Anniversary of the Los Angeles Chapter], circa 1935; 1982	
Box 2, Folder 1	N, 1929-1986	

	Notes:	National Air Races; Newspapers Used; Nichols, Ruth [Rowland]; Ninety-Nines [99s]; Nisewaner [Edna Whiting]; Noonan, Frederick J. "Fred"; Noyes, Blanche
Box 2, Folder 2	O, 1928-1986 Notes:	Oakes, Claudia; O'Day, Caroline; Odlum, Floyd; O'Donnell, Gladys (Mrs. J. Lloyd); Omlie, Phoebe Fairgrave
Box 2, Folder 3	P - Q, 1934-1987 Notes:	Pacific Automotive and Air Corporation; Paris, Neva; Pelegreno, Ann Holtgren; Pineau, Capt. Roger; Post, Wiley; Purdue [University, taped speech]; Putnam, David Binney
Box 2, Folder 4	R, 1934-[1986] Notes:	[Radcliffe College archival collections] (yellow sheets with notes from correspondence between GPP [George Palmer Putnam], AOE [Amy Otis Earhart], etc.); Railey, Capt. Hilton H.; Rasche, Thea; Reid, Helen Rogers; Richey, Helen; Roosevelt, Eleanor; Royer, Lloyd
Box 2, Folder 5	S, 1921-1981 Notes:	Saint-Exupery, Antoine de; Samuelson, Major Nancy B.; Schweinitz, Louise de; Sibour, Vicomte Jacques and Violette de; Sims, Vivian [Maata]; Smith, Elinor; Smith, Henry Ladd (napkins [chapters] from Airways: The History of Commercial Aviation in the U.S.); Solomon, Sam; Southern, Neta Snook; Sperry, Elmer A. Jr.; Stabler, Marian; Stamps [Philatelic Research]; Stewart, Ruth W.; Studer, Clara Trenckman; Stultz, Wilmer "Bill"
Box 2, Folder 6	T, 1931-1984 Notes:	Taylor, [Edward Lee] "Swanee"; Thaden, Louise McPhetridge; Tier, Nancy Hopkins; Trout, [Evelyn "Bobbie"]; Turner, Roscoe
Box 2, Folder 7	U - V, 1928-1986 Notes:	Ulm, Charles T.P.; Vidal, Eugene ["Gene"]; Vidal, Gore; von Mach, Mary Elizabeth; Voyager [Rutan]
Box 2, Folder 8	W, 1929-1985 Notes:	Walker, Vera Dawn; Washburn, Bradford; Waterman, Waldo; Weber, Helen; Wells, Fay Gillis; Western Air Crash; Whyte, Edna Gardner; Wilkins, Sir Hubert; Williams, Clarence S.
Box 2, Folder 9	Z, 1932-1963 Notes:	Zonta [Club]

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Series 2: Amelia Earhart Chronology

Scope and Contents: This series contains an chronological account of Amelia Earhart's actions through the years. Materials include reproductions of newspapers, books, periodicals, and typed/handwritten notes by Doris Rich.

Box 2, Folder 10	1897-1917, 1932-1963
Box 2, Folder 11	1918-1927, 1974-1984
Box 2, Folder 12	1928 1-5 [January - May], 1928-1984
Box 2, Folder 13	1928 6 [June], 1928-1984
Box 3, Folder 1	1928 7 [July], 1928-1984
Box 3, Folder 2	1928 8-12 [August - December], 1928-1984
Box 3, Folder 3	1928 8-12 [August - December], 1928-1984
Box 3, Folder 4	1929 1-6 [January - June], 1929-1984
Box 3, Folder 5	1929 7-8 [July - August], 1929-1984
Box 3, Folder 6	1929 9-12 [September - December], 1929-1984
Box 3, Folder 7	1930 1-6 [January - June], 1930-1984
Box 3, Folder 8	1930 7 [July], 1929-1984
Box 3, Folder 9	1930 8-12 [August - December], 1930-1984
Box 3, Folder 10	1931 1-6 [January - June], 1929-1984
Box 3, Folder 11	1931 7-12 [July - December], 1931-1984
Box 3, Folder 12	1932 1-4 [January - April], 1931-1984
Box 3, Folder 12	1932 5 [May], 1931-1984
Box 4, Folder 1	1932 6 [June], 1932-1984
Box 4, Folder 2	1932 7-12 [July - December], 1932-1984
Box 4, Folder 3	1933 1-6 [January - June], 1933-1984
Box 4, Folder 4	1933 7-12 [July - December], 1933-1984

Box 4, Folder 5	1934 1-6 [January - June], 1934-1984
Box 4, Folder 6	1934 7-12 [July - December], 1934-1984
Box 4, Folder 7	1935 1 [January], 1935-1984
Box 4, Folder 8	1935 2-6 [February - June], 1935-1984
Box 4, Folder 9	1935 7-12 [July - December], 1935-1984
Box 4, Folder 10	1936 1-6 [January - June], 1936-1984
Box 4, Folder 11	1936 7-12 [July - December], 1936-1984
Box 5, Folder 1	1937 1-2 [January - February], 1936-1984
Box 5, Folder 2	1937 3 [March], 1937-1984
Box 5, Folder 3	1937 4-6 [April - June], 1937-1987
Box 5, Folder 4	1937 7 [July], 1937-1984

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Series 3: Historical Chronology

Scope and Contents: This series contains research materials listing important dates and events of general historical interest, not just Amelia Earhart's direct involvement. Materials include reproductions of newspapers, books, periodicals, and typed/handwritten notes by Doris Rich.

Box 5, Folder 5	1897-1927, 1890-1984
Box 5, Folder 6	1928, 1928-1984
Box 5, Folder 7	1929, 1929-1984
Box 5, Folder 8	1930, 1930-1984
Box 6, Folder 1	1931, 1931-1984
Box 6, Folder 2	1932, 1932-1984
Box 6, Folder 3	1933, 1933-1984
Box 6, Folder 4	1934, 1934-1984
Box 6, Folder 5	1935, 1935-1984
Box 6, Folder 6	1936, 1936-1984
Box 6, Folder 7	1937, 1937-1984

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Series 4: Book Correspondence

Scope and Contents: This series contains Doris Rich's research correspondence for her book. There is considerable overlap with Series 1: Biographical Files, but this correspondence mostly consists of introductions and discussions about the book project rather than in-depth biographical information about historical individuals. Materials are arranged alphabetically by correspondent or by organization.

Box 6, Folder 8	[Correspondence A-B], 1984-1990 Notes: [AERC Beacon (Amelia Earhart Research Consortium)]; Allen, Richard Sanders; Ames, Virginia; Anderson, Kathy; Averbuch, Bernard; Azizian, Carol A.; Baehr, Robert; Barnaby, Capt. Ralph; Bassett, Mrs. James E. [Wilma]; Beard, Mrs. William [Melba]; Beechnut, Nabisco Brands, Inc.; Bissell, Mrs. Frank [Eleanor Merrick]; Blittersdorf, Pam [CBS Audio Archives]; Brell, Doris Renninger; Bresnik, Albert L.; Brinkley, Russell; Bromberg, Jane Dow; Bryce's Mountain Retreat (Paul B. Bryce)
Box 6, Folder 9	[Correspondence C], 1984-1990 Notes: Canavello, Mrs. Robert C. [Marcia-Marie]; Caro, Edythe Q.; Catholic University of America; Chamberlin, Jessie B.; Chapin, George; Chapman, Sally Putnam; Chihaya, M. [Masataka]; Christen, Harvey C.; Cooper, Anne F.; Cosby, Dorothy S.; Cotterman, Mrs. Charles [Louise Van Dyne]; Crossfield, A. Scott
Box 7, Folder 1	[Correspondence D], 1984-1990 Notes: Dean, Julia; Dentry, Ann; Dillon, Mary Earhart; Dobson-Gilroy, Shirley; Donahue, James; Douglas, Donald W., Jr.; Dwiggin, Don; Dufour Editors, Inc.
Box 7, Folder 2	[Correspondence E-J], 1984-1990 Notes: Earhart Luggage [Baltimore Luggage Company]; Elliott, Jack; Emch, Lucille; Farr, Doris H.; Ferguson, Robert C.; Field, Harold C.; Fisher, Herbert O.; Fitze, Shelley; Fredette, Lt. Col. Raymond, H; Fritts, A.E.; Forney Transportation Museum; Gillies, Betty; Gipson (Way), Annette; Goerner, Frederick Allan; Greenwood, Jim and Maxine; Haizlip, Mary (May); Hammond, II, Mrs. John S. [Alice Hirschman]; Helfert, Sylvia; Henderson, Mrs. Clifford [Marian Marsh]; Hill, Charles; Hill, Joan M.; Horton, Denis; Hunter, Donna Kinner; Hyland, Robert J.; James, John; Jones, David
Box 7, Folder 3	[Correspondence K-M], 1984-1990 Notes: Kelso, Susan; Kiner, Susan; Kinner, Jr., Winfield; Koved, Ruth; Lamneck, Denise; Levitan, Valerie F.; Lewis, Margaret H. (Peg); Lindbergh, Anne Morrow; Long, Marie [and Elgen]; Lurvey, Corinne; Mahler, Mrs. Gerber [Gwen]; Martin Luther King, Jr. Library; Masters, Mrs. E.L. [Ellen]; Maxwell Air Force Base; McLellan, George W.; Montijo, Jim; Morrissey, Muriel Earhart; Morrison, Clinton G. and Marian

Box 7, Folder 4 [Correspondence N-P], 1984-1990
Notes: Naval Academy; NBC; Nelson, Lois; New York Times; New York University; Ninety-Nines [99s]; Nisewaner, Edna Whiting; Noyes, Charles P. [Blanche Noyes]; Nykile, Linda; Osborne, Carol [Bobbi Trout]; Peck, Edward; Pellegrino, Ann Holtgren; Purdue University; Putnam-Trefelner, Cynthia; Putnam, David Binney

Box 7, Folder 5 [Correspondence R-S], 1984-1990
Notes: Radcliffe College; Rafford, Jr., Paul; Reid, Whitelaw (Ogden R. Reid); Reilly, H.V. Pat; Rich, Ben R.; Sacharow, Elliott S.; Schaeffer, Dorothy L.; Serling, Robert J.; Shaw, Rick; Sims, Vivian; Smith, Dr. Richard K.; Smith, Virginia; Solderlund, Jean R.; South Carolina, University of; Southern, Mrs. W.L. [Neta Snook]; Stabler, Marian; Stebbins, Clair C.; Strippel, Richard G.

Box 7, Folder 6 [Correspondence T-V], 1984-1990
Notes: Tegerdine, W.M. "Max"; Teschner, Marcia D.; Thielen, Charles and Anne; Trump, Mrs. Robert W. [Elizabeth T.]; Turner, Nicholas Meredith; Underwood, John; Vaughan, Frances Downing; Ventriss, Beverly; Vidal, Gore

Box 7, Folder 7 [Correspondence W-Z], 1984-1990
Notes: Ward, Dr. Max; Ware, Susan; Warren, Margaret; Whyte, Edna Gardner; Wilson, Keith; Workman, Margaret E.; Wright, Phyllis; Wyoming, University of; Zinavage, Thomas

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Series 5: Subject Files and Bibliography

Scope and Contents: This series contains articles and research materials grouped together under subject headings. Materials include reproductions of newspapers, books, periodicals, and typed/handwritten notes by Doris Rich.

Box 7, Folder 8	Ads, 1931-1937
Box 7, Folder 9	Appearance, 1928-1980s
Box 7, Folder 10	Books by AE [Amelia Earhart], 1928-1935
Box 7, Folder 11	Libraries [with Earhart materials], 1969-1989 Notes: Columbia University; Charles Dawson History Center of Harrison (NY); Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library; Forney Transportation Museum; Harvey Mudd College; NARA (National Archives and Records Administration); NASM (National Air and Space Museum); Purdue University; Radcliffe College; West Virginia University; Wyoming, University of
Box 7, Folder 12	Licenses - Records, 1927-1978
Box 7, Folder 13	Planes, 1930-1985
Box 8, Folder 1	Photos [Folder 1 of 2 - Research, Photocopies, and Captions], 1929-1989
Box 8, Folder 2	Photos [Folder 2 of 2 - Copy Photography], 1932-1986
Box 8, Folder 3	Radio, 1930-1937
Box 8, Folder 4	Search, 1937-1985
Box 8, Folder 5	Theories [1 of 2], 1937-1989
Box 8, Folder 6	Theories [2 of 2], 1937-1989
Box 8, Folder 7	War, 1932-1939

[Bibliography - Index Cards]

Scope and Contents: Doris Rich maintained her research bibliography on a series of index cards, sorted by format.

Box 8, Folder 8	Books
Box 8, Folder 9	Magazines

Box 8, Folder 10

Sources, Letters, and Interviews

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