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National Air and Space Museum

William I. Votaw Air Mail Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	William I. Votaw Air Mail Collection
Date:	1921-1983
Identifier:	NASM.2000.0052
Creator:	Votaw, William I.
Extent:	0.68 Cubic feet ((1 legal document box) (1 slim legal document box))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Suzanne W. Todd, Transfer, 2000, 2000-0052, unknown

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

William I. Votaw began his career with the railway mail service and was promoted to the US Sea Post Service where he served until the advent of World War I. He established an American Expeditionary Force Postal Station in New York before entering the air mail service. In 1920 Votaw established the Ak-Sar-Ben air field in Omaha , Nebraska, and served as superintendent of the field, the base for the Chicago-Cheyenne segment of the transcontinental route. In 1921 he was appointed Assistant Director of the International Postal Service and in 1929 became Superintendent of Mails for the new United States Lines.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of several manuscripts by William I. Votaw relating to the infancy of the air mail service. Also included are biographical information relating to Jack Knight, Richard Byrd and William McCandless, copies of the Air Mail Pioneers newsletter as well as a large amount of newspaper clippings.

General

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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Air mail service

Types of Materials:

- Biographies
- Clippings
- Manuscripts
- Newsletters

Names:

- Byrd, Richard Evelyn, 1888-1957
- Knight, Jack
- McCandless, William
- Votaw, William I.