



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Captain Michael Gitt Papers

2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Captain Michael Gitt Papers
Identifier:	NASM.2003.0033
Date:	(bulk 1930s-1970s)
Extent:	3.56 Cubic Feet ((4 boxes))
Creator:	Gitt, Michael.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Patricia and Brian Gitt, Gift, 2003

Preferred Citation

Captain Michael Gitt Papers, Accession 2003-0033, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Captain Michael Gitt (1908-2002) was a pilot for several airlines from 1940 until 1968, most notably Colonial Airways, where he began his airline career, and for Eastern Airlines, from which he retired as a Senior Captain in 1968. Gitt was also extremely active with the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) from 1946-1956, and served as chairman of numerous negotiating committees. Gitt filed one of the first pilot age discrimination suits against Eastern Airlines in 1969; F. Lee Bailey served as one of his lawyers in that case. After his retirement from the airlines, Gitt began a second career when he became director of Marine Activities for the Park District of Great Neck. Besides his work and many civic and community organizations that he was involved with, Gitt also fulfilled a dream during the 1970s by earning his glider pilot license.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately three cubic feet of the papers of Captain Michael Gitt. Included in the collection are the following types of material: flight logs and licenses; applications for employment; aerial negatives and photographs of the New York City area; correspondence, mostly to colleagues at Colonial Airways and ALPA; several Colonial Airways newsletters; material relating to his employment at Colonial Airways, including aircraft manuals for the DC-2 and DC-3; rosters and documentation relating to the Retired Eastern Pilots Association; and legal briefs and correspondence associated with his age discrimination case against Eastern Airlines in 1969.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Airlines
- Discrimination in employment

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Legal documents
- Maps
- Technical manuals -- 20th century

Names:

- Air Lines Pilots Association (ALPA)
- Colonial Airlines
- Eastern Airlines, Inc.