Gladys Roy Collection

Patricia Williams

2006
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection Overview</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical / Historical</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names and Subjects</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container Listing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collection Overview

Repository: National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title: Gladys Roy Collection
Identifier: NASM.2005.0011
Date: 1911-1927
Creator: Roy, Gladys.
Extent: 0.54 Cubic feet (1 small box and 5 folders)
Language: English.
Summary: Gladys Roy was a barnstormer, parachute jumper, and wing-walker during the 1920s, performing mostly in the Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Los Angeles and Hollywood, California area. This collection consists of correspondence, receipts, contracts, and photographic material documenting Roy's aviation career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Processing Information

Preferred Citation
Gladys Roy Collection, NASM.2005.0011, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use
Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at Permissions Requests

Biographical / Historical

Gladys Roy (1902?-1927) was a barnstormer during the 1920s, performing mostly in the Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Los Angeles and Hollywood, California area. Roy became a parachute jumper in 1921 and later a wing-walker, most famous for dancing the Charleston and for playing tennis on the upper wing of an airplane in flight. According to her letterhead, she was the holder of the world's low record parachute jump and she also completed a parachute jump from 17,000 feet. The Western Vaudeville Managers' Association
was Roy's booking agent, and they booked her into fairs across the West. Roy was also did stunt work for Lord Motor Car Company as well as exhibition work for John P. Mills Real estate and for various other real estate exhibitions and auctions. She was in the movie business, appearing in "The Fighting Ranger" (1925), but was thrown from a horse during the production and seriously injured. She was the sister of Robert "Lee," Charles "Les," and Chadwick "Chad" Smith, all prominent pilots from Minnesota who flew for Northwest Airlines and were inducted in the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame. Roy and Lt. Delmar Synder were planning a flight from New York to Rome, but unfortunately Roy died in Ohio on August 15, 1927 when she walked into the spinning propeller of an aircraft that was sitting on the ground.

__Scope and Contents__

The following items are included in this collection: panoramic image of an air field; 1926 Christmas card from Marion Nixon; correspondence between Roy and her family (1924-1926); correspondence from Charles Smith (Roy's father) to her mother; correspondence from Western Vaudeville Managers' Association; one photograph of Roy posed with group of women and three of Charles Smith; receipts for purchases by Roy; a Liberty Loan Bond Certificate for Charles Smith; a piece of film showing Roy doing a sit-up on top of a building; and a few newspaper articles.

__Arrangement__

Collection is arranged by type of material and then by date within folders.

__Names and Subject Terms__

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

Subjects:
- Aeronautics
- Stunt flying
- Women air pilots
- Women in aeronautics

Types of Materials:
- Articles
- Correspondence
- Photographic prints
## Container Listing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 1</th>
<th>Correspondence with Family and Friends, 1914-1927</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 2</td>
<td>Western Vaudeville Managers' Association and Minnesota State Fair [Correspondence], 1926-1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters from C. B. Smith to Mrs. C. B. Smith, 1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 4</td>
<td>Contracts, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 5</td>
<td>C. B. Smith Liberty Loan Bond Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 6</td>
<td>Newspaper Articles, 1923-1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 7</td>
<td>Receipts and Bills, 1912-1926 and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 80 (Shared), Folder 8</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>