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National Air and Space Museum

Humphrey Toomey NYRBA Papers

2007

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Humphrey Toomey NYRBA Papers
Date:	(bulk 1929 - 1933)
Identifier:	NASM.2006.0068
Creator:	Toomey, Humphrey, 1900-1974
Extent:	0.51 Cubic feet (2 boxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gailbraith "Gail" Toomey, Gift, 2006

Preferred Citation

Humphrey Toomey NYRBA Papers, Accession number 2006-0068, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Humphrey Toomey (1900-1974) graduated from the Naval Academy in 1922 as an aeronautical engineer. Following his training and service as a naval aviator, Toomey resigned from the Navy in 1929 to pilot a Sikorsky S-38 on a flight from Bridgeport, Connecticut to Buenos Aires. This flight laid the groundwork for the commercial routes to South America for the New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Line (NYRBA). Toomey was a pilot for NYRBA from 1929 until it was acquired in 1930 by Pan American Airways (PAA). Toomey then worked for PAA as Chief Pilot and Operations Manager for their Brazil-Argentina sector. In this capacity Toomey established a series of airports for PAA and organized the Brazilian national airline, PAA do Brazil. In 1933, Toomey made the first official survey flight up the Amazon River, which won him membership in the New York Explorers Club. During World War II he managed the Military Contact Division of PAA, and from 1946 to 1952 he served as Manager of the Latin American Division in Miami, Florida. In 1952, Toomey returned to Rio de Janeiro as PAA Vice President for Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Toomey retired from PAA in 1962 and was the recipient of many awards, including the Brazilian "Ordem Nacional do Cruzeiro do Sul."

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of .5 cubic ft of documentary material chronicling Humphrey Toomey's aviation career with the New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Line (NYRBA). The following types of material are included in this collection: Navy and Air Corps strip maps used on the Bridgeport, Connecticut to Buenos Aires flight; correspondence; telegrams; memorandums; reports; employment agreements with NYRBA; sanitary bills of health at different ports; NYRBA 1930 annual report and brochure; NYRBA time schedules; copies of Toomey's passports; small brown notebook with notes; black and white photographs; newspaper articles; and the insignia of the NYRBA. There are also a few items from Toomey's early Pan American career, including a film, report, and related material on Toomey's aerial expedition of the lower Amazon system in October of 1933.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- South America
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Airlines

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Correspondence
- Maps
- Memorandums
- Newspaper clippings
- Telegrams

Names:

- New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Line (NYRBA)
- Pan American World Airways, Inc.