



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

LA Airways Collection

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2016



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	LA Airways (Los Angeles Airways, Inc) (LAA) Collection
Date:	1945-1997 (bulk 1950-1985)
Identifier:	NASM.2009.0015
Creator:	Los Angeles Airways
Extent:	2.91 Cubic feet 3.88 Linear feet (4 legal size document boxes; 1 slim legal size document box; 1 28.5 x 1.5 x 22.5 flat box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	LA Airways (Los Angeles Airways, Inc) (LAA) was founded by Clarence Belinn as a helicopter airline that operated flights from Los Angeles International Airport to the Disneyland Heliport in Anaheim, California (located on Disneyland's grounds) and to other area airports.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Stephen J. Slade, gift, 2009

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Amanda Buel, 2018. Revised by Allan Janus, 2020.

File unit titles created by the archivists are in brackets, otherwise file unit titles are original.

Preferred Citation

LA Airways Collection, Acc. NASM.2009.-0015, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

LA Airways (Los Angeles Airways, Inc) (LAA) was founded by Clarence Belinn as a helicopter airline that operated flights from Los Angeles International Airport to the Disneyland Heliport in Anaheim, California

(located on Disneyland's grounds) and to other area airports. LA Airways operated Sikorsky S-51 and S-55 aircraft and later became the first civilian operator of the Sikorsky S-61 family of aircraft. LA Airways is also noted for obtaining the first regularly scheduled helicopter mail route which was inaugurated on October 1, 1947. Two fatal crashes of flights operated by LA Airways spelled the end of the company. On May 22, 1968, Flight 841, operated in a Sikorsky S-61L, crashed in Paramount, California (en route to Los Angeles after leaving Disneyland) killing all 23 people on board. On August 14, 1968, Flight 417, also operated in a Sikorsky S-61L, crashed in Compton, California (en route to Disneyland from Los Angeles) which resulted in the deaths of all 21 people aboard, including Clarence Belinn's 13-year old grandson, Christopher. The causes of both crashes were failures in the rotor system. After these tragedies, Sikorsky S-61Ls were grounded until the problem could be resolved and helicopter service to Disneyland was discontinued. LA Airways (Los Angeles Airways, Inc) (LAA) ceased operations in 1971 upon its purchase by Golden West Airlines. Stephen J. Slade was formerly an employee of LA Airways.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of records relating to LA Airways (Los Angeles Airways, Inc) (LAA) including photographs; news clippings and publications relating to LA Airways; financial records; stockholder information including meeting agendas and notes, annual reports, information about stockholders, and correspondence; operating information such as route maps, pilot instructions, brochures and time tables; documents relating to Civil Aeronautics Board hearings; biographical information on LA Airways staff; and legal documents and correspondence relating to litigation involving LA Airways and the Hughes Tool Company and LA Airway's subsequent bankruptcy.

Arrangement

The materials in this collection had no original order. The processing archivists arranged them into 3 series. Within each series, the materials were arranged chronologically.

Series I: Business Papers

Series II: Publicity

Series III: Photographs

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airlines
- Helicopters
- LA Airways (Los Angeles Airways, Inc) (LAA)
- Sikorsky S-61L

Container Listing

Series 1: Business Records, 1945-1997

Box 1, Folder 1	[Operating Information, Licenses and Brochures], 1945-1972
Box 1, Folder 2	[Operating Information, Licenses and Brochures], 1945-1972
Box 6	[Oversize Materials], 1946-1969 Notes: Charts, illustration with annotations, route maps, route schedules, mounted newspaper articles.
Box 1, Folder 3	Annual and Interim Reports 1947-1960 (C.M. Belinn - Personal)
Box 1, Folder 4	Directors. Lombardi, James G., 1949-1959 Notes: Bio and correspondence.
Box 1, Folder 5	[Civil Aeronautics Board Documents], 1951-1970
Box 1, Folder 6	[Civil Aeronautics Board Documents], 1951-1970
Box 1, Folder 7	[Civil Aeronautics Board Documents], 1951-1970
Box 2, Folder 1	[Civil Aeronautics Board Documents], 1951-1970
Box 2, Folder 2	Stockholders Correspondence. Fiscal / Legal, 1952-1965
Box 2, Folder 3	[Annual Reports, Stockholder Information and Financial Information], 1955-1970
Box 2, Folder 4	[Annual Reports, Stockholder Information and Financial Information], 1955-1970
Box 2, Folder 5	[Annual Reports, Stockholder Information and Financial Information], 1955-1970
Box 2, Folder 6	[Annual Reports, Stockholder Information and Financial Information], 1955-1970
Box 3, Folder 1	Stock Dividend Declarations. Fiscal / Legal, 1957-1958
Box 3, Folder 2	E.P. 76.3 Public Relations. Special Events - Civic Reception - Marking First Decade of Scheduled Helicopter Transportation, 1958-1959 Notes: Includes correspondence and paperwork related to a civic reception and dinner given by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Aero Club of Southern California honoring the first decade of LA Airways.

Box 3, Folder 3	Annual and Interim Reports 1960 (C.M. Belinn - Personal)
Box 3, Folder 4	Annual Meeting June 10, 1966, 1964-1967
Box 3, Folder 5	Annual Meeting October 28, 1965
Box 3, Folder 6	[Legal Documents / Records Relating to Hughes Sale / Litigation and Bankruptcy], 1966-1985
Box 3, Folder 7	[Legal Documents / Records Relating to Hughes Sale / Litigation and Bankruptcy], 1966-1985
Box 3, Folder 8	[Legal Documents / Records Relating to Hughes Sale / Litigation and Bankruptcy], 1966-1985
Box 3, Folder 9	[Legal Documents / Records Relating to Hughes Sale / Litigation and Bankruptcy], 1966-1985
Box 4, Folder 1	[Legal Documents / Records Relating to Hughes Sale / Litigation and Bankruptcy], 1966-1985
Box 4, Folder 2	LA Airways [Correspondence], 1968-1985
Box 4, Folder 3	[Richard M.] Moneymaker [Esq. Correspondence], 1972-1973
Box 4, Folder 4	LA Airways Staff Biographical Information, 1997
Box 4, Folder 5	LA Airways, Inc. Heliports - General Plan. Photographs, UNDATED

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Series 2: Publicity, 1945-1989

Box 4, Folder 6	[Clippings / Publications Relating to LA Airways], 1945-1989
Box 6	[Oversize Materials], 1946-1969 Notes: Charts, illustration with annotations, route maps, route schedules, mounted newspaper articles.
Box 4, Folder 8	[LA Airways Articles], 1947-1980
Box 4, Folder 9	[The Heligram LA Airways Newsletters], 1954, 1965
Box 4, Folder 10	Mr. Belinn, 1955, 1967-1968, 1973 Notes: Bio, newspaper clippings, magazine articles.
Box 4, Folder 11	LA Airway Firsts, 1958 Notes: Promotional publicity.
Box 4, Folder 12	[Spruce Goose Newspaper Articles], 1980
Box 4, Folder 13	Sikorsky [Vertiflite Magazine, May/June 1984]

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Series 3: Photographs

Box 5, Folder 1 [Photographs], 1951-1970

Box 5, Folder 2 [Photographs], 1951-1970

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