



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Pan American Airways (Pan Am) (USA)
Foreign Air Mail (FAM 18) First Transatlantic
Scheduled Airmail Flight Flown Letter

Jessamyn Lloyd

2015

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Pan American Airways (Pan Am) (USA) Foreign Air Mail (FAM 18) First Transatlantic Scheduled Airmail Flight Flown Letter
Date:	1939
Identifier:	NASM.2015.0021
Creator:	Schieferecke, Kathryn
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Pan American Airways (Pan Am) inaugurated transatlantic air mail service under scheduled contract (Foreign Air Mail FAM 18) in 1939. This collection consists of a letter from Kathryn Schieferecke to her two children, Laurence and Bernadine, sent through the New York postmaster. Mrs. Schieferecke arranged for the letter to be flown on the first transatlantic airmail flight operated by Pan American Airways (Pan Am).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Patrick Wilder, Gift, 2015, NASM.2015.0021

Processing Information

Arranged and described (2015) and encoded (2020) by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

Pan American Airways (Pan Am) (USA) Foreign Air Mail (FAM 18) First Transatlantic Scheduled Airmail Flight Flown Letter, Accession NASM.2015.0021, 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

Pan American Airways (Pan Am) inaugurated transatlantic air mail service under scheduled contract (Foreign Air Mail FAM 18) in 1939. The first flight was made on May 20, 1939 by the Boeing Model 314 Yankee Clipper

(NC18603) from New York to Marseilles, France. The pilot was Arthur Earl Laporte. Kathryn Schieferecke was the postmaster for Lenora, Kansas. In May 1939, Schieferecke was hospitalized and her two children were temporarily in an orphanage in Abilene, Kansas.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a letter from Kathryn Schieferecke to her two children, Laurence and Bernadine, sent through the New York postmaster. Mrs. Schieferecke arranged for the letter to be flown on the first transatlantic airmail flight operated by Pan American Airways (Pan Am). In the letter, dated May 4, 1939, Mrs. Schieferecke encourages the children to keep the letter because it might be valuable someday. The envelope has been stamped on its left side of the front with a blue cachet showing a Boeing Model 314 Clipper in flight over the Statue of Liberty and the words, "United States of America, Trans-Atlantic Air Mail Service, First Flight FAM 18." There is a New York postmark on the front, and a Marseilles postmark on the back flap.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Commercial -- Freight
Air mail service

Types of Materials:

Correspondence
philately

Names:

Pan American World Airways, Inc.