



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Mohawk Airlines Negatives [Smith]

Jessamyn Lloyd

2017

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Mohawk Airlines Negatives [Smith]
Date:	1948-1965
Identifier:	NASM.2017.0047
Creator:	Smith, C. Hadley, 1910-2004.
Extent:	0.21 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Mohawk Airlines was founded in 1945 as Robinson Aviation and was based out of Ithaca Municipal Airport in New York. C. Hadley Smith (1910-2004) began taking photographs at age five and received formal training in photography at the Patuxent River Naval Air Base where he served as a Photographer's Mate First Class during World War II. After the war, he began his career as a commercial photographer in Ithaca, New York. One of his clients was Robinson Aviation, later Mohawk Airlines. This collection consists of approximately 250 images taken by C. Hadley Smith pertaining to Mohawk Airlines, and a few from their predecessor Robinson Aviation.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Mohawk Airlines Negatives [Smith]

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Hadley Smith, Gift, 2017, NASM.2017.0047

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Jessamyn Lloyd in 2017, encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Mohawk Airlines Negatives [Smith], NASM.2017.0047, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Mohawk Airlines was founded in 1945 as Robinson Aviation and was based out of Ithaca Municipal Airport in New York. In 1948, the airline was certified as a local service carrier by the Civil Aeronautics Board and they were awarded numerous routes in the Mohawk Valley. At this time, the airline adopted the slogan "Route of the Air Chiefs" and began using a logo of a Native American on their aircraft. In 1952, the name was changed to Mohawk Airlines. By 1956, the airline had moved its corporate offices to Utica and the airline's operations base moved to Oneida County Airport in Whitestown, New York in 1958. Also in 1958, Mohawk employed the country's first African American flight attendant, Ruth Carol Taylor. Mohawk was responsible for a number of other firsts including being the first airline to use a centralized computer-based reservation service (1961), the first regional airline to use flight simulators (1965), and the first regional airline to fly jets (1965). Mohawk was purchased by Allegheny Airlines in 1972 which later became US Airways. US Airways merged with America West Airlines in 2005 and purchased American Airlines in 2015 and now operates under the American Airlines name and logo.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately 250 images taken by C. Hadley Smith pertaining to Mohawk Airlines, and a few from their predecessor Robinson Aviation. The images are in negative format, and are mostly 4 by 5 inches, with some smaller formats occasionally mixed in. All images except one are black and white. The negatives are in individually numbered envelopes with a number scheme applied by Smith which is comprised of the date (year-month-day) and a shot number from that day. Some of the envelopes contain duplicate negatives or contact prints, and some contain two separate images. The images show Mohawk Airlines personnel; facilities; aircraft; passengers; and company events. Aircraft shown in the images include the Douglas DC-3, Convair 240 Convair-Liner, and Beech Bonanza 35. Two passengers of note that appear in the images are actress Shelley Winters and President Harry S. Truman.

Arrangement

This collection is in original order using the numbers that were applied by the creator.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Beech Bonanza 35
- Convair 240 Convair-Liner
- Douglas DC-3 Family

Types of Materials:

- Negatives

Names:

- Mohawk Airlines

Places:

Ithaca (N.Y.)