



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Alys McKey Bryant Photographs

Patti Williams

2021

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Alys McKey Bryant Photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1913-1916
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2020.0023
<b>Extent:</b>	0.01 Cubic feet (One folder)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of five 3.5 by 5.5 inch black and white postcard prints of Alys McKey Bryant. This collection is in English.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Alys McKey Bryant Photographs</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Danita Graham, Gift, 2020, NASM.2020.0023

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Alys McKey Bryant Photographs, NASM.2020.0023, 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](#) .

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## Biographical / Historical

Alys McKey Bryant (1880–1954) began taking flying lessons in the summer of 1912 in a Curtiss biplane after answering an ad stating "Wanted: young lady to learn to fly for exhibition purposes." She was interviewed and hired by Fred Bennett and his pilot, John Bryant, of the Bennett Aero Company of Palms, California. She flew her first exhibition flight at North Yakima, Washington, on May 3, 1913, and on May 29, she secretly married John Bryant. Bryant was the first woman to fly in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, and in Canada, where she performed for the Prince of Wales and Duke of York. In Seattle, she set a new women's altitude

record of 884 meters (2,900 feet). Following the death of her husband in August of 1913, she stopped flying. She later returned to do a few movie flights in Seattle and then permanently retired from flying. Bryant was also a deep-sea diver; she dove in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, exploring shipwrecks and removing defunct water pipes.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of five 3.5 by 5.5 inch black and white postcard prints of Alys McKey Bryant. Four of the images are studio portraits, while the fifth image shows Bryant in her submarine diving suit.

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## **Arrangement**

No arrangement.

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## **Names and Subject Terms**

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Deep diving
- Women in aeronautics

Names:

- Bryant, Alys McKey