



# Smithsonian

## *National Air and Space Museum*

### Fokker C-2, Civil *America* Christening Album

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2022

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Fokker C-2, Civil <i>America</i> Christening Album
<b>Date:</b>	1927
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0076
<b>Extent:</b>	0.35 Cubic feet (1 flat box)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Fokker C-2, Civil <i>America</i> was intended to be a contender for the \$25,000 prize offered by New York hotel owner Raymond Orteig to the first aviator to fly an aircraft directly across the Atlantic between New York and Paris. The aircraft was sponsored by Rodman Wanamaker and the crew consisted of Richard Evelyn Byrd, Bertrand Blanchard "Bert" Acosta, George Otto Noville, and Bernt Balchen. This album contains photos and authenticating information relating to the christening of the aircraft.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Fokker C-2, Civil America Christening Album</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Rodman A. Heeren, Gift, 1969, NASM.XXXX.0076.

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2022.

### Preferred Citation

Fokker C-2, Civil *America* Christening Album, NASM.XXXX.0076, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

The Fokker C-2, Civil *America* was intended to be a contender for the \$25,000 prize offered by New York hotel owner Raymond Orteig to the first aviator to fly an aircraft directly across the Atlantic between New York and

Paris. The aircraft was sponsored by Rodman Wanamaker and the crew consisted of Richard Evelyn Byrd, Bertrand Blanchard "Bert" Acosta, George Otto Noville, and Bernt Balchen. *America* was damaged during an unsuccessful test flight in April 1927 which delayed the flight attempt. *America* was christened at a public ceremony on May 21, 1927, the same day Charles Augustus Lindbergh completed the first solo nonstop transatlantic flight in history in his Ryan NYP *Spirit of St. Louis*, and thereby won the Orteig Prize. *America* was christened by Wanamaker's daughters with water taken from the Delaware River at the point of George Washington's crossing. Wanamaker also obtained pieces of cloth used by Betsy Ross and an American flag sewn by her descendant, Edna Randolph Worrell, to be carried onboard *America*. The transatlantic flight was finally attempted on June 29, 1927 but was unsuccessful, with *America* landing in the sea at Ver-sur-mer, France on July 1, 1927 in heavy fog.

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## Scope and Contents

This album contains photos and authenticating information relating to the christening of the Fokker C-2, Civil *America*. The photographs show the bottle of water from the Delaware River used to christen the aircraft; a portrait of Anne Balderson, descendent of Betsy Ross; pictures of pieces of cloth used by Betsy Ross; and the American flag sewn by another Ross descendant, Edna Randolph Worrell. Also reproduced in the album are a letter to Rodman Wanamaker concerning preparation for the christening ceremony and affidavits concerning the authenticity of the water and cloth. The album itself measures 15 by 11 inches and includes an embossed gold reproduction of Rodman Wanamaker's signature on the front cover. Note: Blank pages in the album have not been digitally reproduced in the slideshow. Any gaps in numbering are due to their omission. Images have been rotated to the orientation of the page content for easier viewing.

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## Arrangement

Collection is a single item.

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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  
Airplanes

Types of Materials:

Photograph albums

Names:

Wanamaker, Rodman, 1863-1928