



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT), Inc. Air-Rail Service Scrapbooks

Amanda Buel

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT), Inc. Air-Rail Service Scrapbooks
Date:	1929
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0081
Extent:	1.59 Cubic feet (3 flat boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT), Inc. Air-Rail Service Scrapbooks collection consists of three large, fabric covered scrapbooks. The set documents the pre- and post-inaugural activities of TAT for the period of time between June and November, 1929.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Pennsylvania Railroad, Gift, unknown, XXXX-0081, NASM

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Amanda Buel, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT), Inc. Air-Rail Service Scrapbooks, Acc. XXXX.0081, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

The Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT) was the first U.S. airline associated with railroads (*Pennsylvania* and *Santa Fe*) to provide a rapid form of coast-to-coast transportation. Daniel M. Sheaffer, chairman of the executive committee of TAT, was a pioneer in the development of commercial aviation for passenger and express mail services. Both he and founder Clement Melville Keys were instrumental in the development of the TAT line and with the inauguration of the service.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes three scrapbooks. The news clippings in Volume I cover the period of July 6-10, 1929, when the first transcontinental air-rail service was inaugurated. Volume II, covering the period of June 11 through August 23, 1929, documents the pre- and post-inaugural activities surrounding the establishment of the TAT. Both volumes contain newsprint with images of high-profile travelers and stakeholders, such as Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Ina Claire, Douglas Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford. The third volume (untitled) covers the time between September 4 and November 1, 1929, when the news of the TAT Ford Tri-Motor "City of San Francisco" disappearing in the mountains of New Mexico captivated readers nationwide.

Arrangement

This collection is in original order, with each scrapbook compiled in chronological order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Aeronautics, Commercial -- Passenger traffic
- Aeronautics, Commercial -- United States
- Air travel
- Curtiss Condor Family
- Ford Tri-Motor Family
- Railroad travel

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Claire, Ina
- Earhart, Amelia, 1897-1937
- Fairbanks, Douglas, Jr., 1909-2000
- Lindbergh, Anne Morrow, 1906-2001
- Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974
- Pennsylvania Railroad Company
- Pickford, Mary
- Santa Fe Railroad
- Sheaffer, Daniel
- Transcontinental Air Transport

Container Listing

[Transcontinental Air Transport, Inc., Volume I, 1929-07-06-1929-07-10](#)
1 Scrapbook

[Transcontinental Air Transport, Inc., Volume II, 1929-06-11-1929-08-23](#)
1 Scrapbook

[\[Transcontinental Air Transport, Inc., Volume III\], 1929-09-04-1929-11-01](#)
1 Scrapbook