



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Lucielle Belmont, Balloonist and Parachutist Scrapbook

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Lucielle Belmont, Balloonist and Parachutist Scrapbook
Date:	1914-1926
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0249
Creator:	Belmont Baldwin Rutshaw, Lucielle, 1887-1961
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 flat box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Lucielle Belmont Baldwin Rutshaw (1887--1961) was a balloonist and parachutist who performed solo balloon ascensions and parachute drops as an entertainer at county fairs and exhibitions all over the United States and Canada in the years from 1912 to the early 1920s. This collection consists mainly of a scrapbook documenting her career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lucielle Belmont Baldwin Rutshaw, Gift, 1961, NASM.XXXX.0249.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Lucielle Belmont, Balloonist and Parachutist Scrapbook, NASM.XXXX.0249, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Lucielle Belmont Baldwin Rutshaw (1887--1961) was a balloonist and parachutist who performed solo balloon ascensions and parachute drops as an entertainer at county fairs and exhibitions all over the United States and Canada in the years from 1912 to the early 1920s. Belmont was sometimes billed as part of the "Famous Belmont Sisters" with sisters Mabel and Cleo, and was managed for at least part of her career by Robinson Attractions in Chicago, Illinois. Belmont was known for triple and sometimes quadruple jumps where she cut loose from one parachute then opened another one multiple times. After her marriage to C. C.

Baldwin, Belmont sometimes appeared as Lucielle Belmont Baldwin and under this name she was granted License for Flying Civilian Aircraft no. 375 (to operate a hot air balloon) on April 9, 1918 by the Joint Army and Navy Board on Aeronautic Cognizance. Since she made her first solo balloon ascent, including a parachute jump, on August 14, 1912, Lucielle qualified for membership in the Early Birds of Aviation and she joined that organization with her married name from her second marriage, Lucielle Rutshaw.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a scrapbook documenting the career of Lucielle Belmont Baldwin Rutshaw. The scrapbook has a red cardstock cover and measures approximately 6.5 by 8.5 inches. The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings, photographs and correspondence with county fair officials regarding her performances, as well as ephemera such as county fair passes and tickets. The collection also contains a loose photograph of Lucielle Belmont Baldwin with her husband, C. C. Baldwin, and a studio portrait of her alone.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by type of material.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Balloonists
- Parachuting
- Women in aeronautics

Types of Materials:

- Scrapbooks

Container Listing

Box 1, Item 1 NASM-9A18442: [\[Scrapbook\]](#)
Notes: Blank pages in the scrapbook have not been digitally reproduced. Any gaps in numbering are due to their omission.

Box 1, Item 2 NASM-9A18914: [\[Loose photograph\]](#)
Notes: Date written on the obverse of the photograph is 1905, but information written on the reverse appears to indicate that the photograph was taken in Reno, Nevada in July 1914.

NAM-A-1558: [\[Studio portrait\]](#)
Notes: Original portrait was donated with this collection. Image shown here was made from a copy negative that is part of the National Air Museum Photography Collection, NASM.XXXX.0572.

[4 x 5 inch black and white copy negative, portrait photograph of Lucielle Belmont Baldwin Rutshaw, National Air Museum Photography Collection, NASM.XXXX.0572.](#)