



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Paul Kollsman Fund Libraries Scrapbook

Melissa Keiser and Jessamyn Lloyd

2023

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
Business Number: Phone: 703-572-4045
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | Paul Kollsman Fund Libraries Scrapbook |
| Date: | 1940 to 1942 |
| Identifier: | NASM.XXXX.0319 |
| Creator: | Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences (U.S.) |
| Extent: | 0.28 Cubic feet (1 flatbox) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | <p>On June 26, 1940, it was announced by the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences (IAS), a scientific society founded in 1932 that was made up of leading aeronautical specialists, that Paul Kollsman and Square D had provided the IAS with an endowment of \$50,000 to found an aeronautical lending library at Rockefeller Center, New York City. The Paul Kollsman Library was a library of books, pamphlets, and other published materials which could be borrowed by people interested in aeronautics via postal mail within the United States. In 1941, \$10,000 from the original endowment (the Paul Kollsman Fund) was used to found the Pacific Aeronautical Library at Hollywood, California, which was opened on October of that year. This collection consists of a scrapbook of press releases and clippings regarding the founding of the IAS' Paul Kollsman Library and Pacific Aeronautical Library.</p> |
| Digital Content: | Image(s): NASM-9A19748-003 - Portrait of Paul Kollsman |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, Gift, NASM.XXXX.0319.

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Melissa Keiser, 2009. Updated and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Paul Kollsman Fund Libraries Scrapbook, NASM.XXXX.0319, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

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Biographical / Historical

Paul Kollsman (1900–1982), a German immigrant who came to the United States in 1923, founded the Kollsman Instrument Company in Elmhurst, Long Island, New York, in 1928, to manufacture precision aeronautical instruments. In 1939, the Kollsman Instrument Company was acquired by the Square D Company of Detroit, Michigan. On June 26, 1940, it was announced by the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences (IAS), a scientific society founded in 1932 that was made up of leading aeronautical specialists, that Paul Kollsman and Square D had provided the IAS with an endowment of \$50,000 to found an aeronautical lending library at Rockefeller Center, New York City (home of the IAS). The Paul Kollsman Library (as it was known) was a library of books, pamphlets, and other published materials which could be borrowed by people interested in aeronautics via postal mail within the United States. In 1941, \$10,000 from the original endowment (the Paul Kollsman Fund) was used to found the Pacific Aeronautical Library at Hollywood, California, which was opened on October of that year. Kollsman provided an additional \$65,000 to the IAS on December 17, 1941, to further aid in the operation of these libraries. The Institute of Aeronautical Sciences merged in 1963 with the American Rocket Society to form the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a scrapbook of press releases and clippings regarding the founding of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences' Paul Kollsman Library and Pacific Aeronautical Library. The scrapbook also includes portrait photographs of Kollsman and F. W. Magin, President of the Square D Company; a menu signed by attendees of a luncheon held in honor of Kollsman and Magin at Rockefeller Center, New York City, on July 18, 1940; a list of organizations using the Kollsman Library during 1940 to 1941; and a portrait of and biographical information relating to Sherman Fairchild.

Arrangement

Collection is a single item.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Names:

Kollsman, Paul, 1900-1982

Container Listing

Box 1, Item 1

[Scrapbook]

Notes:

Blank pages in the original scrapbook have not been digitally reproduced in slideshow, any gaps in numbering of filenames are due to their omission. All pages with content are shown.