



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Ernest Smith/Emory Bronte Flight Scrapbook

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2002, 2020

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Ernest Smith/Emory Bronte Flight Scrapbook
Date:	1917-1975 (bulk 1927)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0389
Creator:	Smith, Ernest Bronte, Emory
Extent:	1.11 Cubic feet (1 flatbox, 1 folder, and 1 oversized folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	On July 14-15, 1927, Ernest Smith and Emory Bronte made the first civilian transpacific flight from California to Hawaii. This collection includes a scrapbook that chronicles their flight, a map of the Hawaiian islands, and a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Emory Bronte.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Unknown, Gift?, unknown, NASM.XXXX.0389.

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Patricia Williams in 2002. Updated and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Ernest Smith/Emory Bronte Flight Scrapbook, NASM.XXXX.0389, 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](#)

Biographical / Historical

On July 14-15, 1927, Ernest Smith and Emory Bronte made the first civilian transpacific flight from California to Hawaii in their Travelair *City of Oakland*. Although they planned to land in Honolulu, problems with the gasoline pump and radio receiving apparatus forced them to crash-land in Molakai.

Scope and Contents

This scrapbook, covered with Tahitian tapa cloth, chronicles the Smith-Bronte historic flight and consists of the following: including 30 letters; 23 telegrams; 197 photographs; 357 news articles; and 20 miscellaneous items. The collection also includes a map of the Hawaiian islands, dated August 1917, that was used by Smith and Bronte on their flight; and a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt presenting Emory B. Bronte with the honor of the "Distinguished Flying Cross," dated 6 September 1934.

Arrangement

The 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
- Aeronautics -- Records
- Transpacific flights
- Travel Air aircraft family

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Bronte, Emory
- Smith, Ernest

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1 [\[Scrapbook\], 1927-1975](#)

Map-folder 1, Item 1 [\[Map\], 1917](#)

Notes:

Map (nautical navigational chart), "Hawaii Islands, Eastern Part, No. 4102," U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (Washington, D.C.), August 1917; used by Ernest Smith and Emory Bronte on the first civilian transpacific flight from California to Hawaii in their Travel Air Model 5000 *City of Oakland*. Typed note at center: "NAVIGATION CHART of HAWAIIAN ISLANDS showing compass bearings taken by Navigator Emory B. Bronte as airplane *City of Oakland* was on final approach on flight from Oaklnd, California, July 15, 1927. The plane landed out of gasoline in a grove of Kiawe trees at Kamalo, Molokai after 25 hours 02 minutes in the air."

Box 181 (Shared),
Folder 1 [\[Letter from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Emory Bronte\], September 6, 1934](#)