



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

United States Women In Aviation Through World War I Collection

Roberto Aponte

1994



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	United States Women in Aviation through World War I
Date:	circa 1909-1978 (bulk 1904-1920)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0424
Creator:	Oakes, Claudia M.
Extent:	0.74 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of research material used by National Air and Space Curator Claudia Oakes to prepare the publication <i>United States Women in Aviation through World War I</i> (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1978).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Claudia M. Oakes, transfer, 1989

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Roberto Aponte, 1994.

Encoded by Amanda Buel, 2015.

Preferred Citation

United States Women In Aviation Through World War I Collection, Acc. XXXX-0424, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

This collection of photographs, written notes, articles, photocopies of news clippings, correspondence, and biographies was used by Claudia M. Oakes to prepare the publication, *United States Women in Aviation Through World War I* (Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington, D.C., 1978). She donated these materials sometime after the book's completion.

Scope and Contents

The material in this collection consists of photographs, photocopies of news clippings, correspondence, and biographies of the women who participated in the aviation field, not only in the United States but throughout the world, from 1880 through World War I. The women highlighted include: Ada Acosta, Ruth Law, Helene Dutrieu, Julia Clark, Alys McKey Bryant, Tiny Broadwick, Bernetta Miller, Matilde Moisant, Mary "Carlotta" Myers, Bessica Raiche, Harriet Quimby, Blanche Stuart Scott, Neta Snook, and Katherine and Marjorie Stinson.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged accordingly:

Series I: Photographs

Series II: Claudia Oakes' Notes

Series III: Subject Files

The first group of materials contains photographs of the women who participated in the aviation field, not only in the United States but throughout the world, from 1880 through World War I. Most photographs are identified by subject (pilot or aircraft name), date, captions, and, whenever possible, by Smithsonian's negative numbers.

The second group of materials includes the author's written notes and correspondence.

The third group of documents provides valuable biographical information about specific aviatrixes. These files are arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics
Women in aeronautics

Names:

Clark, Julia.
Dutrieu, Helene.
Law, Ruth
Moisant, Matilde, 1887-1964
Myers, Mary, "Carlotta Queen of the Air"
Quimby, Harriet, 1875-1912
Raiche, Bessica.
Scott, Blanche Stuart, 1889-1970
Snook, Neta
Stinson, Katherine
Stinson, Marjorie

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographs, 1906-1917

Box 1, Folder 1	<p>Negative No. – A 43064 B; Subject – BERG, MRS. HART O.; WRIGHT, WILBUR</p> <p>Notes: Caption – 2 copies. Mrs. Hart O. Berg, the first American woman to fly as a passenger in an airplane, shown here beside Wilbur Wright shortly before their takeoff at Auvers, France. Note her "hobbled" skirt and the security of her hat.</p>
Box 1, Folder 2	<p>Negative No. – 77-717; Subject – VAN DEMAN, MRS. RALPH</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Mrs. Ralph Van Deman, a good friend of the Wright brothers' sister Katherine and the first woman to fly as an airplane passenger in America.</p>
Box 1, Folder 3	<p>Negative No. – unknown; Subject – HEADLINE COVERAGE OF A WOMAN FLYING AT THE DETROIT AIR MEET, June 20, 1911</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Includes negative. On the front of The Detroit Free Press.</p> <p>Photo – Courtesy of Detroit Public Library.</p>
Box 1, Folder 4	<p>Negative No. – unknown; Subject – WHITNEY, MRS. L.A.</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Mrs. L.A. Whitney, who, in 1914, was the first woman to fly on a scheduled airline.</p> <p>Photo – Courtesy of The St. Petersburg Times.</p>
Box 1, Folder 5	<p>Negative No. – A 42804 G; Subject – WRIGHT, KATHERINE</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Katherine Wright, who was a staunch supporter for her brothers' work, posing for reporters with her brother Wilbur before embarking on one of their European trips to demonstrate Wright aircraft.</p>
Box 1, Folder 6	<p>Negative No. – 77-704; Subject – BEACHY, LINCOLN: SPECTATORS CAME TO SEE HIM, August 1, 1914</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Some of the spectators who came to see the famous aerobatic flyer Lincoln Beachy at Dayton, OH; in the foreground (from left), Marjorie Stinson, Mrs. K. Whiting, Orville Wright, Katherine Wright, and Griffith Brewer.</p>
Box 1, Folder 7	<p>Negative No. – 77-720; Subject – WRIGHT, KATHERINE: WATCHING HER BROTHER'S MACHINE</p>
Box 1, Folder 8	<p>Negative No. – 77-2698; Subject – MYERS, MARY: HER BALLOON "CARLOTTA"</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Mary Meyers' balloon "Carlotta" shown being inflated outside the Victorian mansion in Frankfort, New York, where the Meyers opened their "Balloon Farm."</p>

Box 1, Folder 9	<p>Negative No. – 77-2699; Subject – MYERS, MARY H.</p> <p>Notes: Caption – The balloonist Mary H. Meyers (billed as "Carlotta, the Lady Aeronaut"), the first woman in the U.S. to pilot her own aircraft.</p>
Box 1, Folder 10	<p>Negative No. – 77-7660; Subject – TODD, MISS E. LILLIAN: HER FLYING MACHINE, December 1906</p> <p>Notes: Caption – 3 copies. Todd's flying machine displayed at the exhibition of the Aero Club of America in December 1906, the first heavier-than-air craft designed by a U.S. woman.</p>
Box 1, Folder 11	<p>Negative No. – unknown; Subject – TODD MISS E. LILLIAN</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Miss. E Lillian Todd (who designed an airplane but never learned to fly), posing in an early aircraft.</p> <p>Photo – Courtesy of Betman Archives.</p>
Box 1, Folder 12	<p>Negative No. – 77-718; Subject – SMITH, HILDER:WITH HER HUSBAND FLOYD</p> <p>Notes: Caption – She worked with him in building an aircraft and in parachuting experiments.</p>
Box 1, Folder 13	<p>Negative No. – 75-5216; Subject – SCOTT, BLANCHE: HER FIRST SOLO FLIGHT</p> <p>Notes: Caption – 2 copies. Blanche Scott's first solo flight, which attained an altitude of about 40 feet despite the throttle block Glenn Curtiss had put on her aircraft.</p>
Box 1, Folder 14	<p>Negative No. – A 46916; Subject – HANDBILL FROM ONE OF BLANCHE SCOTT'S AIRSHOWS</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Handbill from one of the airshows where, for almost five years, Blanche Scott thrilled spectators throughout the country with her aerial maneuvers.</p>
Box 1, Folder 15	<p>Negative No. – A 951 A; Subject – RAICHE, BESSICA</p> <p>Notes: Caption – 2 copies. Pursued two careers that were unusual for a woman in her day: being a pilot and (after her retirement from flying) a practicing physician.</p>
Box 1, Folder 16	<p>Negative No – 73-2247; Subject – THE MOISANT SCHOOL OF AVIATION</p> <p>Notes: Caption – At Hempstead, New York. Unlike some other early aviation schools, welcomed women as students.</p>
Box 1, Folder 17	<p>Negative No. – 77-700; Subject – MILLER, BERNETTA</p> <p>Notes: Caption – A graduate of the Moisant School and the first pilot to demonstrate a monoplane before U.S. government officials (damaged photo).</p>
Box 1, Folder 18	<p>Negative No. – 77-710; Subject – BRYANT, ALYS McKEY, circa 1912</p> <p>Notes: Caption – The first aviatrix of the west coast, Alys McKey Bryant, who first soloed at The Palms, California, in 1912.</p>

Box 1, Folder 19	<p>Negative No. – A 34408 D; Subject – BRYANT, ALYS McKEY: HER EXHIBITION FLIGHT, May 1913</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Making the first of her many exhibition flights at North Yakima, Washington, in May 1913.</p>
Box 1, Folder 20	<p>Negative No. – 77-701; Subject – BRYANT, ALYS McKEY: PREPARES FOR DEEP-SEA DIVING</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Bryant, equipped for deep-sea diving, one of her interests that was perhaps even more unusual for a woman than flying.</p>
Box 1, Folder 21	<p>Negative No. – unknown; Subject – SNOOK, NETA: WITH HER FAMOUS PUPIL AMELIA EARHART</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Neta Snook posing with Amelia Earhart, before one of their flying lesson flights.</p> <p>Photo – Courtesy of Neta Snook Southern.</p>
Box 1, Folder 22	<p>Negative No. – unknown; Subject – SNOOK, NETA: WITH HER FAMOUS PUPIL AMELIA EARHART</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Not the same photo as the one before.</p> <p>Photo – Courtesy of Neta Snook Southern.</p>
Box 1, Folder 23	<p>Negative No. – A 43510 B; Subject – QUIMBY, HARRIET</p> <p>Notes: Caption – 2 copies. The first licensed woman pilot in the U.S. and second in the world.</p>
Box 1, Folder 24	<p>Negative No. – 77-711; Subject – QUIMBY, HARRIET: HER BLERIOT MONOPLANE, April 16, 1912</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Harriet Quimby's Bleriot monoplane held down by spectators while she enters the cockpit for her attempt at crossing the English Channel.</p>
Box 1, Folder 24	<p>Negative No. – A 31991 F; Subject – QUIMBY, HARRIET: PRIOR TO HER ENGLISH CHANNEL FLIGHT, April 16, 1912</p> <p>Notes: Caption – A confidently smiling Harriet Quimby receiving last minute advice and good wishes just prior to her Channel flight.</p>
Box 1, Folder 25	<p>Negative No. – A 5532 B; Subject – QUIMBY, HARRIET: THE BOSTON AVIATION MEET, 1912</p> <p>Notes: Caption – In her characteristic satin flying suit, Harriet Quimby poses prior to the Boston Aviation Meet, 1912; inset, part of the wreckage of her aircraft being examined after her fatal accident.</p>
Box 1, Folder 26	<p>Negative No. – A 43515; Subject – MOISANT, MATILDE; QUIMBY, HARRIET</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Moisant and Quimby, close friends and fellow students at the Moisant School of Aviation.</p>
Box 1, Folder 27	<p>Negative No. – 73-3564; Subject – MOISANT, MATILDE</p> <p>Notes: Caption – In her heavy tweed flying suit that was credited with saving her life when her airplane caught fire on landing.</p>

Box 1, Folder 28	Negative No. – 77-703; Subject – MOISANT, MATILDE: PILOT'S LICENSE, circa 1911 Notes: Caption – Matilde Moisant's pilot license, issued August 17, 1911; the second one granted to a woman in the United States.
Box 1, Folder 29	Negative No. – 77-699; Subject – MOISANT, MATILDE: FIERY CRASH Notes: Caption – The fiery crash that concluded her last flight.
Box 1, Folder 30	Negative No. – 77-702; Subject – DUTRIEU, HELENE Notes: Caption – France's leading aviatrix, who flew in several major U.S. air meets in the early 1900's and received the Legion of Honor from the French government for her achievements in aviation.
Box 1, Folder 31	Negative No. – 73-4023; Subject – DUTRIEU, HELENE: FRANCE'S LEADING AVIATRIX Notes: Caption – Helene Dutrieu flew in several major U.S. air meets in the early 1900's and received the Legion of Honor from the French government for her achievements in aviation.
Box 1, Folder 32	Negative No. – A 43512 F; Subject – STINSON, KATHERINE Notes: Caption – The oldest of the four Stinsons, who were all famous in aviation.
Box 1, Folder 33	Negative No. – A 5532 A; Subject – THE STINSON SISTERS: KATHERINE AND MARJORIE, 1913 Notes: Caption – Just after a flight in Katherine's airplane.
Box 1, Folder 34	Negative No. – A 48410; Subject – STINSON, KATHERINE: THE CURTISS JN-4 Notes: Caption – The Curtiss JN-4 used by Katherine Stinson for her fund-raising tour for the Red Cross during World War I.
Box 1, Folder 35	Negative No. – unknown; Subject – STINSON, KATHERINE: ROLAND ROLPHS GREETES HER Notes: Caption – Roland Rolphs, chief pilot for the Curtiss Company, greeting Katherine Stinson in California. Photo – Courtesy of Rare Birds, Inc.
Box 1, Folder 36	Negative No. – unknown; Subject – STINSON, KATHERINE: AERIAL EXHIBITION ON HER RED CROSS TOUR Notes: Caption – On her Red Cross tour, Katherine Stinson gave aerial exhibitions at several military bases. Photo – Courtesy of Rare Birds, Inc.
Box 1, Folder 37	Negative No. – 77-705; Subject – THE FLYING CLASS OF THE WRIGHT SCHOOL, August 1, 1914 Notes: Caption – The flying class of the Wright School, Dayton, Ohio (left to right): H. Daniels; Howard Rinehart, instructor; Lt. K.

	Whiting, USN; Marjorie Stinson; Griffith Brewer, England; C. Ando, Japan.
Box 1, Folder 38	<p>Negative No. – A 32619 J; Subject – STINSON, MARJORIE: ARMISTEAD, GEORGE, May 1915</p> <p>Notes: Caption – George Armistead, postmaster of San Antonio, swearing in Marjorie Stinson to carry mail between San Antonia and Seguin, Texas; Emma Stinson, Marjorie's mother, second from right.</p>
Box 1, Folder 39	<p>Negative No. – A 309590; Subject – STINSON, MARJORIE</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Marjorie Stinson who trained many men as pilots that later flew for the U.S. and Canada in World War I.</p>
Box 1, Folder 40	<p>Negative No. – 77-709; Subject – STINSON, MARJORIE: HANDBILL ADVERTISES HER PERFORMANCE</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Handbill advertising a performance of Marjorie Stinson at the German-speaking community of Seguin, Texas.</p>
Box 1, Folder 41	<p>Negative No. – A 5251; Subject – LAW, RUTH: WITH HER BROTHER RODMAN</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Ruth Law with her brother, Rodman, a trick parachutist and daredevil performer.</p>
Box 1, Folder 42	<p>Negative No. – A 44433; Subject – LAW, RUTH: WRIGHT PLANE</p> <p>Notes: Caption – Airplanes owned by Ruth Law: top, the Wright plane in which she performed at resorts and air meets throughout the country; bottom, the Curtiss pusher modified with Wright-type controls that she used for her exhibition flights.</p> <p>Photo – Courtesy of Rare Birds, Inc.</p>
Box 1, Folder 43	<p>Negative No. – 77-706; Subject – LAW, RUTH: SPECTACULAR NIGHT-TIME PERFORMANCE</p> <p>Notes: Caption – One of Ruth Law's spectacular night-time performances when she looped with flares attached to her aircraft; inset, the aviatrix, Ruth Law.</p>
Box 1, Folder 44	<p>Negative No. – 77-708; Subject – LAW, RUTH: POSES AT THE HOTEL McALPIN, June 30, 1917</p> <p>Notes: Caption – A pose of Ruth Law, the first woman in the U.S. authorized to wear a noncommissioned officer's uniform, photographed at the Hotel McAlpin in New York, during a recruiting drive for the Army and the Navy.</p>
Box 1, Folder 45	<p>Negative No. – A 5532; Subject – LAW, RUTH</p> <p>Notes: Caption – The uniform and Curtiss plane, trademarks of Ruth Law's contributions to recruiting and to Red cross and Liberty Loan drives.</p>
Box 1, Folder 46	<p>Negative No. – 77-707; Subject – STINSON, KATHERINE: ARRIVAL AT CAMP KEARNY</p>

Notes: Caption – YMCA representative pinning the Association's triangle on Stinson's arm on her arrival at Camp Kearny from the North Island Aviation Station, San Diego.

Box 1, Folder 47

Negative No. – A 2065; Subject – UNKNOWN Caption – People meeting (probably in an airplane exhibition.)

Notes: Caption – People meeting (probably in an airplane exhibition).

Box 1, Folder 47

Negative No. – unknown; Subject – MRS. DIXON: ABOARD CROMWELLS DIXON'S AIRSHIP

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Series 2: Claudia Oakes' Notes, 1977

Box 1, Folder 48	Subject – U.S. WOMEN IN AVIATION THROUGH WORLD WAR I Notes: Remarks – Claudia Oakes' draft.
Box 1, Folder 49	Subject – THE SMITHSONIAN PRESS' HOUSE STYLE Notes: Remarks – Requirements for publications.
Box 1, Folder 50	Subject – U.S. WOMEN IN AVIATION THROUGH WORLD WAR I Notes: Remarks – Claudia Oakes' final draft (includes references).
Box 1, Folder 51	Subject – AERO CLUB OF AMERICA Notes: Remarks – Club's list (632 names, includes references).
Box 1, Folder 52	Subject – OAKES' WRITTEN NOTES, circa 1977 Notes: Remarks – Includes references and photograph's negative numbers.
Box 1, Folder 53	Subject – OAKES' LETTERS AND REFERENCES Notes: Remarks – Includes a written latter regarding the Amelia Earhart Collection.
Box 1, Folder 54	Subject – U.S. WOMEN IN AVIATION THROUGH WORLD WAR I Notes: Remarks – Claudia Oakes' written essay.
Box 1, Folder 56	Subject – PUBLICATION PAPERS, August 2, 1977 Notes: Remarks – Memorandum for Mr. Zisfein. Claudia Oakes suggests reviewers for her book.
Box 1, Folder 55	Subject – GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF THE SI/NASM NAME IN OUTSIDE PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS, July 5, 1977 Notes: Remarks – Memorandum written by Michael Collins for the Department and Division Heads.
Box 1, Folder 57	Subject – LETTERS FOR CLAUDIA M. OAKES Notes: Remarks – Most of the letters congratulate Claudia Oakes for the publication of her book. On of the letters shows concern with regards to the lack of women information in the libraries.

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Series 3: Subject Files, circa 1977

Box 2, Folder 1	Subject – ACOSTA, MISS ADA Notes: Materials – Photograph (Negative No. A 33043).
Box 2, Folder 2	Subject – BROADWICK, TINY Notes: Materials – An interview by Kenneth Leish, newspaper clippings, articles, and biographies.
Box 2, Folder 3	Subject – BRYANT, ALYS McKEY Notes: Materials – The Early Birds' application for membership, biography, newspaper clippings, and articles.
Box 2, Folder 4	Subject – CLARK, JULIA Notes: Materials – Articles and biographies.
Box 2, Folder 5	Subject – DUTRIEU, HELENE (French) Notes: Materials – Articles, obituary, biography, and letter.
Box 2, Folder 6	Subject – HARRIS, HELENE HODGE Notes: Materials – Letter and biographies.
Box 2, Folder 7	Subject – LAW, RUTH Notes: Materials – Articles and newspaper clippings.
Box 2, Folder 8	Subject – MILLER, BERNETTA Notes: Materials – Article and biography.
Box 2, Folder 9	Subject – MOISANT, MATILDE Notes: Materials – Biography and newspaper clippings.
Box 2, Folder 10	Subject – MYERS, MARY "CARLOTTA" Notes: Materials – Pamphlet and article
Box 2, Folder 11	Subject – QUIMBY, HARRIET Notes: Materials – Biographies, photographs, articles, and newspaper clippings.
Box 2, Folder 12	Subject – RAICHE, BESSICA Notes: Materials – Article.
Box 2, Folder 13	Subject – BLANCHE, SCOTT Notes: Materials – Accession worksheet, newspaper clippings, and biographies.
Box 2, Folder 14	Subject – SHAFFER, GENEVE A. Notes: Materials – Article, letter, and application for membership.
Box 2, Folder 15	Subject – SMITH, HILDER

	Notes:	Materials – Articles and newspaper clippings.
Box 2, Folder 16	Subject – SNOOK, NETA Notes:	Materials – Photograph, articles, letters, and Oakes' written notes.
Box 2, Folder 17	Subject – STINSON, KATHERINE Notes:	Materials – Biography, photographs, and newspaper clippings.
Box 2, Folder 18	Subject – STINSON, MARJORIE Notes:	Materials – Articles, newspaper clippings, and biographies.
Box 2, Folder 19	Subject – MISCELLANEOUS (PASSENGERS, NON-PILOTS) Notes:	Materials – Articles and newspaper clippings.
Box 2, Folder 20	Subject – MISCELLANEOUS PILOTS Notes:	Materials – Letters, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

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