



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Rutha Curtiss Diary

2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Rutha Curtiss Diary
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1909-1910)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0690
<b>Creator:</b>	Curtiss, Rutha
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Unknown

### Preferred Citation

Rutha Curtiss Diary, Accession XXXX-0690, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Rutha Luella Curtiss (b. 1881) was the younger sister of Glenn Hammond Curtiss. When she was 6 years old, she fell victim to meningitis, and although she recovered, she lost her hearing in the process. Glenn helped her with finger-spelling and lip-reading and in 1889 the family moved to Rochester so that she could attend the Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes. In 1897, Rutha became a boarding student there when her family moved again. When she graduated, she continued at the school as a teacher until 1915 when she married Augustus Hesley. In 1918 the couple moved, with Rutha's mother Lua Curtiss, to California. When Lua later decided to move to Miami, she again persuaded Rutha to join her, this time leaving her husband to do so, although the two were never actually divorced.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection is a diary kept by Rutha in 1909 while she was teaching at the Institute. She often mentions her brother Glenn and his activities.

## 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:

Diaries

Names:

Curtiss, Glenn Hammond, 1878-1930