Mary Charles Collection

by Amanda Buel

2013

This finding aid was generated automatically on December 22, 2014
# Table of Contents

Collection Overview......................................................................................................... 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Biographical Note............................................................................................................. 2
Scope and Content Note..................................................................................................... 2
Arrangement..................................................................................................................... 2
Names and Subject Terms ............................................................................................... 2
Container Listing.............................................................................................................. 4
Collection Overview

Repository: National Air and Space Museum Archives Division

Creator: Charles, Mary

Title: Mary Charles Collection

Dates: 1931-1966

Bulk Dates: 1932-1936

Quantity: 1.41 cubic feet, 3 Boxes - 1 letter-size document box; 2 flat boxes.

Abstract: The Mary Charles Collection consists of documents, photographs, and scrapbooks collected/assembled by (Sarah) Mary Charles between 1931 and 1966. The collection showcases Charles' activity as a licensed pilot. The bulk of the collection covers the span between 1931 and 1936.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Processing Information
Arranged, described, and encoded by Amanda Buel, 2013.

Preferred Citation
Mary Charles Collection, Accession XXXX-0011, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access
No restrictions on access.

Ownership & Literary Rights
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 Note

(Sarah) Mary Charles (circa 1887-1972) was a licensed pilot and advocate for women's involvement in aeronautics. She received flying instruction from U.S. Naval Reserve experts at Clover Field, in Santa Monica, California, in 1929, and earned her pilot's license in 1931. Charles participated in the 1931 Cleveland Air Race, where she finished last as a result of engine problems. She did, however, place third in the women's dead stick landing contest.

In 1936, she received instruction in blind flying at Central Airport. Besides being active in the OX5 Club, the Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA), the Ninety-Nines, and The Women Peace Officers Association of California, Charles was also a Captain in the Women's Air Reserve, a group of women pilots organized to fly and give medical treatment in inaccessible stricken areas.

Scope and Content Note

This collection, encompassing the years of 1931-1966, includes Women's National Air Corps material, Mary Charles' pilot certificates, OX5 Club material, Women's Air Reserve material, autographed photographs, correspondence, and newspaper clippings relating to women in aviation, as well as three scrapbooks covering the 1931 National Air Races in Cleveland.

Arrangement

The Mary Charles Collection is a small collection and, as such, it has no distinct series groupings. Box 1 is arranged in strict chronological order; boxes 2 and 3 are arranged to accommodate a safe fit of the materials in the containers. Titles appearing in brackets [ ] are the archivist's.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
  Aeronautics
  Aeronautics--Exhibitions
  Women in aeronautics

Types of Materials:
  Correspondence
  Photographs
  Publications
  Scrapbooks

Names:
  Charles, Mary
National Air Races.
Ninety-Nines (Organization).
OX5 Aviation Pioneers.
Women's Air Reserve.
Women's National Air Corps.
### Container Listing

| Box 1, Folder 1 | [Aviator's Certificates. National Aeronatic Association (NAA) and Women's Air Reserve], 1931-1932 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | [Women's Air Reserve Material], 1932 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | [Women's Air Reserve Regulations, 2nd edition], 1932  
3 copies (derivative objects) |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | [Photographs of the Women's Air Reserve Aerial Ambulance], 1933 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | ["My Flying Experience" (Diary)], 1934 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | ["Peace by Preparedness - 1935" Women's National Air Corps], 1935 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | [The Women Peace Officers Association of California Yearbook 1935-1936 and Official Program 1936 Convention. Santa Monica, Oct. 15, 16, 17], 1936 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | [Supervisory Training Conference Report. 55th Sub-Depot Army Air Base Lemoore, Calif.], 1942 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | [Poem "...With a Friend"], March 25, 1944 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | [Downie, Don. "Fabulous 'Pancho' Barnes." *Flying* (March 1949): 36-38, 58-60.], March 1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | [OX5 Club of America Roster and Newsletter (Vol. 7, No. 6)], 1965 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | ["Red Mountain Views" - Drawings and Poems], January 1934 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | [Photo Album], 1931-1943 |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | [Scrap Book - "Capt. Mary Charles"], 1934-1966 |