

Aviation/Space Writers Association History of Aviation Collection

1938-1989

Correspondence, personal notes, newspaper clippings, press releases, organizational newsletters, AWA membership files, aviation/space annual award entries and photographs generated by and for the Aviation Writers Association with its organizational roots in the east coast but eventually spreading regionally throughout the United States and Canada. In addition to material relating to the basic makeup and operation of the organization, the bulk of the collection consists of the numerous award entries which would enter into competition, the winner being recognized and awarded a prize during the AWA annual news conferences held each year. Although AWA initially sponsored the awards, later most of the awards were sponsored by various companies in the aviation industry. In 1963, to commemorate the first 25 years of AWA the then acting AWA historian, Kendall K. Hoyt published [Ink and Avgas, A Silver Anniversary History of the Aviation/Space Writers Association 1938-1963.](#)

Biographical Sketch

The Aviation Writers Association was created by a small group of journalists from the aviation press corps in 1938. Devon Francis, then an aviation editor of *AP* and *Time* became the first acting president and Mike Froelich became the first acting secretary treasurer. These two men composed part of an original group of twelve who founded the organization. In April of 1939 the organization's first newsletter was published and mailed from the New York office of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, where AWA first began operations. The organization's original focus was to promote veracity and honesty in the dissemination of aviation writing as presented to the general public and to promote a broad exchange of news views and data, both public and confidential. A few decades from its inception, AWA became a coast-to-coast organization, which was divided into different regions throughout the United States and Canada. In this way the organization was able to promote both regional and national activities, such as annual news conferences and award presentations and in addition had the added benefit of mingling both news and public relations people for their mutual advantage.

Series Description

The Collection is arranged in six series

- Series I. AWA Annual News Conferences, 1939-1982.
 Arranged chronologically. Material generated during yearly news conferences.
- Subseries. AWA Regional Officer and Director
 Arranged chronologically. Material generated by the different regions of

AWA throughout the U.S. and Canada.

- Subseries. AWA Committee/Board Meetings, 1939-1969.
Arranged chronologically. Material generated by various committees and boards addressing items of concern to the organization.
- Series II. Membership, 1939-1985.
Arranged alphabetically by last name. AWA members resigned; early and deceased members; individual member files and membership applications. Files containing membership applications and correspondence relating to application for membership; acceptance/denial letters; notification of resignation, death, etc.
- Series III. AWA newsletters, 1939-1980.
Arranged chronologically. Organizational newsletters.
- Series IV. AWA awards correspondence, 1948-1984.
Arranged chronologically. Correspondence relating to award submissions and notices of award winners.
- Subseries. AWA award entries, 1968-1988.
Arranged chronologically. Material submitted by military and civilian public information officers, as well as aviation journalists and newsmen in competition for award recognition held annually at the Aviation Writers Association annual news conferences.
- Series V. AWA photographs, 1927-1983.
Arranged chronologically. Photographs taken during AWA annual news conferences as well as assorted press and publicity photographs.
- Series VI. AWA noteworthy material, 1946-1980.
Arranged chronologically. AWA Certificate of Incorporation; AWA Constitution; copy of Ink and Avgas; various signatures of aviation pioneers; AWA manual.
- Oversize Material, 1946-1981.
Arranged chronologically. Large and oversize bound notebooks and ledgers taken from above material.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, in 35 storage boxes, is composed of material generated by and for the Aviation Writers Association, which includes correspondence; personal notes; newspaper clippings; award entries as well as assorted black and white photographs. The material spans the years 1939-1988.

The collection is organized into six series. The first series is the Organizational series, arranged chronologically, and contains material generated at the yearly news conferences, as well as that generated by regional officer and director activities and AWA committee/board meetings held throughout the year. This material covers the years 1939-1982. The second series is the Membership series, arranged alphabetically, and contains material relating to the membership constituent. Contained within the files is information on members dropped; resigned; early and deceased members; individual member files as well as membership applications. They are arranged alphabetically by last name and cover the years 1939-1985. The third series is a collection of AWA newsletters, arranged chronologically and covering the years 1939-1978. These are the official publications relating directly to the organization. Series four consists of AWA Awards Correspondence, arranged chronologically and containing various letters; notices; personal notes and memos relating to the awards given out annually at the annual news conferences, 1948-1984. Also in the series are a subseries which contains the actual award entries, which compose the major portion of this collection. This material is also arranged chronologically, and covers the years 1968-1988. Series five are the AWA photographs taken at the annual news conferences as well as various assorted press photographs, most are black and white and cover the years 1927-1984. Series six is titled AWA Noteworthy Material and contains items of particular importance to the organization and the aviation industry. Contained within these files are the AWA Incorporation Papers; the AWA Constitution; a copy of Ink and Avgas, commemorating the first twenty-five years of AWA; AWA manuals and noteworthy signatures of individuals prominent in the history of aviation. The material is arranged chronologically and spans the years 1947-1980. In addition, there are three storage boxes containing oversize material taken from the sources already listed. These are in the form of large bound notebooks and ledgers which cover the years 1946-1981.

As much as possible, duplicated material in this collection was disregarded. The material in each series as well as the series order was determined by the processor, although some of the series, particularly the membership series, did retain much of its original file order.

The Aviation Writers Association Collection will be of particular benefit to those involved in researching the development of military and commercial aviation and space. The extensive collection of award entries spanning the years 1968-1988 give specific examples of what was considered state-of-the-art in the aviation/space industry at the time. The collection may also be of benefit to those engaged in researching the history of organizations, as much of the material relates to both the development and day to day operation of the Aviation Writers Association.

Provenance Statement

The Aviation Writers Collection was a gift to The University of Texas at Dallas. It is currently housed in The Special Collections Department holding of the University Library.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Aviation Writers Association Collection must be obtained from the Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Note to the Researcher

A special note regarding the AWA Annual News Conference files contained in series one. Within some of the files themselves are contained material with earlier (and in some cases) later years than what is labeled on the file. The reason for this is that this material was often used as pre-planning information for future conferences or follow-up information used to determine the success or failure of the last conference.

Box 1

Series I. AWA Annual News Conferences, 1939-1982

1	AWA Annual News Conferences Personal notes, correspondence, memos relating to the yearly conferences.	1939
2	Same as above	1942
3	Same as above	1943
4	Same as above	1944
5	Same as above	1945
6	Same as above	1946
7	Same as above	1947
8	Same as above	1948
9	Same as above	1949
10	Same as above	1950

11	Same as above	1951
12	Same as above	1952
13	Same as above	1953
14	Same as above	1954
15	Same as above	1955
16	Same as above	1956
17-18	Same as above	1957
19	Registration lists of AWA conference participants	1957-1964
20	Convention Business Meetings	1958
21	AWA Annual News Conference	1958
22	Convention Transportation, letters, notes and memos regarding transportation to convention	1958
23	AWA Annual News Conferences	1959
24-27	Same as above	1959
28	Convention Program	1959
29	AWA Annual News Conferences	1960
30-37	Same as above	1960
38-40	Same as above	1961
41-43	Same as above	1962
44-48	Same as above	1963

Box 2

1	Registration lists	1964
2	AWA Annual News Conferences	1964

3-10	Same as above	1965
11-13	Same as above	1966
14	Same as above	1967
15	Same as above	1968
16-24	Same as above	1969
25-34	Same as above	1970
35-36	Same as above	1971
37-39	Same as above	1972

Box 3

1-11	Same as above	1972
12-14	Same as above	1973
15-18	Same as above	1974
19-33	Same as above	1976
34	Registration lists	1976
35	AWA Annual News Conferences	1976
36-41	Same as above	1977
42-44	Same as above	1978
45-50	Same as above	1979
51	International News Conference	1979
52	AWA Annual News Conference	1980
53-55	Same as above	1980

56	Same as above	1982
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Box 1
Subseries. AWA Regional Officer and Director Activities, 1956-1974.

1	AWA Regional and Director Activities	1956
2	Same as above	1957
3-5	Same as above	1958
6	Same as above	1959
7	Same as above	1959-1961
8	Same as above	1960
9-10	Same as above	1960-1961
11	Same as above	1965-1967
12	Same as above	1968-1969
13	Same as above	1970-1971
14	Same as above	1971-1975
15	AWA Officer and Director Activities Region #1	1958
16	Same as above, Region #2	1957-1960
17	Same as above, Region #4	1958-1959
18	Same as above, Region #5	1957-1958
19	Same as above, Region #6	1958-1959
20	Same as above, Region #7	1958-1959
21	Same as above, Region #8	1958
22	Same as above, Region #9	1957-1959

23	Same as above, Region #10	1957-1959
24	Same as above, Region #11	1950-1959
25	Same as above, Region #12	1957-1958
26	Same as above, Region #13	1957-1958
27	Same as above, Region #1	1960
28	Same as above, Region #2	1960-1961
29	Same as above, Region #4	1959-1960
30	Same as above, Region #5	1959
31	Same as above, Region #6	1959-1961
32	Same as above, Region #7	1959-1961
33	Same as above, Region #8	1959-1960
34	Same as above, Region #9	1959-1961
35	Same as above, Region #9	1962-1963
36	Same as above, Region #10	1959-1960
37	Same as above, Region #11	1960-1961
38	Same as above, Region #12	1959-1961
39	Same as above, Region #13	1959-1961
40	Same as above, Region #2	1961-1964
41	Same as above, Region #3	1963
42	Same as above, Region #4	1962-1964
43	Same as above, Region #6	1961-1962
44	Same as above, Region #6	1962-1965
45	Same as above, Region #7	1961-1964

46	Same as above, Region #8	1963
47	Same as above, Region #9	1963-1966
48	Same as above, Region #10	1961-1965
49	Same as above, Region #11	1963-1964
50	Same as above, Region #12	1961-1964
51	Same as above, Region #13	1963-1964
52	AWA Officer and Director Activities	1972-1973
53	Same as above	1972-1973
54	Same as above	1972-1974

Box 1
Subseries. AWA Committee/Board Meetings, 1939-1980

1	Same as above	1939-1954
2	Same as above	1940-1945
3	Same as above	1945-1946, 1955-1956, 1965-1966
4	Same as above	1945-1963
5	Same as above	1946-1956
6	Same as above	1950
7-10	Same as above	1951
11	Same as above	1952
12	Same as above	1954
13	Same as above	1955

14	Same as above	1956-1960
15	Same as above	1957-1958
16	Same as above	1958
17-18	Same as above	1959-1960
19	Same as above	1960-1963
20-21	Same as above	1961
22-24	Same as above	1962
25	Same as above	1962-1963
26	Same as above	1963
27	Same as above	1963-1964
28	Same as above	1964
29	Same as above	1964-1965
30	Same as above	1964-1966
31	Same as above	1965
32	Same as above	1966
33-34	Same as above	1967
35-37	Same as above	1968
38-43	Same as above	1969

Box 2

1	Same as above	1969
2	Same as above	1969-1972
3	Same as above	1970

4	Same as above	1970-1971
5-6	Same as above	1971
7-9	Same as above	1972
10-11	Same as above	1973
12	Same as above	1974
13	Same as above	1975-1979
14-17	Same as above	1975
18-21	Same as above	1976
22-26	Same as above	1977
27-28	Same as above	1978
29-34	Same as above	1979
35-36	Same as above	1980

Box 1
Series II. Membership, 1939-1985

1	AWA members dropped, A-B	
2-3	Same as above, A-B	
4-7	Same as above, C-D	
8-12	Same as above, E-H	
13-15	Same as above, I-K	
16-17	Same as above	L
18-20	Same as above, M	
21-23	Same as above, N-Q	

24-25 Same as above, R
26-30 Same as above, S-T
31-34 Same as above, V-Z

Box 2

1 AWA Members Resigned, A
2-4 Same as above, B
5-6 Same as above, C
7 Same as above, D
8 Same as above, E
9 Same as above, F
10 Same as above, G
11-12 Same as above, H
13 Same as above, I
14 Same as above, J
15 Same as above, K
16 Same as above, L
17 Same as above, Mc
18-19 Same as above, M
20 Same as above, N
21 Same as above, O-Q
22-23 Same as above, R
24-25 Same as above, S
26-27 Same as above, T

- 28 Same as above, U-V
- 29-31 Same as above, W
- 32 Same as above, X-Z

Box 3

- 1 AWA Early Members, A-D
- 2 Same as above, E-H
- 3 Same as above, I-M
- 4 Same as above, N-R
- 5 Same as above, S-V
- 6 Same as above, W-Z
- 7 AWA Members Deceased, A-K
- 8 Same as above, L-M
- 9 Same as above, R-Z

Box 4

- 1 AWA Individual Member Files, Asch
- 2 Same as above, Bergman
- 3 Same as above, Bonney
- 4 Same as above, Brinkley
- 5 Same as above, Bruno
- 6 Same as above, Caidin
- 7 Same as above, Caniff

- 8 Same as above, Colby
- 9 Same as above, Fisher
- 10 Same as above, Fletcher
- 11-12 Same as above, Francis
- 13 Same as above, Gall
- 14 Same as above, Goodman
- 15 Same as above, Haddaway
- 16 Same as above, Haggerty
- 17 Same as above, Hannifin
- 18 Same as above, Hoyt
- 19 Same as above, Kaiser
- 20-22 Same as above, Loening
- 23 Same as above, McDarment
- 24 Same as above, Miles
- 26 Same as above, Mosley
- 27 Same as above, Muhlfeld
- 28 Same as above, Nobles
- 29 Same as above, Page
- 30 Same as above, Pickering
- 31 Same as above, Pipp
- 32 Same as above, Parrish
- 33 Same as above, Reiss
- 34 Same as above, Stebbins

35 Same as above, Talbert

Box 5

1 AWA Membership Applications, A

2-3 Same as above, A

4-14 Same as above, B

15-21 Same as above, C

22-25 Same as above, D

26 Same as above, E

27-30 Same as above, F

31-34 Same as above, G

35-41 Same as above, H

42 Same as above, I

43-45 Same as above, J

46-50 Same as above, K

51 Same as above, M

52 Same as above, W

Box 1

Series III. AWA Newsletters, 1939-1980

1 AWA Newsletters 1939-1944

2 Same as above 1944-45

3 Same as above 1945-46

4 Same as above 1947

5	Same as above	1947-1948
6	Same as above	1948
7	Same as above	1948-1949
8-9	Same as above	1949
10	Same as above	1949-1950
11	Same as above	1950-1951
12	Same as above	1951-1952
13	Same as above	1952
14	Same as above	1953
15	Same as above	1953-1954
16	Same as above	1954-1955
17	Same as above	1955-1956
18	Same as above	1956-1958
19	Same as above	1958-1959
20	Same as above	1960-1961
21	Same as above	1961-1963
22	Same as above	1963-1965
23	Same as above	1966-1971
24	Same as above	1971-1974
25	Same as above	1974-1976
26	Same as above	1976-1977
27	Same as above	1977-1980

Box 1
Series IV. AWA Awards Correspondence, 1948-1984

1	AWA Awards Correspondence	1948-1960
2	Same as above	1952-1974
3	Same as above	1952-1965
4	Same as above	1952-1965
5	Same as above	1956-1961
6	Same as above	1956-1964
7	Same as above	1958-1965
8	Same as above	1962
9	Same as above	1959-1962
10	Same as above	1960-1964
11-13	Same as above	1962-1964
14-21	Same as above	1966
22	Same as above	1967
23	Same as above	1965-1967
24	Same as above	1967-1968
25-28	Same as above	1967
29-33	Same as above	1968
34-35	Same as above	1968-1969
36	Same as above	1968-1971
37-45	Same as above	1969

Box 2

1-3	Same as above	1969-1970
4	Same as above	1969-1971
5	Same as above	1969-1972
6-8	Same as above	1970
9-18	Same as above	1971
19-20	Same as above	1971-1972
21	Same as above	1971-1973
22-23	Same as above	1972
24	Same as above	1971-1973
25-31	Same as above	1972
32-33	Same as above	1972-1973
34	Same as above	1973

Box 3

1	Same as above	1973
2-3	Same as above	1974
4-5	Same as above	1975
6	Same as above	1975-1976
7-12	Same as above	1976
13-24	Same as above	1977
25-28	Same as above	1978

Box 4

1-2	Same as above	1978
3-15	Same as above	1979
16-33	Same as above	1980
34	Same as above	1981
35	Same as above	1984

Box 1**Subseries. AWA Award Entries, 1968-1988**

1	AWA Award Entries	1968
2-8	Same as above	1969
9-17	Same as above	1970
18-23	Same as above	1971
24-35	Same as above	1972

Box 2

1-21	Same as above	1972
22-26	Same as above	1973
27-30	Same as above	1974

Box 3

1-20	Same as above	1975
21-26	Same as above	1976

27	Same as above	1977
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Box 4

1-13	Same as above	1978
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14-22	Same as above	1979
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23-29	Same as above	1980
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Box 5

1-12	Same as above	1980
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13-20	Same as above	1981
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Box 6

1-7	Same as above	1981
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8-14	Same as above	1982
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Box 7

1-3	Same as above	1981
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4-7	Same as above	1982
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Box 8

1-21	Same as above	1982
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Box 9

1-19	Same as above	1982
20-24	Same as above	1983
25-33	Same as above	1984

Box 10

1-6	Same as above	1984
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Box 11

1-8	Same as above	1985
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Box 12

1-28	Same as above	1986
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Box 13

1-24	Same as above	1988
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Box 1
Series V. AWA Photographs, 1927-1984

1	AWA Annual News Conference Photographs, 1933	
2	Same as above	1944
3	Same as above	1948
4	Same as above	1949

5	Same as above	1954
6	Same as above	1955
7	Same as above	1956-1961
8	Same as above	1957
9	Same as above	1958
10	Same as above	1959
11	Same as above	1960
12	Same as above	1962
13	Same as above	1967
14	Same as above	1968-1983
15-16	Same as above	1969
17	Same as above	1971
18	Same as above	1972
19	Same as above	1973
20	Same as above	1974
21	Same as above	1975
22-25	Same as above	1976
26	Same as above	1977
27-30	Same as above	1978
31-33	Same as above	1979

Box 2

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
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1	AWA Press Photographs, 1927	
2	Same as above	1936-1945
3	Same as above	1947
4	Same as above	1954
5	Same as above	1957
6	Same as above	1958
7	Same as above	1959
8	Same as above	1960
9-10	Same as above	1962
11	Same as above	1963
12	Same as above	1964
13	Same as above	1965
14	Same as above	1968
15	Same as above	1969
16	Same as above	1971
17	Same as above	1973
18	Same as above	1974
19-20	Same as above	1975
21-23	Same as above	1976
24	Same as above	1977
25	Same as above	1978
26	Same as above	1979
27	Same as above	1980

28	Same as above	1981
29	Same as above	1984

Box 1

Series VI: AWA Noteworthy Material, 1946-1980.

1	AWA Constitution	1946
	AWA Incorporation Papers	1947
	Signatures of aviation pioneers from AWA award luncheon	1972
	AWA manuals	1970-1972; 1979-1980
	Oversize material	1946-1981
	Six bound notebooks and ledgers	1946-1965

Box 2

Six bound notebooks and ledgers	1963-1981
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Box 3

Eight bound notebooks and ledgers	1969-1981
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