

Amelia Earhart Collection
History of Aviation Collection

Biographical Information

Born: Atchison, KS, July 24, 1897

Died: July 2, 1937, flew from New Guinea eastward across Pacific and was never heard from again.

Education: Hyde Park High School in Chicago, IL
Ogontz School in Rydel, Pennsylvania (1 semester)
Columbia University (1 year)

Aviation Background

After graduation in June, 1916, Amelia enrolled for the 1916-18 fall term in Ogontz School where she remained until December, 1917. While visiting her sister in Toronto, joined Red Cross as a volunteer aide at Spadina Military Hospital. Became captivated by exploits of the Royal Flying Corps. Moved to Northampton, Mass. where she took a course in engine mechanics.

Enrolled at Columbia as a premedical student, but after a year 1919 went to Los Angeles, CA. Took her first airplane ride with Frank Hawks at Glendale, CA.

After lessons with aviatrix Neta Snook, Earhart soloed in June 1921-22 1921 in a Kenner Airster. At twenty-five bought her first plane, a Kenner Canary, in which she set woman's altitude record of 14,000 feet.

Moved to Medford, Mass and taught English to immigrant 1924-26 factory workers through U of M extension program. In 1926 became a social worker at Denison House, a Boston settlement. Continued to fly as Kenner demonstration pilot at Denison Airport near Squantum.

On June 17 became first woman passenger to fly the Atlantic 1928 with pilot Wilmer Stultz. Wrote a book about the flight entitled 20 Hrs. 40 Min., lectured, and became aviation editor of Cosmopolitan and vice-president of Ludington Airlines (later National Airways.)

Participated in first Women's Air Derby from Santa Monica, CA, 1929 to Cleveland, OH. Was active in Zonta International, a service club for professional women. Became a founding member of the Ninety-Nines, international organization for licensed women pilots and its president until 1933.

Made several transcontinental flights in an autogiro as publicity 1931

stunt for Beech-Nut. On February 7, married George Palmer Putnam. Her husband arranged for publication of her later books, The Fun of It (1932) and the posthumous Last Flight 1937.

On May 21-22 piloting a Lockheed Vega became first woman to fly solo across Atlantic. 1932

Flew first solo flight from Honolulu to U.S. mainland. First person to fly non-stop from Mexico City to Newark, New Jersey. President Edward C. Elliott appointed her career counselor to Purdue's women students and special advisor in aeronautics. Purdue trustees purchased a Lockheed Electra for her 1935

On July 2 flew from New Guinea eastward across Pacific and was not heard from again. 1937

Honors:

- Harmon International Trophy
- Distinguished Flying Cross (first woman)
- Cross of French Legion of Honor
- National Geographic Society Gold Medal (first woman)
- Commemorative Air Mail Stamp (issued 1963)

Amelia Earhart Commemorative Stamp Collection

Provenance

The Amelia Earhart Stamp Collection was given to the History of Aviation Collection in Austin, TX in 1965 by Clara Studer, a resident. Ms. Studer launched a campaign for a commemorative stamp in honor of Amelia Earhart. By soliciting the help of other pioneer women pilots such as Fay Gillis Wells and Louise McPhedridge Thaden, Ms. Studer and friends contacted congressmen as well as senators. These women gradually gained the support of newspapers throughout the country. The list of folder contents that follows documents their efforts to rally endorsement and includes biographical information about and 21 photographs and a sketch of Earhart that was used in the campaign. On July 24, 1963 in Atchison, Kansas, the stamp was officially issued. the collection, in one archival box, contains 315 items.

Box 1

1 Magazine articles: Amelia Earhart, 1897-1937

Amelia Earhart Commemorative Stamp Collection, and
Biographical Information

- 2 Poem: "Amelia Earhart" by R.I. Phillips
Poem: "Amelia Earhart" by Nathalia Crane
Letter: From President Frankly D. Roosevelt
- 3 Dispatch of Warner Keith Thompson, U.S. Coast Guard
Cutter, Itasca
Memo: Pan American Airways Report on Proposed Joint
Rescue Plans
- 4 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp honoring Amelia Earhart
- 5 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp honoring Amelia Earhart
- 6 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp honoring Amelia Earhart
- 7 Pamphlet: Amelia Earhart Junior High School, Texas, and
Amelia Earhart Elementary School, Chicago
- 8 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp
- 9 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp
- 10 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp
- 11 Correspondence: Air Mail Stamp, Interested People
- 12 Commemorative Air Mail Stamp, Information Regarding
Issue and Purchase of the Stamp and Distinguished
Flying Cross, other
- 13 Commemorative Air Mail Stamp, List of Honors,, notes
Newspaper notes, articles, and press releases
- 14 Commemorative Air Mail Stamp, Photographs,
Philatelic: First Day Covers
- 15 Ink sketch by Pietro Lazzari, Rome, Italy
- 16 Commemorative Air Mail Stamp, Magazine Articles about
Amelia Earhart and early women aviators
- 17 Newspaper clippings

- 18 Commemorative Air Mail Stamp, Newspaper Clippings,
Atchison, Kansas paper
- 19 Amelia Earhart contact prints and negatives
- 20 16mm silent film: "After 21 Years of Darkness"
- 21 Newspaper clippings, magazine articles