

Guide to the  
Nelson Rokes Collection

(1914 - 1982)

Collection Dates: 1930 – 1982

Bulk Dates: 1935 – 1978

4.7 linear feet

Accession Number: 12-81  
Collection Number: HAC12-81

Prepared by

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CITATION: The Nelson Rokes Collection, Box number, Folder number, History of Aviation Collection, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Special Collections Department  
McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas

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## Biographical Sketch:

Nelson Rokes was born in 1914 in Rockland, Maine. Interested in flying as a teenager, he took his first lessons in 1928. Shortly after learning to fly he purchased his own plane and traveled around the East Coast of the United States as a barnstormer. This was followed by stints flying for both TWA and Braniff Airlines.

At the start of World War II Rokes was assigned to Army Air Corps General Hume Peabody as his personal pilot. Later in the war he received flight duties with the top secret Manhattan Project. There he flew scientists and payloads to various locations around the United States. After the war he settled in Canton, Ohio and went to work as a corporate pilot for Sam Keener and The Salem Engineering Company.

Rokes was the pilot for an epic around the world journey while he was flying for Salem Engineering Company. In 1947 Sam Keener had gone to Europe (with Rokes as his pilot) to investigate potential markets for Salem Engineering Company products in countries rebuilding from the devastation of World War II. Keener decided to follow this successful trip up with an around the world sales trip. In 1948, Sam Keener, Nelson Rokes, a co-pilot, navigator, a secretary, a reporter for the *Canton Economist*, and a photographer for *Life Magazine* started out on a flight that took them from the United States to Japan, Australia, the Middle East, into the heart of Europe, and back to the United States. After the successful completion of this trip Rokes continued to fly for Salem Engineering.

In early 1950 he left Salem to manage the New York based travel agency Travel Services, Inc. Rokes was a part owner of this business. However, Rokes' true joy was flying and in 1950 he left Travel Services, Inc. for a pilot's job in Proctor and Gamble's Corporate Aviation Division. Rokes spent the next 28 years with Proctor and Gamble, both as a pilot and administrator of the corporate fleet. Rokes retired from Proctor and Gamble in 1978, but continued to remain an active flyer until his death in 1982. He is survived by his wife Jean, and son Douglas.

## Sources

Nelson Rokes Collection, Box 1, Folder 5, History of Aviation Collection, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Melanie Tucker. "Flight of a Lifetime: Pilot's Wife Recalls Hardships, Chance Meetings with Famous Faces". *The Daily Times* (Maryville, TN), April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.

Serling, Robert J. *Howard Hughes Airline: An Informal History of TWA*. St. Martin's Press, 1983.

## **Series Description**

The Nelson Rokes collection encompasses one series consisting of seven boxes of material totaling 4.7 linear feet. It is composed of loose materials in folders. The collection is described at the folder level. See container list for the title of individual folders.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Nelson Rokes collection contains material pertaining to his career in the fields of corporate, commercial, and military aviation. However, the bulk of the material in the collection relates to the 1947 trip to Europe and the 1948 - 1949 around the world trip that he took with Sam Keener. The material in the collection includes charts, log books, landing clearances, flight plans, meteorological reports, and various navigational tools. Photographs and newspaper clippings are also present in the collection.

## **Provenance Statement**

The Nelson Rokes Collection was donated to the History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library Special Collections by Jean Rokes in 1981.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish copy, reprint, digitize, orally record for transmission over public airways, or use in any and all current or future developed methods or procedures, must be obtained in writing from the Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

## **Container list**

Begins on page 5.

## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 1</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
<b>1</b>	Aircraft Purchases and Sales (1936 – 1974)
<b>2</b>	Employment Contract: Massey and Ransom Flying Service (1940)
<b>3</b>	Papers Written by Rokes (1951 – 1966)
<b>4</b>	General Correspondence (1941 – 1970)
<b>5</b>	Personal Information (1945 – 1956)
<b>6</b>	Correspondence (1941 – 1948)
<b>7</b>	Brochures and Pamphlets (1941 - 1974)
<b>8</b>	Comparison of Various Models of Business Jet (1964)
<b>9</b>	Apollo 15 Launch Guest Invitation (1971)
<b>10</b>	Around the World Trip Correspondence (1948 – 1949)
<b>11</b>	Salem Engineering Company (1949)
<b>12</b>	Flight Plans and Meteorological Forecasts: France and Territories (1949)
<b>13</b>	Meteorological Forecasts: The Republic of Ireland (1949)
<b>14</b>	Meteorological Forecast and Flight Plans: The United Kingdom and Territories (1949)
<b>15</b>	Meteorological Forecast and Flight Plan: Italy (1949)
<b>16</b>	Meteorological Forecasts and Flight Plans: The Middle East (1949)
<b>17</b>	Meteorological Forecast and Flight Plan: Germany (1949)
<b>18</b>	Meteorological Forecasts and Flight Plans: Scandinavia (1949)

## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

### **Box 1**

### **Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>19</b> | Meteorological Forecasts and Flight Plans: Asia and The Pacific (1949)              |
| <b>20</b> | Meteorological Forecasts and Flight Plans: The United States and Territories (1949) |
| <b>21</b> | Meteorological Forecasts and Flight Plans: The Commonwealth of Australia (1949)     |
| <b>22</b> | Procedure for use of Charter Planes in Europe (1949)                                |
| <b>23</b> | Clearances – Around the World Trip (1949)   |
| <b>24</b> | Supply Manifest for Sam Keener around the World Trip (1949)                         |
| <b>25</b> | Procedures for Sam Keener Around the World Trip (1949)                              |
| <b>26</b> | Sam Keener Around the World Flight (1949)   |
| <b>27</b> | Flags of the World (1949)   |

### **Box 2**

#### **Folder**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | FMC Corporation – Private Plane Proposal (1950 - 1951) |
| <b>2</b> | TWA Information (1950)                                 |
| <b>3</b> | Consolidated Aircraft Schedules (1929)                 |
| <b>4</b> | Eastman Kodak Pilot Manual (1971)                      |
| <b>5</b> | Aviation Safety Manual (1964)                          |
| <b>6</b> | Temporary Airman Certificates (1948 – 1967)            |
| <b>7</b> | Helicopter Operation Supplement (1975)                 |
| <b>8</b> | DC-3 Landing Procedures (1949)                         |

## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

### **Box 2**

### **Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

9	Flight Instruction (1949 – 1960)
10	Braniff Airways Training Program (1942)
11	Information on Business Jets (1956 – 1972)
12	Visit by Admiral John T. Hayward, USN (1966)
13	Aircraft Greeting Cards (1960 – 1972)
14	Radio License (1954)
15	Fuselage Repair Proposal (1945)
16	Recommendation for Purchase of New Aircraft (1965)
17	Licenses and Certificates (1943 – 1961)
18	Maps and Charts (1971)
19	Navigation Notes (n.d.)
20	Concorde Flight (1970's)
21	Aviation Forms (1945 – 1955)
22	Affidavits (1947 – 1950)
23	Photographs: Nelson Rokes (1943 – 1971)
24	Photographs: Sam Keener and Group (1948 – 1949)

### **Box 3**

#### **Folder**

1	Photographs: Salem Engineering Aircraft (1947 – 1949)
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## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 3</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
<b>2</b>	Photographs: Sam Keener's Trip to Europe (1948)
<b>3</b>	Photographs: Hawker Sydley Business Jet (1966 – 1978)
<b>4</b>	Photographs: Unidentified Turboprop Aircraft (n.d.)
<b>5</b>	Photographs: Hangar Under Construction (1955 – 1978)
<b>6</b>	Photographs: Luken Airfield, Ohio (1947 – 1949)
<b>7</b>	Photographs: United States Army Air Corps Air Transport Command (1943 – 1945)
<b>8</b>	Photographs: Weather Equipment (n.d.)
<b>9</b>	Photographs: Aircraft Instruments (n.d.)
<b>10</b>	Photographs: Proctor and Gamble Corporate Aircraft (1955 – 1978)
<b>11</b>	Photographs: Early Aviation (1929 – 1943)
<b>12</b>	Photographs: England, France, Denmark, Italy (1943 – 1945)
<b>13</b>	Photographs: Aircraft Under Construction (n.d.)
<b>14</b>	Photographs: Unidentified Business Jet (n.d.)
<b>15</b>	Photographs: Japan (1945)
<b>16</b>	Photographs: Superior Airlines (1946)
<b>17</b>	Photographs: FSF Conference (n.d.)
<b>18</b>	Photographs: Aircraft Cockpits and Interiors (n.d.)
<b>19</b>	Photographs: Hangar Facility (1968 – 1972)
<b>20</b>	Photographs: Pioneer Days of Aviation (1929 – 1940)

## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

### **Box 3**

### **Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 21 | Photographs: Trip to Clark City, Labrador (1948) |
| 22 | Photographs: U.S. Army Air Corps (1941 – 1947)   |
| 23 | Photographs: Miscellaneous People (n.d.)         |
| 24 | Photographs: Miscellaneous Aircraft (n.d.)       |

### **Box 4**

#### **Folder**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Clippings: Ohio Local News (1949)                         |
| 2  | Clippings: Amelia Earhart (1937)                          |
| 3  | Clippings: Aircraft and Aviation (Folder A) (1941 – 1981) |
| 4  | Clippings: Aircraft and Aviation (Folder B) (1948 – 1966) |
| 5  | Clippings: Magazines (1949)                               |
| 6  | Clippings: Sam Keener (Folder A) (1947 – 1949)            |
| 7  | Clippings: Sam Keener (Folder B) (1947 – 1949)            |
| 8  | Clippings: Sam Keener (Folder C) (1947 – 1949)            |
| 9  | Clippings: Charles Lindberg and Family (1929 – 1933)      |
| 10 | Clippings: National and International News (1942 – 1949)  |

### **Box 5**

#### **Folder**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Clippings: Canton Economist (1949 – 1950) |
|---|---|

## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 5</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
2	Clippings: Nelson Rokes – Personal (1949 – 1953)
3	Clippings: Humor and Miscellaneous (n.d.)
4	Certificates (1937 – 1969)
5	Aviation Prints (1976)
6	Maps and Charts (1946 – 1950)
7	2 Bolo Ties (1960's)
8	Pens and Pencils (1949 – 1972)
9	2 Slide Rules (1937 – 1969)
10	4 Fuel Calculators (1941 – 1947)
11	Holding Entry Director (1947 – 1966)
12	3 Compasses (1947)
13	5 Computer Instruction Manuals (1961)
14	Tie Tacks (1947 – 1960)
15	6 Aviation Pins (1943 – 1972)
16	5 Navigational Plotters (1946)
17	3 Small Navigational Computers (1940)
18	Royal Aeroclub Medallion (1949 – 1953)
19	Warner BI Model Computer (1962)
20	Miscellaneous Computers (1959)
21	2 Dead Reckoning Computers (1943 – 1972)

**Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

**Box 5**

**Titles, Dates, and Description**

**Folder**

22	Dalton Aerial Dead Reckoning Slide Rule (1943 – 1972)
23	2 Jeppsen Aerial Dead Reckoning Slide Rules (1943 – 1972)
24	Falcon Fan Jet Material (1960's)
25	Gulfstream II Material (1955 – 1972)
26	Airline Flight Calculator (1943 – 1972)
27	Wind Component Analyzer (1946)
28	2 Jeppesen Computers (1955)
29	2 Dial-a-Cost Charts (1972)
30	5 Altitude Computers (1955)
31	5 Plotting Rulers (1936)
32	Engine Performance Calculator (1944)
33	15 Inch Parallel Ruler (1944)
34	Bib (1960's)
35	Headphones (1960's)
36	Compass (n.d)
37	Assorted Cigarette Lighters (1943 – 1972)

**Box 6**

**Folder**

1	Embry – Riddle Aeronautical University (1976)
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## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

### **Box 6**

### **Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2  | Instruction Manuals (1955 – 1962)   |
| 3  | Miscellaneous Items (n.d.)          |
| 4  | C-47 Operations Manual (1944)       |
| 5  | Official Journey Log (1948)         |
| 6  | Radio Facilities Manual (1948)      |
| 7  | Official Journey Log (1949)         |
| 8  | Pacific Airway Route Manual (1949)  |
| 9  | TWA International Pilots Kit (1947) |
| 10 | NBAA Convention News (1980 – 1982)  |

### **Box 7**

#### **Folder**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Business Cards (1943 – 1978)  |
| 2 | Patches and Stickers (1950 – 1970)                                  |
| 3 | Membership Cards (1956 – 1978)                                      |
| 4 | Air Rapid Transit Systems – Design and System Study (1967)          |
| 5 | Your Body in Flight (1960)  |
| 6 | Flight Manual (1943)  |
| 7 | Halby's Fly-In – Lunken Airport, Cincinnati, Ohio (July 14th, 1962) |

## **Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 7</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
8	American Airlines Retirement Benefit Plan (1956)
9	TWA Navigators Manual (1948)
10	The Madison Avenue Handbook 13 (1963)
11	Business Card Holder (1955 – 1978)
12	Rolls Royce Conversion Tables (1960 – 1963)
13	Hand Written Flight Log – Keener Around the World Flight (1949)
14	Wings Club Directory (1963)
15	Rolls Royce of Canada Year Planner (1966)
16	Pratt and Whitney Aeronautical Handbook (1957)
17	Prop to Pilot (1948)
18	Moonbeams – January – February (1966)
19	Moonbeams – April (1970)
20	Pilot's Short Hand (1955)
21	Conquistadores Del Celio – Membership Rules (1945)
22	WP-101 Pilot's Handbook (1960)
23	Low Altitude Instrument Approach Procedure – West Canada (September 1, 1971)
24	OX-5 Aviation Pioneers Membership Roster (1976)
25	Steele's Aid to Pilots Regulations (1942)
26	ALPA – United Airlines Agreement (1963)
27	United Kingdom Private Pilot's License (1949)

**Nelson Rokes Collection: Container List**

**Box 7**

**Titles, Dates, and Description**

**Folder**

28	Gulfstream I and II Aircraft Operation Information (1965)
29	Esso Aviation Handbook (1948)
30	Countering Terrorism (1977)
31	Aviation Jargon (1956)
32	Pacific Operation Manual Route Schedule – Pan American Airways (1949)