Descriptive Finding Guide for the Charles Harding Babb Personal Papers
SDASM.SC.10009

Finding aid prepared by Katrina Pescador
San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA, 92101
(619) 234-8291
2011
Title: Charles Harding Babb Personal Papers
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10009
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.8 Cubic feet2 manuscript boxes
Date (inclusive): 1920-2001
Abstract: This collection contains correspondence, prototypes, blueprints and other documents from Charles Harding Babb, founder of The Babb Company.
Language of Materials note: English
creator: Babb, Charles Harding, 1899-1952
Biographical/Historical note
Charles Harding Babb was born in Eugene, Oregon in 1899 and went on to study at the University of Oregon. Though injured as a youth in a hunting accident that took his right forearm, in 1919 Babb learned to fly in Venice, California, receiving FAI pilot certificate number 5074 and expert aviator certificate 302. However, it would not be as a pilot that Babb would leave his mark in aviation. In the 1920s, Charlie certified pilots (he issued Amelia Earhart her first license), and while N.A.A. Governor from 1920 to 1928, he was actively involved in organizing air races. From 1928 until 1952, Charles Babb operated The Babb Company, selling new and used aircraft, as well as aircraft parts. His company had a reputation for knowledge, quality, and service; the Babb Company became known as the world's largest international aircraft brokerage. It was in this capacity that Babb met and befriended some of the most influential aviation greats of the period. His peers included Donald Douglas, Jimmy Doolittle, Reuben Fleet, Wiley Post, Jackie Cochran, and Howard Hughes. In addition to running the Babb Co, Mr. Babb also was a founding member and, in 1951, voted president of the Conquistadores del Cielo, an exclusive aviation association. In 1940, Babb was granted the seminal patent on an aircraft cargo fuselage design which allowed for easy front loading nose access. The Babb Co. was selected in 1951 as the exclusive North American distributor for De Havilland's "Beaver" aircraft. Babb passed away unexpectedly in 1952.

Conditions Governing Access note
This collection is open to the public by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note
For copyright and use restrictions please consult the library director.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
The collection was donated to the SDASM in two installments.

Scope and Contents note
The collection includes correspondences, the original prototype model of the front-nose loading aircraft, blueprints/illustrations of the front-nose loading aircraft, one of kind photos, many of which are signed by some of Babb's famous friends, and collection appraisal report.

Preferred Citation note
[Item], The Personal Collection of Charles Harding Babb, Archives, San Diego Air & Space Museum

Related Archival Materials note
Pima Air Museum Purdue University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA Smithsonian, National Air & Space Museum, Washington D.C.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Conquistadores del Cielo.
De Havilland Aircraft Co., ltd..
The Babb Company.

Box 01
Physical Description: Series I: Correspondences and official papers
Folder 01 - Artifacts

Physical Description:
1. Passport for Don’s Beachcomber Club.
2. Small black address book.
5. Membership card for the Mallard Ponds Duck Club.
6. “Airplane Landing Fields of the West” and supplement dated 1929.
7. One paper with misc. names and addresses.

Folder 02 - Documents

Physical Description:
8. Document from J.R. Westfall & Company, including an appraisal of collection, patent (2,268,009) and a manuscript entitled “Call Charlie Babb” by Bertram Fowler and other misc Xerox copies of articles and images. Approx 55 pages total.
9. Document from David Guerra containing several aircraft related patents. This document concludes that C.H. Babb’s patent 2,268,009 was the first and pioneer patent for nose loading aircraft. Approximately 75 pages.
10. List of aircraft belonging to C.H. Babb. 100 pages.

Folder 03, 04 - Documents and Correspondences

Physical Description:
11. Postcard showing Consolidated C-87. Color.
12. One envelope containing numerous newspaper clippings mostly from 1925, “Air Races etc, Charles Secretary Southern California Chapter National Aeronautic Association” written on front.
15. Copy of a letter dated July 14, 2005 to John W. Myers from Charles Babb Jr.
17. “Air Cargo, Its History and Promised Future” pamphlet, 18 pages, including letter from John Frederick, University of Texas, to C.H. Babb.
18. Copy of article concerning the use of JATO on Mars aircraft, mention of C.H. Babb in article. 2 pages.
22. Description and Engineering Comments of Allied Amphibious Glider, 10 pages.
23. Notes from telcon with Charles Babb Jr. from Aviation Advisory Service, Oct 99, 10 hand written pages.
24. Xerox copy of “Nobody Knew the Business like Babb and Mose” 8 pages.
25. Xerox copy of front page of “Aircraft News and Advertiser” November 15, 1941.
26. C-87 brochure with photos, 8 pages.
27. Large black folder “Babb Aviation, Sales, Service, Supplies” containing letters and Xeroxed articles and certificate from the Governor of New Mexico to Charles Babb.
28. Copy of “Madcaps, Millionaires and ‘Mose’ a Pictorial history by John Underwood”.
30. Article from the Honolulu Advertiser featuring Charles Babb.
34. Conquistadores del Cielo letterhead.

Box 02

Physical Description: Series II: Photographs and Drawings Series III: Autographed Books
Folder 02 (Legal Sized Binder 2 Count) - Drawings and Photos

Series III: Autographed books