Descriptive Finding Guide for Errold Bahl Personal Papers SDASM.SC.10011

Finding aid prepared by Alan Renga
San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA, 92101
(619) 234-8291
10/14/2014
Title: Errold G. Bahl Personal Papers
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10011
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.36 Cubic feetOne (1) box, 12.5" x 10" x 5"
Date (inclusive): 1894-1930
Abstract: Errold G. Bahl (EGB, October 26, 1894 – October 26, 1930) was one of the early birds of aviation, an aircraft pilot, mechanic, barnstormer, and entrepreneur. He attended the School of Military Aeronautics, flew in Latin America, was a mentor to Lindbergh, and formed the Harding, Zook and Bahl Airplane Corporation. This collection includes material relating to his life in aviation, as well as the Harding, Zook and Bahl Corporation.

Related Archival Materials note
More information on the Harding, Zook and Bahl Lark can be found in the aircraft subject files. The images from this Collection have been digitized and placed on Flickr.

Biographical/Historical note
Errold G. Bahl (EGB, October 26, 1894 – October 26, 1930) was one of the early birds of aviation, an aircraft pilot, mechanic, barnstormer, and entrepreneur. He attended the School of Military Aeronautics, flew in Latin America, was a mentor to Lindbergh, and formed the Harding, Zoo and Bahl Airplane Corporation. He attended the School of Military Aeronautics, Waco, Texas, in 1917 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant for the US Army in 1918. After World War I, he received an honorable discharge. In the first half of the 1920s, he spent time in Honduras as pilot during a turbulent political period in the nation’s history. He went on to form the Harding, Zoo and Bahl Airplane Corporation in Lincoln, Nebraska. There they developed an aircraft called “the Lark,” the price of which was “about the same as that of the average good automobile” of the era. Bahl was a highly respected pilot and ran Goodwill flights to Mexico. He was a member of the Quiet Birdmen and the Freemasons. He also served as an instructor and barnstorming partner and mentor to Charles Lindbergh in 1922, who spoke of him prominently in his autobiography, “We.” Bahl received his commercial license in 1928 and patented many designs for aircraft improvements, particularly regarding fuselage form, building processes, and elevator systems. He was married with two children when he died suddenly on his 36th birthday in an automobile accident.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
The materials in this personal collection were donated to the San Diego Air & Space Museum in between August 1979 and October 1983. The collection has been fully processed.

Conditions Governing Access note
The collection is open to researchers by appointment.

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Scope and Contents note
Items in this collection include personal, military, club, and business correspondence, patents, postcards, travel mementos, and photographs ranging from 1917 to after the subject’s death in 1930.

Preferred Citation note
[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository “San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives”]

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Bahl, Errold G., 1894-1930
Harding, Zook and Bahl Aircraft Manufacturing Company.
Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974
Harding, Zook and Bahl Lark
Stunt flying
United States. Army. Air Corps. Advanced Flying School (Kelly Field, Tex.)
World War, 1914-1918
Box 01

Folder 01 - Harding, Zook, and Bahl Airplane Corporation


Folder 02- Correspondence, Military


Folder 03 - Correspondence, General

Folder 04 - Correspondence, Sympathy & Post-Mortem


Folder 05 - Drawings and Art

Physical Description: 1. Ink frame BAHL “Build Aviation.” 2. 4 Figure drawings – “Method for placing an aircooled motor in the wing of an airplane,” March 19, 1930. 3. Line drawing of an aircraft – “Inventor” witnessed by attorney. 4. Misc mirrored drawing. 5. 3 pgs pencils sketches of a house.

Folder 06 - Patents


Folder 07 - Printed Materials

Folder 08 - Miscellaneous

Folder 09 - Photograph & Image Documents