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## **The Papers of Jacqueline Cochran SDASM.SC.10028-O/S**

San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives  
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA, 92101  
(619) 234-8291  
2010

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**Title:** The Jacqueline Cochran Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** SDASM.SC.10028-O/S

**Contributing Institution:** San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.4 Linear feet1 manuscript box

**Date (inclusive):** 1908-1980

**Abstract:** This collection contains papers relating to Jacqueline Cochran's distinguished aviation career. Cochran earned her pilot's license in 1932 and went on to help form the Women Airforce Service Pilots group during World War II.

**Language of Materials note:** English

**creator:** Cochran, Jacqueline, 1906?-1980

**Biographical/Historical note**

Orphaned at an early age, the exact date of "Jackie" Cochran's birth is unknown. However, we do know that her most distinguished aviation career began in 1932 when she obtained her pilot's license after only three weeks of instruction. From this point on, she dedicated her life to aviation. Participating in her first air race in 1934, she earned the respect of fellow pilots for her competitive spirit and high skill. Her performance in various aviation events of the 1930s is legendary. Cochran is credited with many significant flight accomplishments attained during her flying career. Among these is her 1964 flight in the F-104 Starfighter where she established a speed record of 1,429 miles per hour. At the beginning of World War II she became a Wing Commander in the British Auxiliary Transport Service, ferrying U.S. built Hudson bombers to England. With the U.S. entry into the War, she offered her services to the Army Air Corps and formed the famed Women's Air Force Service Pilots. This group, over 1,000 strong, played a major role in the delivery of aircraft to the combat areas throughout the world. For this service she was awarded the U.S. Distinguished Service Medal. Some of the honors she has been accorded include the Harmon trophy, the General William E. Mitchell Award, Gold Medal of the Federation Aeronautique, and decorations from the numerous other countries.

**Conditions Governing Access note**

The collection is open to researchers by appointment.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

Some copyright may be reserved. Consult with the library director for more information.

**Scope and Contents note**

This collection covers Jacqueline Cochran's admirable career as a pilot and speed record holder, and covers her many valuable contributions to the aviation world. This collection contains the certificates, awards and honors earned by Cochran throughout her distinguished career, as well as some newspaper clippings and photographs. The materials cover the time span of Cochran's career, from 1939 until 1978, and consists of a variety of materials relating to the life and achievements of this great aviator.

**Preferred Citation note**

[Item], Jacqueline Cochran Collection, Archives, San Diego Air & Space Museum

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

The materials in this Collection were donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

United States. Army Air Forces.

Women Airforce Service Pilots

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**Box 1 of 1**

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**Series I:Awards**

**Physical Description:** 1. New York Newspaper Women's Club – award may 20, 1955. 2. Dallas Council on World Affairs – Honorary citizenship of Dallas, Texas. March 26, 1954. 3. Womens National Aeronautic Association – Honorary member for 2 years. November 18, 1944. 4. Secondary Education Board - Annual Book Award. March 5, 1955. 5. Wives Wing of Aero Medical Association – Award of Honorary membership. March 30, 1954. 6. Jacksonville University – Distinguished Service Award. November 29, 1958. 7. Aero Club of Pittsburgh – Citation as testimonial to keeping aviation in the mind of the public. 8. Spirit of Achievement Award. 1962. 9. State of New York – Official Scroll of Honor. August 1, 1958. 10. Indio Exchange Club – Golden Deeds Award. May 13, 1948. 11. Ordre National de la Legion D'Honneur Republique Francais. 13 April, 1949. 12. National Lafayette Honor List - Record of Enrollment. March 6, 1954. 13. City of Los Angeles - Resolution Honoring Jacqueline Cochran's contribution to the United States of America in aviation, national defense, literature, politics and business. May 19, 1978.

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**Series II: Letters**

**Physical Description:** 1. Credentials to act as President Eisenhower's Special Representative at Inauguration of President Somoza of Nicaragua; letter from President Somoza. 2. Letter from Jacqueline Cochran to Mrs. Sharron Temps thanking her for her letter. May 22, 1974. 3. Letter from the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation gifting Jacqueline Cochran the nameplate from the Seversky AP-4 Airplane in which she won the bendix Trphy Race, 1938.

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**Series III: Certificates**

**Physical Description:** 1. Civil Air Patrol – Certificate of rating as Command Pilot. 2. Air Power League – Certificate as Charter Member, 1945 3. Great Navy of the State of Nebraska – Appointment to Admiral. August 18, 1954. 4. National Aviation Clinic – Certificate as Consultant. 1946. 5. Turkish Air League – Certificate for Turkish Air Medal. November 3, 1949. 6. New York Herald Tribune – Divot Derby Certificate. 1952. 7. Lockheed Management Club – Certificate of Appreciation as guest Speaker. December 21, 1953. 8. Lockheed Georgia Company – Certificate of Completion of Jet Star Pilot Training and Lifetime Membership in the Jet Squires. April 15, 1962. 9. VAH-1 – Certificate of Honorary Membership. June, 1960. 10. Air Force Association – Certificate as patron member of the association. 11. Nurses National Memorial – Certificate of appreciation presented to Odlum-Cochran Foundation. December 26, 1946. 12. Nurses National Memorial – Certificate of appreciation presented to Jacqueline Cochran. February 1, 1946. 13. National Organization of Angel Flight – Certificate of membership. 23 September, 1963. 14. Academy of Model Aeronautics – Certificate of membership. September 7, 1961. 15. Certificate declaring Jacqueline Cochran to be America's First Lady of the Air. 16. Diploma Sportskog Pilota, Yugoslavia. 1959. 17. United States Air Force Recruiting Service – Certificate of Appreciation and Service. 18 April, 1957. 18. Armed Forces of the United States of America – Certificate of Retirement. 11 May, 1970.

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**Series IV: Honary Degrees**

**Physical Description:** 1. Northland College – Honorary Doctor of Science. 2. Notre Dame College – Honorary Doctor of Science. 31 May 1970. 3. Elmira College – Honorary Doctor of Law. (in blue folder with photographs, newspaper clippings and letters). June 6 1955.

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**Series V: Speed Records**

**Physical Description:** 1. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 2000 km. Republic AP-7. April 6, 1940. 2. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 100 km. Republic AP-7. April 20, 1940. 3. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 2000 km. P-51. December 10, 1947. 4. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 3 km. P-51 Feminine Record. December 17, 1947. 5. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 2000 km. P-51 Feminine Record. May 22, 1948. 6. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 1000 km. P-51 Feminine Record. May 24, 1948. 7. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 16 km. P-51 World Class Record. April 9, 1951. 8. National Aeronautic Association – Certificate of Record: 500 km. P-51 World Class Record. December 29, 1949. 9. Federation Aeronautique Internationale – Diploma of Record: 100 km. T-38. May 18, 1953. 10. Federation Aeronautique Internationale – Diploma of Record: 500 km. T-38. May 23, 1953. 11. Federation Aeronautique Internationale – Diploma of Record: 15 km. T-38. June 3, 1953. 12. Federation Aeronautique Internationale – Diploma of Record: Feminine Altitude. T-38. May 24, 1953. 13. Mach Busters Club – Certificate for exceeding the speed of sound in a US Air Force F-86 Sabre Jet.

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**Series VI: Programs**

**Physical Description:** 1. Macrorobertson International Air races – Official program (autographed) of Centenary Celebrations. 2. 24th Friendship Fete (sponsored by the Soroptimist Club of Philadelphia) – Program. April 28, 1962. 3. Federation Aeronautique Internationale – Conference Program. Held in Greece, 26 September – 1 October 1962. (In Greek, French and English)

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**Series VII: Miscellaneous**

**Physical Description:** 1. Envelope containing Window unfoil dropped over Germany to fool German Radar (given to Jacqueline Cochran by Dr. Alvarez) 2. Civio's, Mexico City. Souvenir photograph of party at Civios, sent by Floyd Odum to Jacqueline Cochran. 3. Long document, bound, written in French by General Catroux. 1959.

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