Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: John Underwood Photographic Collection
source: Underwood, John
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10146
Physical Description: .25 Cubic Feet. It is a photographic collection, but it also contains a newspaper photograph, a postcard, and a letter. There are two folders - one for the fifty-six photographs in alphabetical order by surname, and one for the other documents. The period covered is from the earliest days of flight until the 1960s. Two of the original fifty-eight photographs are missing. There is one oversized photograph in the Oversized Materials Special Collection, Box OSMC_00001. It is labeled as Underwood_01. This is a one box collection with dimensions 12 ¼” x 10 ½” x 2 ½” inches.
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: John Underwood grew up in Los Angeles, and his interest in aviation began at seven years old. He personally experienced the development of the aviation industry as an aviation technical writer. These photographs are part of Underwood’s personal collection and document famous women in aviation.
Biographical / Historical
John Underwood grew up in Los Angeles, and his interest in aviation began at seven years old. He personally experienced the development of the aviation industry as an aviation technical writer. His career choice and location amongst the bustling industries granted him access to dozens of aviation celebrities. Today, Underwood is a noted aviation historian and author with over ten books to his credit, and several aviation articles. He has an extensive collection of aviation material and thousands of photographs documenting aviation development and important aviation individuals. These photographs are part of Underwood’s personal collection.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in this collection were donated to the San Diego Air & Space Museum in September 9, 1980. The collection was donated with the restriction that the photographs were for display in the Women in Aviation Exhibit. The collection has been processed and is open for research for education purposes only. They may not be duplicated for publication without appropriate permission from Mr. Underwood.
Conditions Governing Use
These photos may not be reproduced or published without permission from Mr. Underwood.
Scope and Contents
This is a one box collection with dimensions 12 ¼” x 10 ½” x 2 ½” inches. It is a photographic collection, but it also contains a newspaper photograph, a postcard, and a letter. There are two folders - one for the fifty-six photographs in alphabetical order by surname, and one for the other documents. The period covered is from the earliest days of flight until the 1960s.
Two of the original fifty-eight photographs are missing.
There is one oversized photograph in the Oversized Materials Special Collection, Box OSMC_00001. It is labeled as Underwood_01.
Related Materials
The Papers of Helen Richey Jacqueline Cochran Special Collection Luqueer Photo Album Women of Flight Collection Autograph Special Collection
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Women in aeronautics
Underwood, John
Earhart, Amelia
Cochran, Jacqueline
Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus)
Lindbergh, Ann Morrow
Barnes, Florence “Pancho”
Quimby, Harriet

Box 1 of 1
Series I: Documents

Physical Description: 1. Postcard from John Underwood to Mrs. Sandy Clary; Mr. Underwood is inquiring whether Mrs. Clary has any newspaper accounts or photographs of a crash at Lindbergh Field. 2. Newspaper picture of female aviators including Blanche Noyes, Helen Richey, Helen McCloskey, and Louise Thaden. 3. Letter from John Underwood to Col. Owen Clarke regarding Mr. Underwood’s interest in providing some photographs for the Women in Aviation exhibit.
Series II: Photographs

Oversized Material

Physical Description: 1. First Women's Transcontinental Air Race; Take off, Santa Monica, August 19, 1929. Twelve planes (Rasche, Trout, Foltz, Crosson, Noyes, Barnes, Thaden, Kunz, Earhart, Cooper, Nichols, V. Mach). Placed in the Oversized Materials Special Collection Box OSMC_00001. It is labeled as Underwood_01.