
Finding aid of the Elizabeth Lippincott McQueen Papers

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Collection number: H19xx.0051

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Claremont, California

Processed by:

Michael P. Palmer

Date Completed:

April 20, 2010

Encoded by:

Michael P. Palmer

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number: 525

Title: Elizabeth Lippincott McQueen papers

Dates: 1912-1994

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1927-1949).

Creator: McQueen, Elizabeth Lippincott (Mrs. Ulysses Grant), 1878-1958

Collection Size: 1 archive box + 1 oversize box(0.5 linear foot).

Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library.
Claremont, CA 91711

Abstract: Photographs, correspondence, writings, clippings, and other materials, chiefly 1927-1949, relating to women in aviation, created and collected by Elizabeth L. (Mrs. Ulysses Grant) McQueen in the course of her activities as founder and honorary president of the Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA) and as principal organizer of the 1929 Women's Air Derby.

Physical location: Please consult repository.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.

Preferred Citation

Box #, item #, Elizabeth Lippincott McQueen papers. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

Acquisition Information

Date and method of acquisition unknown.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Michael Palmer, April 2010.

Biography

Elizabeth Lippincott was born in Pennington, New Jersey, on September 26, 1878, the daughter of the Rev. Benjamin Crispin Lippincott, DD, and his second wife, Deborah Diverty. She graduated from Pennington Seminary in 1898, and in March 1900 married Ulysses Grant McQueen (1864-1937), a wealthy inventor and manufacturer in New York City. The couple lived in New York City until 1928, when they moved to Beverly Hills, California. During World War I, Mrs. McQueen served in war relief work in Palestine under Field Marshal Allenby. In 1919 she founded the *Jerusalem News*, the first English-language newspaper in Jerusalem.

Mrs. McQueen became interested in aviation when in 1920 she witnessed seven airplanes "take the place of two British regiments of soldiers" in routing a large number of rebel Arab cavalry in the desert near Aden. "A vision, mental and

spiritual, came to me of millions of women with the hands upraised acclaiming: 'Save my son from war, save my son from war, save my son from war!' I mentally saw these women's faces and hands upraised far into space and heard their voices entreating me. This vision has never left me. Then and there I dedicated my life to aeronautics as an instrument for World Peace."

In September 1928, Mrs. McQueen organized the Women's Aeronautic Association of California, which was soon followed by similar organizations in New York, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Canada, England, France, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. On May 23, 1929, she organized the Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA), which became the principal focus of her activities for the rest of her life. Mrs. McQueen served as "founder and honorary president" of the WIAA; presidents of the association were, in turn, prominent British aviator Lady Mary Heath (1929-1932), British reporter Lady Grace Hay Drummond-Hay (1932-1940), educator Dr. Mary Sinclair Crawford (1940-1947), actress Mary Pickford (1947-1949), airplane manufacturing executive Olive Ann Beech (1949-1954), and pioneer aviator Matilde Moisant (1954-). A junior division of the WIAA was organized in 1931; members under 7 years old were called "tailwinds", those from 7 through 20 years old "zoomers".

In 1929, Mrs. McQueen and Lady Heath appealed to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale in Paris to have women's air records recognized, an appeal that was ultimately successful. At the same time, in order to arouse greater interest in women's flying, Mrs. McQueen conceived the idea and was one of the principal organizers of the first Women's Air Derby from Santa Monica, California, to the 1929 National Air Races in Cleveland. 20 female aviators took part in this forerunner to the Powder Puff Derby, the winners being Louise Thaden and, in the lighter aircraft category, Phoebe Omlie.

In 1932 and 1933, Mrs. McQueen published a column, "Happy Contacts", concerning women and aviation, in the monthly magazine *Speed*; she also published several articles in *The Air Pilot* in 1933. In July 1933, Mrs. McQueen, who in 1929 had been deputized as the first aerial policewoman in the world by Police Chief Charles Blair of Beverly Hills, organized the Women's Aerial Police Association, whose members were deputized to assist the civil authorities in times of emergency. From March 1940 to February 1941, she also undertook a Goodwill Tour to Mexico and Central and South America, on which she publicly read a letter from Eleanor Roosevelt and met with many pioneer female flyers.

From approximately 1942 to approximately 1947, Mrs. McQueen resided in the Mission Inn, in Riverside, California, the location of the International Shrine of Aviators and the Famous Fliers' Wall. By the late 1940s, she had returned to her house on Doheny Drive in Beverly Hills.

Ulysses Grant McQueen died in April 1937, and about 1955 Mrs. McQueen married Dr. Irving Reed Bancroft, a prominent retired physician. She died at her home in Hermosa Beach, California, on December 24, 1958, aged 80, after a long period of declining health. Her ashes are interred in the Portal of the Folded Wing in Pierce Brothers Valhalla Cemetery, in North Hollywood. Although she had devoted her life to furthering the role of women in aviation, she had never obtained a pilot's license.

Scope and Content of Collection and Container List

The bulk of the collection consists of photographs, together with considerably smaller amounts of correspondence, writings, clippings, and other materials relating to women in aviation, created and collected by Elizabeth L. (Mrs. Ulysses Grant) McQueen. The materials were at an undetermined time, and for an unknown reason, separated from the bulk of Mrs. McQueen's papers, which now form the Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA) Collection, No. 55, Special Collections Department, Doheny Library, University of Southern California. Many of the photographs can be identified in a typescript list in the WIAA Collection. The descriptions in the list often refer to Mrs. McQueen as "the author", which suggests that it is an inventory of materials intended by Mrs. McQueen to illustrate her planned but unrealized history of women in aviation.

Because of its small size, the collection is arranged as a single series divided into four groups, as follows: (1) People, (2) Organizations, (3) Events, and (4) Printed Matter. The first group (People) constitutes approximately two-thirds of the collection, and is arranged alphabetically by name. Most folders contain very few items, usually one or more photographs, correspondence, or a biographical account; the contents of each folder is indicated in the container list. The biographical accounts were often written by Mrs. McQueen, and many appeared in her "Happy Contacts" column in *Speed* (1932-1933). Of particular interest are the materials relating to Florence Lowe "Pancho" Barnes, Alys McKey Bryant, and Evelyn "Bobbie" Trout. The photographs of Mrs. McQueen include portraits of her in flying attire, in fancy dress, and with her parrot, Dick. Mrs. McQueen's writings include an undated account of a flight from Seattle to Juneau.

The second group (Organizations) contains materials, almost exclusively photographs, relating to the Women's Aerial Police Association and to the Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA). The materials relating to the women's aerial police include a 1994 account written by Gail F. Ryan-Johnson (added by the Honnold/Mudd Special Collections staff), an autographed photograph of Beverly Hills Police Chief Charles Blair, who had deputized Mrs. McQueen in 1929, and photographs of the dedication of a plaque honoring the Association at the Mission Inn, Riverside, in 1938. The records of

the WIAA include minutes of the annual Board of Directors meetings for 1953-1955 (the minutes for 1955 are missing the first page). The photographs include the Blind Flying Challenge Cup presented by Lady Drummond-Hay; an undated (but almost certainly 1934) gala luncheon, probably at the Del Mar Club in Santa Monica, attended by many of the leading pioneer women aviators of the day; meetings of the WIAA Board and of the general membership at the Mission Inn, Riverside (1946-1947); and the "Annual Aeronautical Literary Contest in All Languages", sponsored by the WIAA (1947 and 1949).

The third group (Events) contains photographs of events not necessarily attended by Mrs. McQueen or associated with the WIAA. The majority date between 1933 and 1936, and include the visit of the brothers Auguste and Jean Piccard to the University of Southern California, the 99s visiting the Famous Fliers' Wall at the Mission Inn, Riverside, and several breakfasts at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, honoring Air Commodore P.F.M. Fellowes; Col. Roscoe Tanner, Clyde Pangborn, and Thea Rasche; Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith; and Lady Drummond-Hay. Other events include the victory of Louise Thaden and Blanche Noyes in the Bendix Trophy Race, Mrs. McQueen's Goodwill Tour of Central and South America (1940), and a luncheon for Mrs. Amy Oris Earhart (1949).

The fourth group (Printed Matter) consists of a single 1929 magazine clipping, 4 issues of an unidentified Japanese-language publication, and the 15th anniversary issue (1944) of the WIAA newsletter, *Aero-Gram*.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Air pilots

Barnes, Pancho, 1901-1975

Bendix Trophy Race

Bryant, Alys McKey, 1880-1954

Drummond-Hay, Grace M., Lady Hay, 1895-1956

McQueen, Elizabeth Lippincott (Mrs. Ulysses Grant), 1878-1958

Noyes, Blanche, 1888-1981

Policewomen

Rasche, Thea, 1899-1971

Thaden, Louise, 1906-1979

Trout, Evelyn, 1906-2003

Women air pilots

Women's Aerial Police Association

Women's International Association of Aeronautics

Related Material

James Carruthers Memorial Aviation Collection of the Institute of Aeronautical History, Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library, Claremont.

Separated Material

The bulk of Mrs. McQueen's papers constitute the Women's International Association of Aeronautics Collection, No. 55, held by the Special Collections Department, Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Container List

1. People 1912-1953 (bulk 1927-1949)

Physical Description: 43 folders.

Box 1, Folder 1

Arnold, Henry H. "Hap" n.d.

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 2

Barnes, Florence Lowe "Pancho" n.d., 1932

Physical Description: Correspondence, 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 3

Batten, Jean 1935

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 4	<p>Beech, Olive Ann 1946 Physical Description: 3 photographs.</p>
Box 1, Folder 5	<p>Bernstein, Lena n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.</p>
Box 1, Folder 6	<p>Bixby, Diana Cyrus 1953 Physical Description: Baby's birth announcement.</p>
Box 1, Folder 7	<p>Bond, Carrie Jacobs 1933 Physical Description: 1 photograph.</p>
Box 1, Folder 8	<p>Bonney, Dolores 1934-1935 Physical Description: Correspondence.</p>
Box 1, Folder 9	<p>Bowen, Pansy n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.</p>
Box 1, Folder 10	<p>Bruce, Victor, Hon. Mrs. 1931 Physical Description: 3 photographs. Scope and Content Note Persons identified: Edna Mae Cooper, Bobbie Trout.</p>
Box 2, Folder 1	<p>Bryant, Alys McKey 1931-1932 Physical Description: Correspondence, 1 photograph, clippings, article, letterhead.</p>
Box 1, Folder 11	<p>Burnham, Roger Noble, Mrs. n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.</p>
Box 1, Folder 12	<p>Cooper, Margaret Perry n.d. Physical Description: 1 photograph.</p>
Box 1, Folder 13	<p>Drummond-Hay, Grace, Lady Hay n.d., 1936 Physical Description: 2 photographs, palm print.</p>
Box 1, Folder 14	<p>Earhart, Amelia n.d., 1929 Physical Description: 1 photograph, 1 clipping.</p>
Box 1, Folder 15	<p>Fyle, Gretchen n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.</p>
Box 1, Folder 16	<p>Granger, Clema Mildred 1932 Physical Description: Correspondence, biographical account.</p>
Box 1, Folder 17	<p>Hamilton, Ethel Inez n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.</p>
Box 1, Folder 18	<p>Heath, Mary, Lady circa 1929 Physical Description: 1 photograph. Scope and Content Note Persons identified: Lady Mary Heath, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen.</p>

Box 1, Folder 19	Jackson, Frances, Mrs. n.d. Physical Description: 1 photograph.
Box 1, Folder 20	Lindbergh, Evangeline Lodge Land n.d. Physical Description: 1 photograph.
Box 1, Folder 21	Machado, Anesia Pinheiro n.d., 1940-1944 Physical Description: 4 photographs, 2 clippings.
Box 1, Folder 22	Mannsbarth, Hedwig n.d. Physical Description: 4 photographs.
Box 2, Folder 2	Marvingt, Marie 1953 Physical Description: 1 postcard, 1 clipping.
	McQueen, Elizabeth Lippincott 1929-1953 Physical Description: 3 folders.
Box 1, Folder 23	Papers 1929-1953
Box 1, Folder 24	Photographs 1927-1937 Physical Description: 15 photographs.
Box 1, Folder 25	Writings 1931-1949
Box 1, Folder 26	Moisant, Matilde n.d.
Box 1, Folder 27	Mollison, Amy Johnson & James Allan circa 1932 Physical Description: 1 photograph.
Box 1, Folder 28	Noyes, Blanche 1939 Physical Description: Biographical form.
Box 1, Folder 29	O'Donnell, Gladys circa 1929 Physical Description: 1 photograph.
Box 1, Folder 30	Owen, Ruth Bryan, Mrs. circa 1932 Physical Description: 1 photograph, 1 clipping.
Box 1, Folder 31	Patterson, Clayton n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.
Box 1, Folder 32	Pickford, Mary 1949 Physical Description: Resignation statement.
Box 1, Folder 33	Pressler, Dorothy K. n.d. Physical Description: Biographical account.
Box 1, Folder 34	Quimby, Harriet 1912 Physical Description: Typescript copy of last article written.
Box 1, Folder 35	Rickenbacker, Eddie n.d., 1934 Physical Description: 2 autographed photographs, 1 letter.
Box 1, Folder 36	Schubert, Trixie-Ann 1953 Physical Description: 1 clipping.

Box 1, Folder 37	<p>Thaden, Louise 1929 Physical Description: 1 photograph.</p>
Box 1, Folder 38	<p>Trout, Evelyn "Bobbie" n.d., 1934 Physical Description: 2 photographs, biographical form.</p>
Box 1, Folder 39	<p>Voloszynovich, Jolan Toth, Mrs. 1948 Physical Description: Correspondence.</p>
Box 1, Folder 40	<p>Warrender, Sara Eugena 1928 Physical Description: Correspondence.</p>
Box 1, Folder 41	<p>Unidentified female aviators n.d. Physical Description: 2 photographs. Scope and Content Note 1 photograph labeled "flying instructor and woman pilots of Turkey".</p>
	<p>2. Organizations 1929-1955, 1994 (bulk 1929-1949) Physical Description: 6 folders.</p>
Box 1, Folder 42	<p>Aero Police circa 1929-1939, 1994 Physical Description: 1 clipping, 6 photographs. Scope and Content Note Persons identified: Charles Blair, Karen Shields, Bobbie Trout, Mrs. May Charles, Mrs. Maude E. Miller, Mrs. Betty May Furman, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Pretto Bell, Mary Samson.</p>
	<p>Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA) circa 1934-1955 Physical Description: 5 folders.</p>
Box 1, Folder 43	<p>Board Minutes 1953-1955 Flying Trophies n.d. Physical Description: 2 photographs. Scope and Content Note Photograph 1: Blind Flying Challenge Cup, presented by Lady Drummond-Hay; photograph 2: ? Challenge Trophy, presented by Lady Chaytor.</p>
Box 1, Folder 44	
Box 1, Folder 45	<p>Junior Division n.d., 1949 Physical Description: 2 photographs. Scope and Content Note Persons identified: Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Roxanne Rogers (daughter of Mary Pickford), Mary Lynn Beech, Leota Weiser, Suzanne Beech, Jeanette Van Muysen.</p>
	<p>Photographs circa 1934, 1946-1949 Physical Description: 2 folders.</p>

Box 1, Folder 46

circa 1934

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Scope and Content Note

Persons identified: Cora Boettcher, Bobbie Trout, Clema Granger, Ruth Elder Gillespie, Mrs. Ethel Hamilton, Mrs. Lloyd Stearman, Thea Rasche, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Lady Chaytor, Mrs. Clark, Alice Miller Hutchings, Miss Edith Weir, Ethel Jaeckel, ? Mrs. Squire, Col. Arthur Gobel's mother, Pearl Ridenour, Queen Boardman, Clair Chaytor, Lillian Chaytor, Mrs. Irvine, Miss Gregory.

Box 1, Folder 47

circa 1946-1949

Physical Description: 11 photographs.

Scope and Content Note

Persons identified: Miss Edith Weir, Mrs. J. C. Bowden, Mrs. James M. Palmer, Mrs. Mac Short, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Dr. Mary Sinclair Crawford, Mrs. Allis Miller Hutchings, Dr. Catherine V. Beers, Mrs. Mae Carvell, Mrs. Ruth Law Oliver, Mrs. John K. Northrop, Mrs. Harry Hall Sheeline, Matilde Moisant, Mary Pickford, J. P. De Bree, Arutumn Shade, Robert A. Geier, G. O. Noville, Clementine de Forrest Griffin, Dianna Cyrus Bixby, Major General Roger M. Ramey, Mrs. Walter H. Beech.

3. Events 1933-1949

Physical Description: 13 folders.

Box 1, Folder 48

Auguste Piccard at the University of Southern California March 4, 1933

Physical Description: 2 photographs.

Scope and Content Note

Persons identified: Dr. John F. B. Carruthers, Prof. Auguste Piccard, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Jean Piccard, Prof. Earl Hill.

Box 1, Folder 49

99's & friends at the Famous Fliers' Wall, St. Francis Aviators' Chapel, Mission Inn, Riverside, California August 18, 1934

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 50

Air Commodore P.F.M. Fellowes at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club October 1934

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 51

Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Louise Thaden, unidentified woman (possibly Gladys O'Donnell), and Elly Beinhorn, Los Angeles October 1934

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 52

Reeder Nichols, Clyde Pangborn, Col. Roscoe Turner, Tom Mix, & Thea Rasche at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club December 5, 1934

Physical Description: 1 photograph.

Box 1, Folder 53

Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club August 14, 1935

Physical Description: 2 photographs.

Scope and Content Note

Persons identified: Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, Ruth Law Oliver, Matilde Moisant, Budd Morriss.

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| Box 1, Folder 54 | <p>Lady Grace Hay Drummond-Hay at the Los Angeles Men's Breakfast Club 1935-1936</p> <p>Physical Description: 4 photographs.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Identified: Lady Grace Hay Drummond-Hay, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Mae Carvell, Princess Der Ling, Mrs. Alice Miller Hutchings.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 55 | <p>Wings ceremony at the Mission Inn, Riverside, California, for Walter Brookins and Col. Albert F. Helgenberger January 6, 1936</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 photograph.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Persons identified: Col. & Mrs. Pirie, General Story, Walter & Mrs. Brookins, General & Mrs. Arnold, Mae Robson, Col. Helgenberger.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 56 | <p>Louise Thaden & Blanche Noyes, winners of the Bendix Trophy Race, with Vincent Bendix, National Air Races, Los Angeles September 1936</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 photograph.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 57 | <p>Receptions for Roland Robinson, MP, & Marjorie Robinson September 11-12, 1936</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 photographs.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Identified: Pia Diamarini, Roland & Majorie Robinson, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Princess Der Ling, Col. & Mrs. Easterwood, Baroness von Mueffling, Mrs. Squires, K. Ethel Hill, Matilde Moisant, Cliff Henderson.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 58 | <p>Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen's Goodwill Tour of South America 1940</p> <p>Physical Description: 4 photographs.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Identified: Mrs. Vargas & daughter, Anesia Pinheiro Machado, Leda Baptista.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 59 | <p>Luncheon for Mrs. Amy Otis Earhart, Del Mar Club, Santa Monica July 23, 1949</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 photographs.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Persons identified: Vivian Louise Ropes, Anna Held, Mrs. Vida Gentry, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen, Amy Otis Earhart.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 60 | <p>Unidentified events circa 1929-1935</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 photographs.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Photograph 1: Mrs. McQueen between 2 unidentified men, Los Angeles, circa 1929; photograph 2: Mrs. McQueen at banquet in Washington, DC, circa 1935 (names written on back: "Mrs. Borah, McCracken, General Fox, Judge McKesson, McKay").</p> |
| | <p>4. Printed Matter 1929-circa 1955</p> <p>Physical Description: 3 folders.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 61 | <p>Clipping 1929</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 item.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Persons identified: L. Galanschikoff (1910), Marie Marvingt (1913), Lady Grace Hay Drummond-Hay, Amelia Earhart, Mrs. Ulysses Grant McQueen.</p> |
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Box 1, Folder 62

Japanese language n.d.

Physical Description: 4 items.

Box 1, Folder 63

Women's International Association of Aeronautics (WIAA). *Aero-Gram*. 15th anniversary issue 1944