Title: Ernest M. Allison papers
Date (inclusive): 1918-2012
Collection Number: 2015C19
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 6 manuscript boxes, 1 cubic foot box, 1 card file box, 1 oversize box (5.5 linear feet)
Abstract: Diaries, flight logs, correspondence, printed matter, photographs, and memorabilia of the American aviator relating to commercial aviation in the United States and China before World War II. Includes other family papers and collected material on aviation history.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ernest M. Allison papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Materials were acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2015.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at https://searchworks.stanford.edu. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Biographical Note
An American aviator, Ernest M. Allison was active in the early days of American aviation, where he was one of the first to fly routes with the US Air Mail service from 1918 to 1927. Allison moved to China in 1929 to serve the China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC), where he flew mail routes, helped establish and expand the airfield at Shanghai, and oversaw the expansion of CNAC into a commercial passenger line under Pan-American Airways, eventually serving as a vice president of CNAC. He flew important missions, including delivering supplies, flying Soong May-Ling (Madame Chiang Kai-Shek) into Shanghai, and flying Chiang Kai-Shek and Soong May-Ling back to Xi’an after the Xi’an Incident of 1936. Allison was well acquainted with important figures in aviation such as Charles Lindbergh, Claire Lee Channault, Clement M. Keys, William Langhorne Bond, and Harold M. Bixby. Allison returned to the United States after the Communist victory in China and worked in aviation in various capacities, including for Boeing in Seattle.
Scope and Content of Collection
The collection includes diaries, flight logs, correspondence, books, periodicals, bulletins, printed matter, photographs, and memorabilia relating to commercial aviation in the United States and China before World War II, specifically, the development of the Air Mail Service of the United States Postal Service and the development of the China National Aviation Company (CNAC) and the services that it provided, notably air mail and later passenger transportation. Includes other family papers and collected material on aviation history, including the autobiography of aviator R. C. "Tex" Marshall, and interviews with former CNAC employees such as Harold Chin, Frieda Chen, Moon Chin, Wong Tsu, and Fred Y. T. Chin. Contains research correspondence with Dick Rossi, James McDivitt, and David Feng and personal correspondence with Harold Bixby, William Langhorne Bond, and Harold M. Bixby. Allison returned to the United States after the Communist victory in China and worked in aviation in various capacities, including for Boeing in Seattle.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
China National Aviation Corporation.
Aeronautics--China.
Aeronautics--United States.

Career File 1932-2005
Scope and Contents
Contains flight logs, journal, commendations, speech notes, and other materials.
Interview notes 1937-1998

Box/Folder 1: 1
Harold Chin, China National Aviation Company (CNAC) Pilot 1937

Box/Folder 1: 2
Frieda Chen, CNAC secretary August 25, 1992

Box/Folder 1: 3
Fred Y. T. Chin, CNAC copilot 1998

Box/Folder 1: 4
Nancy Wright to/from William Longhorne Bond 1988

Box/Folder 1: 5
Moon Chin, CNAC pilot and captain 1991-1992

Box/Folder 1: 6
CNAC Monthly Bulletin 1948 May - September
Scope and Contents
Contains original editions of the bulletin.

Box/Folder 1: 7
Pan American Airways, Inc. 1932-1949
Scope and Contents
Raw notes about involvement with CNAC.

Box/Folder 1: 8

Box/Folder 1: 9
The China Memoirs of Charles S. "Chilie" Vaughn 1930

Box/Folder 1: 10-12

Box/Folder 1: 13

Box/Folder 1: 14
Aviation articles 1996-2002
Scope and Contents
Contains articles titled, "America's First Coat-to-Coast Mail Run," "Allie's Choice," and "China's Aviation Pioneer, CNAC, Spreading its Wings."

Correspondence 1926-2012

Box/Folder 2: 1
History of CNAC and aviation in China undated
Scope and Contents
Consists of nine DVDs.
"Dragon Wings: The Story of the China National Aviation Corporation" and "Saga of CNAC #53" (from CNA Captain Fletcher Hanks) undated

Scope and Contents
Consists of two DVDs regarding CNAC history.


"Yankee on the Yangtze," by Nancy Allison Wright. Aviation Quarterly 1980

"Adventurous Travellers - First in the Skies of China," 2012

Scope and Contents
Booklet from the Rosamonde Aviation Lounge at The Peninsula Hotel in Shanghai.

Flight In the China Air Space 1910-1950, by Malcolm Rosholt 1984


Correspondence regarding CNAC from Nancy Allison Wright 1998

Interview with Dick Rossi 1992

Research correspondence, Charles Euripideas 1999

Research correspondence, David Feng 1998

Research correspondence, James McDivitt 1948, 1995

Books Regarding the History of CNAC 1938

Wings Over Asia: A Brief History of China National Aviation Corporation undated

Top Side Ricksha, by Harold M. Bixby 1938

Scope and Contents
Independenty written and bound manuscript.

Certificates and commendations undated

Pilot's book 1918-1919

Flight log 1939-1944

Speaking notes, "Industrialization of China," 1950

Business and membership cards undated

Personal journal of Ernest Allison 1938

Writings 1931-1938

Scope and Contents
Includes Allison's general account of time spent in China, and a story from 1938 titled, "All Asleep But Me," about a flight from Chungking to Changsha.

"Landing In a Walled City," 1962

Operations Report 1947 - Pan American January 1948

The "All Thru" Flying System of Flying Instruction at Brooks Field, booklet undated

Correspondence 1932-1976

H. M. Bixby 1934-1970

William Langhorn Bond 1932-1976

H. L. Chen 1941

Claire Lee Chennault 1939-1941

H. H. Kung 1939

Royal Leonard 1939

Loy Locke 1950

Grover Loening 1972-1973

K. I. Nieh 1941

Quentin Roosevelt 1948
Correspondence 1932-1976

Writings, Personal Effects, and Correspondence 1918-1973

Inventory of the Ernest M. Allison papers 2015C19

Box/Folder 4 : 23  T. V. Soong 1939
Box/Folder 4 : 24  Hsien-ling Tseng (Ceng Xianling) 1941-1942
Box/Folder 4 : 25  H. D. Walsh 1938
Box/Folder 4 : 26  "Newsreel" Wong 1941

Photographs 1921-1949

Box/Folder 5 : 1-2  Allison undated, 1921
Box/Folder 5 : 3  Boeing B-20 and B-29 airplanes, Wichita, Kansas 1944
Box/Folder 5 : 4  Boeing 40-A 1927
Box/Folder 5 : 5  China 1929
Box/Folder 5 : 6  China Clipper 1934-1937
Box/Folder 5 : 7  CNAC I, Beijing aerial photos, photo of Longhua (Lunghwa) Pagoda 1930
Box/Folder 5 : 8  CNAC II undated
Box/Folder 5 : 9  CNAC III circa 1948
Box/Folder 5 : 10  CNAC, C-46 1947-1948
Box/Folder 5 : 11  CNAC, Hong Kong 1947-1949

Scope and Contents

Box/Folder 5 : 12  CNAC, Sikorsky undated
Box/Folder 5 : 13  CNAC in Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu 1929-1934
Box/Folder 5 : 14  Ernest Allison with Boeing B29 1944
Box/Folder 5 : 15  Flossie Allison 1928-1949
Box/Folder 5 : 16  Flooding in Wuhan 1934
Box/Folder 5 : 17  "Nidaros," 1935
Box/Folder 5 : 18  "Newsreel" Wong 1929
Box/Folder 5 : 19  Stinson-Detroiter 1949
Box/Folder 5 : 20-22  Miscellaneous undated

Florence Allison 1935-1949

Box/Folder 5 : 23  Notebook
Scope and Contents
Notebook detailing members and associates of the Allison family, and personal information about them.

Box/Folder 5 : 24  Diary I 1935, 1947, 1949
Box/Folder 5 : 25  Diary II 1936
Box/Folder 5 : 26  Diary III 1937-1939
Box/Folder 5 : 27  Diary IV 1942

Printed Matter and Maps 1933-1937

Box/Folder 6 : 1  Sian: A Coup D'Etat, by Mayling Soong Chiang (Madame Chiang Kai-Shek), and A Fortnight in Sian: Extracts from a Diary, by Chiang Kai-Shek. Copy signed by Mayling Soong Chiang. 1937
Box/Folder 6 : 2  Journal of the West China Border Research Society, Volume VI 1933-1934
Box/Folder 6 : 3  The Climate of China and The Adjoining Seas, by Father E. Gherzi, S.J. Director, Met. Seismic Observatory for CNAC undated
Box/Folder 6 : 4  "China's Children: The Season's Greetings", booklet published by the Publicity Committee, United Church of Canada, West China Mission undated
Box/Folder 6 : 5  "'Two Kingdoms' (or the Philosophy of Finance): A Fable for Grown Up People," by "Ivangels," 1935
Box/Folder 6 : 6  Maps of Shanghai undated
Martini Shaker undated

Scope and Contents
Silver martini shaker with relief of a dragon. Gift to Ernest M. Allison from Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek.

Box 8

Oversize Material 1923-1968
1. Hardbound copy of The Saturday Evening Post, October 30th, 1937.
3. A 1931 framed photograph of Ernest M. Allison's sailboat, the "Nidaros."
4. War memorial medal given by China National Air Corporation (CNAC) to Ernest M. Allison.

2018 Incremental Materials

Box 5

Photographs
Scope and Contents note
Includes planes and people

Box 6

Correspondence, 1949

Aviator cap, hatband, and pin (use copies only)
Scope and Contents note
Originals in Box 9 restricted; use copies available in Box 6

Silk banner with signatures (use copy only)
Scope and Contents note
Original in mixed media Box 2; use copy available in Box 6