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## FINDING AID TO THE DORIS HURT POWERS PAPERS, 1942 - 2011

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
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West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
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Processed by: Jonnie McConnell, September 17, 2013

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Powers, Doris Hurt, 1927 – 2009
<b>Title</b>	Doris Hurt Powers papers
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSA 2
<b>Date Span</b>	1942 – 2008
<b>Abstract</b>	The Doris Hurt Powers papers document the life of Doris Hurt Powers as a pilot, Purdue University student, public speaker, and businesswoman through correspondence, photographs, speeches, and memorabilia.
<b>Extent</b>	2 cubic feet (3 mss. Boxes, 1 flat box)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Jonnie McConnell, 2013
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Donated by Laura Powers, April 3, 2009.
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20090403
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSA 2, Doris Hurt Powers papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University per deed of gift

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Powers, Doris Hurt, 1927 – 2009

### **Organizations**

Society of Women Engineers

### **Topics**

Aeronautics

### **Form and Genre Types**

Photographs

Publications

Speeches

### **Occupations**

Businesswomen

Women Air Pilots

## **Biography of Doris Hurt Powers**

Doris Hurt Powers, known as “Dodie,” started flying at the age of 14 and received her commercial and flight instructor ratings by the time she was 20 years old. After starting college as a music major at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, she transferred to Purdue University to join the first class of the new School of Aeronautics, graduating in 1945. Powers continued to teach flying in various capacities while living a globally mobile army family life with her husband and three children. After her husband’s retirement from the army, the couple started two businesses together and Dodie started her own product research and development company called Shielding Technologies, Inc. Powers served on many boards and committees, was a fellow of the Society for Women Engineers, was recognized as a Purdue “Old Master” in 1995, and received the Outstanding Aerospace Engineer award in 2006. Doris Hurt Powers passed away in February of 2009.

*Source: Materials within the collection.*

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Doris Hurt Powers papers (1942 – 2008; 2 cubic feet) documents the student, aviation, and business activities of Doris Hurt Powers. Powers' experience as a woman breaking into the male-dominated fields of engineering and aeronautics is well documented through autobiographical speeches and her memoir *Nothing but Blue Skies*. One strength of the collection are the speeches delivered by Powers that address the particular challenges and opportunities encountered by women in the engineering field. Powers traveled extensively, including several trips to Russia during and immediately after the cold war. In 1991, she was invited by the Russian Ministry of Aviation and Defense, and that trip is documented through photographs in Series 2. Materials in the collection include newspaper clippings, books, speeches, photographs, pamphlets, and artifacts. The Doris Hurt Powers papers are organized into 5 series:

### Arrangement

#### **1. Biographical Information, 1942 – 2011 (0.4 cubic feet)**

This series includes resume information, newspaper clippings, an autobiography, documentation about the various awards and honors given to Powers, and several early flight log books.

#### **2. Photographs, 1944 – 2006 (0.3 cubic feet)**

Series 2 documents Doris Hurt Power's time as a Purdue University student and as a successful alumni receiving awards. There is also a series of photographs, with interesting captions, from her 1991 trip to the Soviet Union.

#### **3. Pamphlets, 1947 – 2006 (0.2 cubic feet)**

This series includes informational pamphlets from various Purdue awards programs, business venture, astronaut school, and Society of Women Engineers publications.

#### **4. Speeches, 1984 – 2008 (0.2 cubic feet)**

Many of these speeches are variations of a single autobiographical narrative, about the difficulties and exultations of being a young woman pilot and engineer. Additionally, several speeches give advice on succeeding in business or other careers.

#### **5. Artifacts, circa 1942 – 1990 (0.8 cubic feet)**

This series contains three items: a sorority pledge paddle, a sorority pendant, and a desk nameplate.

**Descriptive Rules** Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition / Describing  
Archives: A Content Standard

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### Series 1. Biographical Information

(0.5 cubic feet)

#### Box 1

##### Folder

- 1 Biographical summary
- 2 Clippings, 1946 – 1996
- 3 Clippings, 1962 – 2008
- 4 *The Rivet*, student magazine, April 1948
- 5 Pilot flight log books, 1942 – 1952
- 6 Pilot licenses, 1951 – 1977
- 7 Resumes
- 8 Purdue Playshop programs and commencement programs, 1947 – 1949
- 9 Correspondence, 1944 – 1950
- 10 Society of Women Engineers Faculty Fellow Award, 1993
- 11 Society of Women Engineers, 1991
- 12 Engineering Ambassador Program, 2008
- 13 Old Masters, 1995
- 14 School of Aeronautics 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1995
- 15 Miscellaneous women's information, 1992 – 1993
- 16 SWE delegation to China and Soviet Union, 1 of 2, 1984
- 17 SWE delegation to China and Soviet Union, 2 of 2, 1984
- 18 SWE delegation to China and Soviet Union, 1984 – 1992
- 19 Old Master certificate, 1995
- 20 High School Diploma, 1944
- 21 Books (two). Powers, Doris Hurt. *Nothing but Blue Skies*, 2011 and *Who's Who in American Aviation*, 1975

#### Box 3

##### Folder

- 1 Article on women pilots, 1947
- 2 American Defense Preparedness Association certificate, 1980 - 1992

### Series 2. Photographs

(0.3 cubic feet)

#### Box 2

##### Folder

- 1 Photographs, 1944 – 1959
- 2 Photographs, 1971 – circa 1990

- 3 Photographs and negatives, 1993 – 2006
- 4 Photograph album pages, Soviet Union, 1991

#### **Box 4**

##### Folder

- 3 Gamma Phi chapter Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority photograph, 1945
- 4 Mounted Old Masters photographs, 1995

### **Series 3. Pamphlets**

(0.2 cubic feet)

#### **Box 2**

##### Folder

- 5 “Outstanding Aerospace Engineer” pamphlets and DVD, 2006
- 6 “Outstanding Aerospace Engineer” pamphlets, 1999 – 2007
- 7 Cosmosphere astronaut school information, 1999
- 8 Elderhostel astronaut school, 1999
- 9 Report of Survey of Air Transportation Graduates from Purdue University, 1947 - 1959
- 10 Various Purdue pamphlets, 1995 – 2007
- 11 Vented Suppressive Shielding pamphlet, circa 1987
- 12 Powers Hall dedication pamphlet, 1994
- 13 Who’s Who publication information, 1995
- 14 Society of Women Engineers newsletters, 1997 – 1998

### **Series 4. Speeches**

(0.2 cubic feet)

#### **Box 3**

##### Folder

- 1 Purdue speech
- 2 Purdue speech notecards, including ‘scary’ stories
- 3 Purdue speech ‘scary’ stories
- 4 Society of Women Engineers speech, 1984
- 5 Graduation address, circa 1986
- 6 Women’s Week talk, circa 1988
- 7 Society of Women Engineers speech, 1988
- 8 Women’s Equality Week speech, 1988
- 9 Interview techniques and advice to college students, 1988
- 10 Black Caucus speech, 1989
- 11 Women’s History Speech, 1990



- 12 Presentation techniques, 1991
- 13 High School orientation speech, 1992
- 14 Soroptimist speech, 1997
- 15 "Should You Start a Business?" 1999
- 16 Women's History Month speech, Purdue, 2008
- 17 Student feedback on 'ambassadors' speech, 2008

## **Series 5. Artifacts**

(0.8 cubic feet)

### **Box 4**

#### Item

- 1 Sorority paddle, 1949
- 2 Desk nameplate "Doris H. Powers, President"
- 3 Silver sorority pendant