Descriptive Summary

Creator: Stultz, Wilmer, 1899-
Title: Wilmer Stultz Papers
Date Span: 1927-1928
Abstract: Flight plan, photograph, contract, letter, and pilot’s license documenting Wilmer Stultz’s role as pilot in the 1928 transatlantic flight aboard the Friendship airplane
Quantity: 0.5 cubic feet
Language: English
Repository: Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation: MSP 38, Wilmer Stultz Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Acquisition: Purchased in 2006; Addition received by William Brantner, January 27, 2009
Custodial History: Papers were property of Wilmer Stultz’s family and were acquired by the Purdue Libraries through Heritage Auction House, 2006; Addition was donated by William Brantner
Accession Number: 20060719; 20090127
Location: ASC
Processed By: Sammie Morris, 2006; Shauna Borger, 2010
Subject Headings

Persons
Stultz, Wilmer
Byrd, Richard E.
Earhart, Amelia
Gordon, Lou

Organizations
Byrd Antarctic Expedition
Mechanical Science Corporation
Federation Aeronautique Internationale
National Aeronautic Association of U.S.A.

Topics
Aviation
Flights--Transatlantic

Geographic Places
Atlantic Ocean

Form and Genre Types
Letters/Correspondence
Contracts/Legal agreements
Photographs
Flight maps/charts
Licenses/certificates

Occupations
Pilots
Biography of Wilmer Stultz

Wilmer Lower Stultz was born on a farm near Williamsburg, Pennsylvania on April 11, 1900. In August 1917, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and in March of 1919, Stultz was honorably discharged. On August 4, 1919 he married Mildred Botts of Middletown. Stultz enlisted in the Naval Air Service on December 22, 1919 and was honorably discharged on December 1, 1922. In his government training, Stultz was one of a group of men to receive special instruction in aviation. He personally conducted the tests made on the Josephine Ford plane in which Commander Richard Byrd made his famous journey to the North Pole. Stultz was the winner of a national airplane speed race at Dayton, Ohio. He was approached in the Fall of 1927 by Commander Byrd to be the assistant pilot on Byrd’s proposed South Pole flight. Frances Wilson Grayson employed Stultz as the pilot on her flight across the Atlantic. Grayson and Stultz turned around on their flight due to storms and Stultz ended their professional relationship. Stultz is primarily remembered today for his role as the pilot in the 1928 transatlantic flight aboard the “Friendship” airplane. During this flight, Stultz piloted the Fokker F7 (nicknamed the “Friendship”) that carried Amelia Earhart across the Atlantic Ocean. Although she was only a passenger on the flight, Earhart became instantly famous for being the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Tragically, Stultz died the following year during a test flight. He was thirty years old.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The Wilmer Stultz Papers (1927-1928; 0.5 cubic feet) document Wilmer Stultz’s role as pilot in the 1928 transatlantic flight aboard the “Friendship” Fokker airplane. Types of materials in the papers include a flight plan, photograph, contract, letter, and Stultz’s pilot’s license.

Preservation Note

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves and acid-free, lignin-free folders and boxes.

Separations or Transfers of Materials

The oversized, framed flight plan has been stored separately for preservation purposes (Map Case).

Additions

Folder of materials collected by William Brantner about Wilmer Stultz. Collection includes one folder of materials. Photocopies of articles, articles and a souvenir booklet documenting the life and flying career of Stultz.

Related Materials
George Palmer Putnam Collection of Amelia Earhart Papers
Includes documents, photographs, and related materials relating to the 1928 transatlantic flight aboard the Friendship plane.
### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| 1   | Wilmer Stultz’s pilot’s license, Federation Aeronautique Internationale, National Aeronautic Association of U.S.A., aviator’s certificate number 6802, October 11, 1927 (signed by Orville Wright)  
  
  Letter from Richard E. Byrd to Wilmer Stultz regarding payment and contract between Stultz and Mechanical Science Corporation for the flight, May 19, 1928  
  
  Contract between Mechanical Science Corporation and Wilmer Stultz for the proposed transatlantic flight, May 18, 1938  
  
  Photograph of Amelia Earhart, Wilmer Stultz, Lou Gordon and officers aboard the *U.S.S. President Roosevelt* ship, circa 1928  
  
  (Photographs of Stultz grave stone marker, ca. 2009 (2 copies)  
  
  Photocopy of photograph of Stultz, Earhart and Gordon, ca. 1928, (Friendship flight)  
  
  Article on Wilmer Stultz, undated  
  
  Photocopy of street scene, “ME 4401 Williamsburg station,” undated  
  
  Newspaper clipping, “Williamsburg native flew to fame as pilot,” circa 1990s-2000s  
  
  Newspaper clipping, “Well, mother made it OK,” 1928  
  
  Photocopy of photo of Stultz as child, circa 1900-1910  
  
  Photocopy of souvenir booklet, homecoming celebration for Stultz after Friendship flight, Williamsburg, PA, July 18, 1928  
| Map Case | Map of North Atlantic with notations showing Stultz’s proposed flight path, circa 1928 (oversized, framed) |