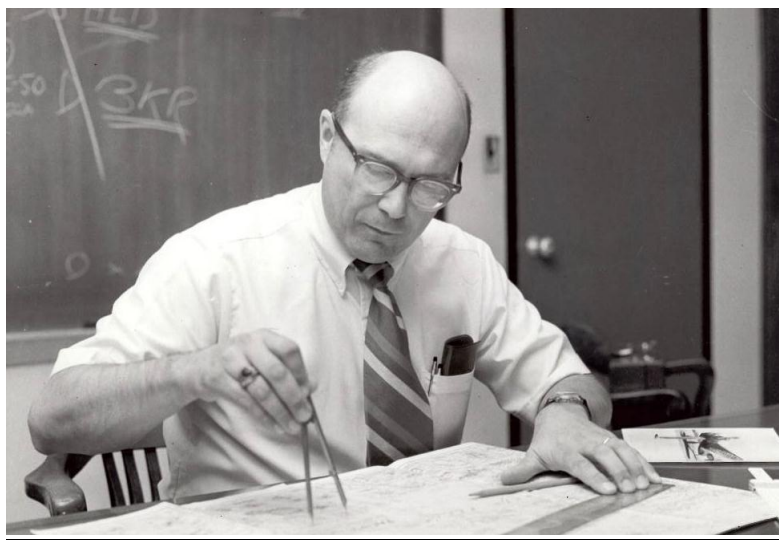


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FINDING AID TO THE RICHARD (DICK) G. STRIPPEL RESEARCH AND WRITINGS ON AMELIA EARHART

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
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Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Strippel, Richard G., 1929-2015
Title	Richard (Dick) G. Strippel Research and Writings on Amelia Earhart
Collection Identifier	MSP 204
Date Span	1931-1999
Abstract	This collection contains research and reference files, correspondence, manuscripts, publication records, photographs, and oversized materials related to the writing and publication of <i>Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality...</i>
Extent	4.3 cubic feet (9 mss. boxes, 1 flat box)
Finding Aid Author	Hannah Vaughn, 2016
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC-R
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Donated by Doris V. Strippel, June 19, 2015
Accession Number:	20150517
Preferred Citation:	MSP 204, Richard (Dick) G. Strippel Research and Writings on Amelia Earhart, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University per deed of gift

**Related Materials
Information:**

[Amelia Earhart papers \(George Palmer Putnam collection\)](#) and [Amelia Earhart at Purdue papers](#)
[The Joseph Gervais Papers](#) – The University of
Texas at Dallas

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Richard G. Strippel, 1929-2015
Amelia Earhart, 1897-1937

Topics

Amelia Earhart
Aviation
Flight Archives at Purdue University

Form and Genre Types

Aviation--Periodicals
Books
Clippings
Correspondence
Diagrams
Maps
Papers
Photographs
Publications
Reference Material
Subject files
Working papers
Writings

Occupations

Author, 1960-
Editor
Publisher
Public relations
Air Force Public Information Officer

Biography of Richard (Dick) G. Strippel

Richard (Dick) George Strippel was born on June 16, 1929 in New York City, New York, to Otto and Bertha (Kolbe) Strippel. He married Doris V. Strippel. Strippel received his B.A. in Writing from Colgate University in 1951 and served as a United States Air Force Public Information Officer overseas during the Korean War from 1951-1953. After the war, Strippel served as a public relations generalist and magazine editor for Commercial Union Group of Insurance Companies, Graybar Electric Company, CIT Corporation, and the United Parcel Service of America. Starting in 1966, Strippel became the head of corporate public relations and publications activity for Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation.

Throughout his life, Strippel researched the Amelia Earhart disappearance and published his book, *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality...* in 1972, which endorsed the government's original conclusion that Amelia Earhart ran out of fuel and crashed at sea. Strippel also authored articles based on his book, including "Howland Island...Aerial 'Stepping Stone' to Australia, or Presidential Gift to Amelia Earhart" and "Flight into Eternity," published in the July 1972 issue of *Air Classics* (USA). Strippel was in the process of working on a sequel to his book, entitled *Amelia Earhart – A Reality Check*, a draft of which from 1994 can be found in the Special Collections Department at the University of Texas at Dallas. Richard Strippel died on February 13, 2015.

Sources:

The Richard (Dick) G. Strippel Research and Writings on Amelia Earhart. The Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collection Research Center, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette.

Volume 43, 1971 – 1972. MS Women in Aviation. Ninety-Nines, Inc. History Books Collection. NASM0082, Box 14, page 314. National Air and Space Museum, Archives Division. [Smithsonian Collections Online](#).

The Joseph Gervais Papers, *Amelia Earhart: A Reality Check*, Folder 2, Box 1, Series IV. Books and Manuscripts, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, [The University of Texas at Dallas](#).

Collection Description

Scope

The Richard (Dick) G. Strippel Research and Writings on Amelia Earhart (1931-1999; 4.3 cubic feet) comprise the materials used to write the book, *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality....* Strippel compiled the materials presented here in preparation for the book's publication. The collection also contains the book proposal and drafts for *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality....*, correspondence related to the publication of the book, and reactions to the book that followed publication. Types of materials in the collection include: research and reference files, correspondence, manuscripts, publication records, photographs, and oversized materials. The Richard (Dick) G. Strippel Research and Writings on Amelia Earhart are organized into 1 series: Writings.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in acid-free folders and acid-free boxes. Some clippings containing images of people or color graphics, or front pages of newspapers, have been preserved for display purposes, with photocopies made available for research.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Writings, 1931-1999

(4.3 cubic feet)

Series Description: This series contains the research and reference files, correspondence, manuscripts, publication records, photographs, and oversized materials used by Richard Strippel while writing *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality...* and his research continuation afterwards. Initially, it was believed that the collection contained manuscripts for multiple books. However, upon closer examination of the manuscripts, it would appear that these are different edited versions of the same book, some even containing earlier draft titles. Mr. Strippel's folder titles have been retained, with notes added for clarification when appropriate. Many of the files contained here were indexed by subject or person and this arrangement has been preserved.

Sub-series 1. *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality...*

Box 1 *Research and Reference Files – Subject Files, 1931-1984*

Folder

1. P.A.A. – History and Aircraft (Includes S. Pacific Activities), 1931-1983
2. Japan – Relevancy to Pacific Aviation – History, Political Rels. Etc., 1932-1970
3. Armed Forces Reports, 1931-1969
4. The Pacific Islands Incl. Mandates, 1934-1983
5. F.B.I. File, 1935-1984

Box 2 *Research and Reference Files – Newspapers and Magazines, 1935-1990*

This box consists of mostly photocopied newspapers, magazines, and documents from the National Archives Building in Washington D.C.

Folder

1. Background Mat'l, 1939-1968
2. Research from Newspapers, Books, Mags., Etc., 1937-1968
3. Newspapers/Magazines, 1935-1937
4. Newspapers/Magazines continued, 1935-1937
5. Magazines & Books (Background), 1936-1990
6. Magazines & Books (Background) continued, 1936-1990
7. Newspaper Articles, 1937

Box 3 *Research and Reference Files – Articles and Research, 1935-1995*

Folder

1. Articles and Research, 1935-1982
2. *Of Men and Stars - A History of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, 1957*
3. *American Aviation Historical Society Journal, 1977-1978*
4. *Air Classics, 1972-1995*
5. Proceedings and Writings, 1971-1995
6. MISC., 1966-1987
7. Archival Photocopies, 1937-1971
8. AE/GP Corresp. Relating to 6OUT Activities, 1936-1937

Box 4 *Research and Reference Files – Technical Analysis, 1933-1983*

Folder

1. Research, 1933-1982
2. Graphs, Maps, and Charts, 1936-1983

Box 5 *Correspondence, 1936-1995*

Folder

1. Wiley, Barbara, 1945-1995
2. Safford MS, 1937
3. Astor, Vincent, 1936-1981
4. Merrill T. See, 1944-1986
5. Myers, Robert H. Salinas, CA, 1978-1994
6. P. Rafford's Presentation, 1955-1985
7. Spencer, W.R. Amarillo, Tex., 1978
8. Don Wade's Aviation Journal Stories (S), 1984-1993
9. Art Parchen, 1984-1995
10. Dr. Holbrook's Dissertations and Correspondence, 1970-1972
11. Loomis, Vincent, Orlando, Fla., 1978

Box 6 *Correspondence, 1937-1999*

Folder

1. Early Correspondence, 1969-1978
2. Correspondence Publishing & Publicity, 1971-1984
3. Correspondence Publishing & Publicity, 1971-1972
4. Cam Warren, 1937-1999
5. C. Warren, 1988-1997

Box 7 *Manuscripts, 1997*

This box contains the working documents and early drafts related to the book proposal for *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality...* as well as an article based on his book.

Folder

1. *Howland Island...Aerial 'Stepping Stone' to Australia, or Presidential Gift to Amelia Earhart, 1997*
2. Writes & Rewrites, undated
3. Early Drafts I, undated
4. Book Drafts, undated
5. Book Drafts continued, undated

Box 8 *Manuscripts, undated*

This box contains more of what is believed to be the early working titles and drafts related to Strippel's book *Amelia Earhart: the myth and the reality...*

Folder

1. *Thirty for the Girl in Brown* Draft, undated
2. *Lines of Position: The Untold Amelia Earhart Story* Draft, undated

Box 9 *Publication Records (Business of Publishing and Marketing), 1972-1977*

Folder

1. Publicity & Advertising Materials, 1972-1977
2. Photos, undated
3. Photos continued, undated

Box 10 *Oversized Materials, undated*

This box contains publisher layouts and proofs for the book, including newspaper articles, maps, graphs, and a mockup of the cover for the book.

Items

1. Newspaper Articles
2. Pacific Map
3. Unknown layout
4. Takeoff Distance Graph
5. Howland Island Map
6. World Wind Direction Map

7. Black and White Book Cover Mockup
8. Color Book Cover Mockup