

# PURDUE

---

UNIVERSITY

---



[http://dmairfield.com/people/stultz\\_wl/index.html](http://dmairfield.com/people/stultz_wl/index.html)

## FINDING AID TO THE WILMER AND MILDRED STULTZ PAPERS, circa 1917-1960

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-2839**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

© 2016 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.  
Processed by: Mary A. Segó, September 21, 2016

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Stultz, Wilmer, 1899-1929 Stultz, Mildred Botts
<b>Title</b>	Wilmer and Mildred Stultz papers
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSP 209
<b>Date Span</b>	1917-1960, predominant 1928
<b>Abstract</b>	The papers contain artifacts, books about Amelia Earhart, photo albums featuring the career, family, friends and lives of the Stultzes, a program from an Earhart lecture, and a shadowbox containing memorabilia from Stultz's transatlantic flight aboard the "Friendship" with Amelia Earhart and Louis Gordon in 1928.
<b>Extent</b>	1.40 cubic feet (1 mss box and 2 flat boxes)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Mary A. Segó
<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 Carol Pulk, as inherited from her mother, Blanche Botts Hecht and aunt, Mildred Botts Stultz, August 11, 2011
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20110811
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSP 209, Wilmer and Mildred Stultz papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University per deed of gift

**Related  
Materials  
Information:**

Wilmer Stultz papers:  
<https://apps.lib.purdue.edu/archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=9&q=stultz>  
George Palmer Putnam collection of Amelia Earhart papers:  
<https://apps.lib.purdue.edu/archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=27&q=earhart>

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Stultz, Wilmer, 1899-1929  
Stultz, Mildred Botts  
Earhart, Amelia, 1897-1937  
Guest, Amy Phipps, 1868-1954  
Grayson, Frances Wilson, 1892-1927  
Rasche, Thea, 1899-1971

### **Organizations**

Flight Archives at Purdue University

### **Topics**

Transatlantic flights  
Aviation

### **Form and Genre Types**

Artifacts  
Books  
Photo albums  
Programs  
Shadowbox

### **Occupations**

Aviators  
Pilot

## Biography of Wilmer and Mildred Botts 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 as sergeant in the 634<sup>th</sup> aero supply squadron.

On August 4, 1919 he married Mildred Botts of Middletown, Pennsylvania.

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 in 1929 during a test flight. He was thirty years old. At the time of his death, he had over 2000 hours in the air and had flown 50 different types of planes.

*Source:*

*MSP 38, Wilmer Stultz papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries*

*Souvenir booklet, "Home-coming Celebration for Wilmer Stultz From His Trans-Atlantic Flight," Williamsburg, PA, July 18, 1928*

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Wilmer and Mildred Stultz papers (circa 1917-1960; 1.40 cubic feet) document the career, travels, and family life of the Stultzes. The photo albums feature some of the 50 planes flown by Stultz, colleagues in the aviation field, aerial photographs of air fields and cities, automobiles from the 1920s, key flights flown by Stultz and events surrounding those flights, including the 1928 flight of the "Friendship" Fokker with Amelia Earhart and Louis Gordon, and other aspects of his career.

Types of materials include: artifacts, books, photo albums, programs, and shadowbox containing memorabilia.

### Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Processing Information

All materials have been housed in acid-free folders and acid-free boxes. The photographs have been placed in polyester sleeves.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Box 1** *Books, Souvenir Booklet, Program and Photographs, circa 1928-1960*

#### Item

1. Book, *20 hrs. 40 min.: Our flight in the Friendship. The American girl, first across the Atlantic by air, tells her story*, by Amelia Earhart, New York, London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1928, signed by Earhart and Wilmer Stultz
2. Book, *Soaring wings: A biography of Amelia Earhart*, by George Palmer Putnam, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1939
3. Book, *Amelia Earhart: Kansas Girl*, (1<sup>st</sup> edition), by Jane Moore Howe, Indianapolis, New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1950
4. Book, *Daughter of the sky: The story of Amelia Earhart*, by Paul L. Briand, Jr., New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1960
5. Souvenir booklet, "Home-coming Celebration for Wilmer Stultz From His Trans-Atlantic Flight," Williamsburg, PA, July 18, 1928, and program, Amelia Earhart Lecture – Aviation Adventures, Norris Theatre, Norristown, Pennsylvania, March 19, 1936
6. 32 black and white photographs, and 2 negatives, circa 1928 (most are duplicates of those found in the photo albums, and many are of Stultz, Amelia Earhart and Louis Gordon, after their 1928 transatlantic flight aboard the "Friendship" Fokker airplane, some are marked Paramount Press © Associated Press)

### **Box 2** *Photo Albums, 1917-1941*

#### Item

1. Photo album, features numerous planes, including the "Friendship" Fokker, and various automobiles. Also contained in the album are photographs of family, friends and colleagues; aviatrixes, Thea Rasche and Amelia Earhart, along with Richard Byrd, Louis Gordon, and Roger Williams, among others, 1917-1941 (fragile condition)
2. Photo album featuring aspects of Stultz's army and navy career, time spent in Brazil, and his attempted flight of a Sikorsky plane, from Old Orchard, Maine to Copenhagen, Denmark, circa 1918-1927

### **Box 3** *Shadowbox and Framed Photograph, 1928*

#### Item

1. Shadowbox containing memorabilia, wings, photographs, and buttons related to the "Friendship" flight, 1928
2. 8" x 10" framed photograph of Stultz and Amy Guest (provider of the Fokker F7 trimotor aircraft), silver frame engraved, "Friendship, Amy Guest, June 1928"

