

Wayne W. Parrish Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Nan Thompson Ernst with the
assistance of Susie H. Moody



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Collection Summary

Title: Wayne W. Parrish Papers

Span Dates: 1912-1976

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1950-1972)

ID No.: MSS56366

Creator: Parrish, Wayne W. (Wayne William), 1907-

Extent: 9,000 items; 29 containers; 12 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Aviation journalist and publisher. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, speeches and writings, commemorative programs, airline insignia, logos, schedules, tickets, and other aeronautical memorabilia, photographs, and printed matter documenting primarily Parrish's roles as founder and president of American Aviation Publications.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Parrish, Wayne W. (Wayne William), 1907-

Organizations

American Aviation Publications.

Rockwell International.

Subjects

Aeronautics--Flights.

Air pilots--United States.

Aircraft industry--United States.

Airlines--Soviet Union.

Airlines--United States.

Bombardment--Germany.

Journalism, Aeronautical--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, Allied.

World War, 1939-1945--Journalists.

Locations

Polar regions--Aerial exploration.

Occupations

Journalists.

Publishers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Wayne W. Parrish, aviation journalist and publisher, were given to the Library of Congress by Parrish in 1976 and 1977.

Processing History:

The papers of Wayne W. Parrish were arranged and described in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Wayne W. Parrish is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Wayne W. Parrish are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Wayne W. Parrish Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1907, May 2	Born, Decatur, Ill.
1929	B.Lit. in journalism, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1930	M.S. degree, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1930-1931	Pulitzer scholarship to travel in Europe
1935	Married Frances Knight
1937	Founded American Aviation Publications First issue, <i>American Aviation</i> (biweekly magazine), continued in 1959 as <i>Airlift</i> , continued in 1963 as <i>American Aviation</i> , merged in 1969 with <i>Airline Management and Marketing</i>
1939	First issue, <i>American Aviation Daily</i> (news service)
1940	First issue, <i>American Aviation Directory: Aviation Officials and Companies, United States, Canada & Latin America</i> (semiannual); continued in 1952 as <i>American Aviation World-Wide Directory</i>
1943	President, Aviation Writers Association
1943-1947	Aviation editor, <i>Liberty Magazine</i> , conducting weekly column, "On the Beam"
1944	First issue, <i>American Aviation Traffic Guide</i> , continued in 1948 as <i>Official Airline Guide</i>
1954	First issue, <i>Armed Forces Management</i>
1956	First issue, <i>Missiles and Rockets</i> , continued in 1967 as <i>Technology Week</i>

1957	First issue, <i>Air Cargo Magazine</i>
1969	Sold publishing firm to Ziff-Davis Publishing Co.
1969-1972	Editorial consultant, Ziff-Davis Publishing Co.
1973	Special representative, Pan-American Airways
1984, Nov. 9	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Wayne William Parrish (1907-1984) span the years 1912-1976 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1950-1972. The collection includes correspondence, memoranda, reports, speeches and writings, programs for commemorative events, airline insignia, logos, schedules, tickets and other aeronautical mementoes, photographs, and printed matter organized in four series: [General Correspondence](#), [Airline File](#), [Subject File](#), and [Miscellany](#). The papers concern Parrish's work as founder and president of American Aviation Publications (AAP).

Parrish founded American Aviation Publications in 1937 to publish trade journals for the new commercial aviation industry. When he sold the firm to Ziff-Davis Publishing Company in 1969, AAP was publishing sixteen magazines and newsletters which covered most aspects of aviation including developments in aerospace. Parrish was in contact with executives and managers of airlines throughout the world. He inspected and reported upon airports and travelled routes of the airlines within the United States. He was active in international aviation as a frequent flier, commentator, and promoter of the burgeoning industry. His papers document these activities and touch upon a wide range of professional and aviation-related topics. His correspondence with airline executives, manufacturers, and pilots addressed political, technical, labor, and business issues, especially during the post-World War II years when airlines defined and extended their industry to become the primary means of long distance passenger transportation.

There is reference in the [General Correspondence](#) series to Parrish's wartime activities as a journalist in 1945 inspecting the results of Allied bombing in Germany. The [Airline File](#) and [Subject File](#) series include records of inaugural flights for airlines and records of historic flights, such as Rockwell International Corporation's first flight to traverse both poles in 1966. Documents in the [Airline File](#) also concern press coverage received by companies in AAP publications and advertising solicitation.

The [Miscellany](#) series includes business and financial records for AAP. The expense account files provide a detailed record of Parrish's travel and business contacts. The chronological file preserves a daily record of Parrish's correspondence for part of 1971 and for 1972 which duplicates some correspondence filed topically in the [Subject File](#) series. The writings and speeches are usually typescript drafts, many of which concern the history of commercial aviation. Parrish's newspaper reports on commercial airlines in the Soviet Union in 1958 were distributed widely by the Associated Press. Relevant clippings are included with his writings.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1934-1976](#)
- [Airline File, 1945-1973](#)
- [Subject File, 1912-1975](#)

- Miscellany, 1934-1975

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
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BOX 3-9	<u>Airline File, 1945-1973</u> Correspondence, notes, photographs, and printed material. Arranged alphabetically by airline company name.
BOX 9-25	<u>Subject File, 1912-1975</u> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, airline insignia, logos, and other aeronautical mementoes, printed material, photographs, and programs for commemorative events. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 25-29	<u>Miscellany, 1934-1975</u> Biographical notes, business and financial records, correspondence, family papers, photographs, and speeches and writings. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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