



2023

## Robert E. Bryant Papers - Accession 1745

Robert Edmiston Bryant

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**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY  
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION**

**ACCESSION 1745**

**ROBERT E. BRYANT PAPERS**

1919-1990

5 Boxes, 15 Folders

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY  
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACC. NO.: 1745  
ADDITIONS: \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_,

PROCESSED BY: Bill Calandro  
DATE: July 21, 2022  
NO. OF SECTIONS: 2

ROBERT E. BRYANT PAPERS

I

Provenance: This collection was donated by Chuck and Shannondoah Deaver via Debbie Garrick. April 2021

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1.5  
Approximate number of pieces: 2500

Restrictions: Open to researchers under the rules and regulations of the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Literary Rights: For information concerning literary rights please contact the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Scope and Content Note: : **The Robert E. Bryant Papers consist of papers and memorabilia belonging to Robert “Bob” Edmiston Bryant (1903-1977) who was a Rock Hill theatre-owner, photographer, and a world record holding airplane pilot. Bryant owned and operated the Pix Theatre which was built in the 1940s and was located on Oakland Avenue in Rock Hill, SC. On August 1, 1938 he set a world record for a non-stop flight in a light airplane (two-cylinder Aeronca) from Miami, FL to Camden, NJ in 13 hours, 20 minutes, using 40 gallons of fuel. He reportedly learned to fly by famed WWI Flying Ace, Col. Elliott White Springs who Bryant in turn taught to ride a motorcycle. The Rock Hill Airport was named in his honor in 1969 and Bryant was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame in 1993. The collection includes mostly photographs, negatives, slides, scrapbooks, pilot logs, and newspaper articles related to his flying career and to the Pix Theatre, but also includes correspondence, books, memorabilia (including a key to the City of Camden from Mayor James L. Anderson), awards, and certificates related to his life. There are materials related to the Apollo 16 mission including a scrapbook, photographs, and memorabilia. Former Astronaut and Lancaster, SC resident, Charles M. Duke (b. 1935) was a member of the Apollo 16 mission. Also included are some material related to the Carolina Aero Club and to Rock Hill’s Come-See-Me festival. The photograph collection includes photographs taken of and by both Robert Bryant and Wayne J. Gordon. These include aerial photographs of the building of Carowinds Amusement Park, Carolina Bowater Plat, the I-77 Bridge over the Catawba River, and the Highway 5 Bridge over the Catawba River, and of the Celanese Plant among many others. There is also some material related to Wayne J. Gordon that includes a York Technical College Yearbook, photographs, etc...**

## II

### DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
1	1	<b>BIOGRAPHICAL CONTENT AND OBITUARIES</b> This series consists of newspaper clippings, press releases, and articles that relate to or contain biographical materials. There is also one obituary from a newspaper clipping. <i>*This series is arranged chronologically, with not dated items last.</i>	1966-1977
1	2-3	<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b> This series consists of photographs of Robert E. Bryant and photographs taken by Mr. Bryant, they are separated into three categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. -Professional/Career: These photos are of Robert E. Bryant relating to His professional career as a pilot and his portraits.</li><li>2. -Friends/Family: This category has photos of family members, friends, and possibly clubs/organization members.</li><li>3. -The Home: The collection of photos contained a large number of exterior shots of what seems to be Robert Bryant's home.</li></ol>	ca. 1940- ca. 1970
1	4	<b>CORRESPONDENCE / POSTCARDS</b> This series consists of postcards sent to Robert Bryant as well as souvenir post cards with Robert Bryant in the artwork. Also included in this series are a collection of letters sent to Robert Bryant. This collection of letters consist of letters asking for his professional photography, some thanking him for professional photos, and some that are congratulatory in nature concerning his record breaking flight.	1919-1978
2	5	<b>NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS</b> This folder consists of newspaper clippings relating to Robert E. Bryant. Almost all relating to his professional career and record flight. There are clips celebrating the anniversary of his flight, his honoring of having the now Rock Hill County Airport named Bryant field. Also included are a few clippings pertaining to WWI flying Ace, Col. Elliot White Springs who taught Robert Bryant how to fly. <i>*These have been organized chronologically with not dated clippings paired together at the top.</i>	1936-1986
2	6	<b>PIX TEATRE</b> This series contains material related to Pix Theatre which was owned by Robert Bryant and includes photographs, an annual report, personal notations, and a certificate awarded to Robert Bryant for his dedication to the theatre business.	ca. 1940-1972

II

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
2	7	APOLLO This series consists of newspaper clippings, photographs, a large Space Shuttle badge, information booklets, and framed photography relating to Apollo 16, and 17 that Robert Bryant had involvement with as a photographer for the events.	1972
3	8	AVIATION OX5 PIONEERS This series consists of member logs, photographs, club newsletters, letters, a membership certificate, newspaper clippings, and meeting notes from April 10, 1976 for the Aviation OX5 Pioneers club, of which, Robert Bryant was a member and served as secretary and governor for the club in 1974.	1972-1976
3	9	WAYNE J. GORDON This series consist of materials related to Wayne J. Gordon who was the stepson of Robert E. Bryant. Wayne worked as a professional photographer. Materials in this series include his library card, personal letters, photographs, and a 1975 York Technical College Yearbook where he attended. There are also a pair of identical newspaper articles featuring Wayne Gordon as a photographer for a space shuttle launch on March 23, 1982.	ca. 1970-1990
3	10	MISCELLANEOUS This series consists of Robert E. Bryant's pilot log book, a Charles Lindbergh plaque (1927), Cocanut Grove (Hotel In California) souvenir photos, and a bubble mailer addressed to Billy Jo Poley which contains two photos of young men, one of which is a pilot. Also included are some pay stubs, a photo of the Glen Rankin plaque, a photo of Radical Members of the Southern California Legislature, a postal slip containing the 1976 Bryant Field stamp, a White Homestead Archives Pamphlet, a February 1975 South Carolina Aviation Newsletter featuring Frank G. Anderson, a Rock Hill Pilot's Association Newsletter, a Silver Wings certificate presented to Robert Bryant in 1965, a letter addressed to J. Austin Latimer from 1935, and a prayer verse.	1927-1965

II

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
3	11	PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM The photographs in this series appear to be professional photographs taken by Robert Bryant. <i>*This photograph album was deconstructed for the sake of preservation and organized in original order.</i>	nd
4	12	APOLLO PHOTO ALBUM This series consists of photographs related to the launch of Apollo 16 in 1972. <i>*This photograph album was deconstructed for the sake of preservation and organized in original order.</i>	1972
4	13	120/220 NEGATIVES This series consists of negatives (120 film format and 220 film format) with images of Rock Hill parades, Norsa Strutters, aerial views of Rock Hill mall and the vicinity, Robert Bryant on his airfield, air shows, Bryant airfield, Kathy Krell, parachute launches, and family photos.	ca. 1960-1970
4	14	126 NEGATIVES This series consists of negatives (126 film format) with images of family, Ms. Rock Hill pageants from 1979, and a navy battleship or cruiser.	ca. 1979
4	15	110 NEGATIVES This series consists of negatives (110 film format) with images of young women, family members, the Shriner parade of 1946, Robert Bryant himself, the Pix Theatre, landscapes, Robert Bryant's grave, and exteriors of possibly the Bryant home.	ca. 1940-1980
4	--	MISCELLANEOUS This series consists of a few miscellaneous items which include: - 3 bound volumes of <i>The Works of Edgar Allan Poe</i> - A key to the city of Camden, SC presented to Robert Bryant by Mayor James L. Anderson. - A wooden stamp made by Kale Lawning Company Office Outfitters Charlotte. The stamp features the signature of Robert E. Bryant. <i>*Box 4 has been stored as oversized</i>	ca. 1970-1984

II

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
5	--	<p>OVERSIZE: SCRAPBOOK + CERTIFICATE</p> <p>- This box has been stored in oversized. It contains a custom scrapbook featuring many of the highlights of Robert Bryant's career. You will find newspaper clippings, photographs, and certificates relating entirely to Robert's professional career as a photographer, his record breaking flight, and the honor he received with the renaming of Bryant Airfield.</p> <p>- The certificate at the top of the box was presented to Robert Bryant on July 4, 1945 by the United States Treasury. It recognizes Bryant's distinguished patriotic service to the cause of freedom.</p> <p><i>*Box 5 is stored on the Oversize Shelf</i></p>	1934-1970