

Guide to the Drury A. McMillen Papers

MS 2107



compiled by Camila Zorrilla Tessler

November 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2107

CREATOR: McMillen, D.A., 1888- (Drury Albert)

TITLE: Drury A. McMillen Papers

DATES: 1943-1960

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .75 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in Brazilian Portuguese and English.

SUMMARY: The Drury A. McMillen Papers consist of photographs, albums, reports, and a magazine from McMillen's career as an explorer and pilot in Brazil. The papers document his exploration of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso and include photographs of the Xingu tribe, as well as photographs of the Brazilian state of Amazonas and the city of Manaus. There are also reports written by McMillen to the Brazilian government regarding defense strategy for the Brazilian Air Force.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2107>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2107>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Michael McMillen, 2019.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Drury A. McMillen Papers (MS 2107). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Drury Albert McMillen (1888-1961) was born in Alton, Illinois and graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale University (1909). He was trained as an aeronautical engineer, specializing in improving safety conditions for flight. He moved to Brazil after graduation and worked in exploring and mapping air routes in rural Brazil.

He published several books, including *Spherographical Navigation*, written with Yale professors Dirk Brouwer and Frederic Keator, on improving celestial navigation techniques. He continued his research on sextants and improving navigation for pilots, which led him to exploration.

In 1949, he participated in a project to map out travel routes over a portion of Brazil that was owned by the Fundação Brasil Central (Central Brazil Foundation). This portion of Brazil consists of roughly a quarter of the country by land size. McMillen surveyed and created maps for commercial aviation.

In 1958, Brazilian president Juscelino Kubitschek requested a report regarding the defense of Brazil and the South American continent based on McMillen's work on the Serra do Cachimbo (Cachimbo mountain range). This work was completed in 1959.

McMillen was the recipient of many awards and commendations, including the Medal of Honor of the city of São Paulo and the Medal of Merit Santos Dumont. He was also a member of several aeronautical associations, including the Royal Geographical Society and Institute of Navigation.

Information in this biographical note was drawn from the collection, specifically the material in box 1, folder 3.

Content Description

The Drury A. McMillen Papers consist of photographs, albums, reports, and a magazine from McMillen's career as an explorer and pilot in Brazil. The papers document his exploration of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso and include photographs of the Xingu tribe, as well as photographs of the Brazilian state of Amazonas and the city of Manaus. There are also reports written by McMillen to the Brazilian government regarding defense strategy for the Brazilian Air Force.

Arrangement

The material is arranged in two groupings: Central Brazil exploration and Military defense. Materials within these groupings are organized chronologically.

Collection Contents

Central Brazil exploration

| | | |
|------------|--|------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Brasil Central (Mato Grosso) photo album | 1949-1950 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Manaus and Amazonas photographs | 1955 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Biography | Circa 1960 |

Military defense

| | | |
|------------|--|--------------|
| b. 2, f. 1 | <i>Fortune</i> magazine | 1943 January |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Notes about Brasilia and the Cachimbo mountain range, presented to the Aeronautic Ministry of Brazil | 1958 |

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.

Subjects

Brazil. Exército -- History -- 20th Century
Brazil -- Discovery and exploration

Corporate Body

Brazil. Aeronáutica

Names

McMillen, D.A., 1888- (Drury Albert)