The Nick Pocock Papers contain correspondence, photographs, and a newspaper clipping pertaining to Nick Pocock, a former aviation correspondent for The Waco Citizen and a former professor at T.S.T.C.

Subjects
Aeronautics -- Texas -- History. / Pocock, Nick, 1934-2009.

Administrative Information
Restrictions on Access and Use
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Preferred Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:


Processing Information
Described by Thomas DeShong and released on 2013-04-03.

Scope and Content
The Nick Pocock Papers were donated to The Texas Collection by Nicholas Pocock at an unknown date. There are seven items that comprise the collection including three letters of correspondence, three photographs, and a clipping of The Waco Citizen. The chronology of the correspondence and the clipping spans from 1971 to 1983. The two photographs are undated, but appear to have been taken in the early 1900s.

Administrative/Biographical History
Nicholas Guy Pocock, the son of Derek and Mabel Winifred (Knight) Pocock, was born on 1934 June 15 near London, England. When he was thirteen years old, Nicholas experienced his first airplane flight as a passenger, and decided to go into the aviation field. In 1952, at a mere seventeen years old, he had obtained his pilot’s license.

After attending a technical college, Pocock joined the Royal Air Force as an instrument fitter. In the early 1960s, he began competing in various air shows around Europe. At one particular world aerobatics show in Czechoslovakia, Pocock met Waco pilot Frank Price. The two competitors quickly became good friends.

In 1962, Pocock was named Great Britain’s Top Aerobatic Pilot. The following year, Pocock agreed to visit Waco to help Price with an air show the latter had organized. Pocock decided to stay after meeting his future wife, Alvena Prause Trull of China Spring. The two married on 1963 December 7 and had four children: Stephen, Terry, Alicia, and Neva.

Upon settling in central Texas, Pocock continued to follow his passion for aviation. He flew for a crop-dusting division for Delta Airlines based out of Bryan until a crash in 1964 temporarily placed him out of action. Later, he became an engineer for Certainteed Products in Hillsboro, a position he held for sixteen years.

In addition to his practical experiences as a pilot, Pocock was also a scholar. He composed two books in his life, one concerning the Grumman/Schweizer AG-CAT aircraft and another pertaining to W.D. Custead, a man who claimed to have flown a “flying machine” near Elm Mott before the Wright Brothers’ famous flight in Kittyhawk, North Carolina. Pocock also served as a professor at nearby T.S.T.C. for twenty years, retiring in 2005.

Pocock passed away in his hometown of China Spring on 2009 November 29. He was seventy-five years old.

Related Resources
Summary of related Archive materials

Related citations


Arrangement
Prior to processing, the materials of this collection were unorganized. There were no inventories, accession sheets, or finding aids. The Nick Pocock Papers are now organized into three series: I. Correspondence, II. Literary Productions, and III. Photographic Materials.

Series 1: Correspondence. 1971-1974
Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains three letters of correspondence exchanged between Pocock and his friend Tom Mathews of the Waco Times-Herald. The materials are in excellent condition.

Item List
Box 1. Folder 1. Nick Pocock to Tom Mathews, 1971-1974

Series 2: Literary Productions, 1983

Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains a single item: a clipping of The Waco Citizen from 1983 August 26. In this article, Pocock recounts a short history of aviation in Waco. The clipping is in good condition.

Item List
Box 1. Folder 2. Clipping: The Waco Citizen: "Waco No Stranger to Aircraft": Nick Pocock, 1983 August 26

Series 3: Photographic Materials, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains three photographs. The first shows a downed bi-plane which may be referenced by one of the letters in the first series. The other two photographs are shots of the Walker Home which was located at the intersection of 14th and Columbus. The photographs are in excellent condition.

Item List
Box 1. Folder 3. Photographic Print: Downed Bi-Plane, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. Photographic Print: Walker Home: Waco, undated