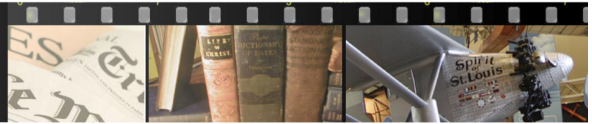




Library & Archives Researcher NEWS



Issue 001

October 2008

Message from the Head Archivist

Welcome to the first issue of Library & Archives Researcher News, our new quarterly newsletter. I know you share our pride in the Library & Archives, which holds the third largest collection of aviation-related materials in the country. We value your many efforts and continued support of this national and regional treasure and believe it's important to keep you informed of our many projects.

With the help of supporters and patrons, along with the hard work of staff and volunteers, the Library & Archives has accomplished much over the past year. Major achievements include the implementation of our online catalog, publication of three books, acquisition of many valuable archival materials, move of the manuals collection to the Wind Tunnel, and digitization of thousands of photos. But there's still much to be done! During the next year we plan to add more collections to the online catalog and continue to preserve and maintain Library & Archives' valuable resources to ensure public accessibility for the future.

We can't thank you enough for all you do and for your many contributions. Hope you enjoy our newsletter; suggestions for future issues are always welcome.

Online Catalog Project

The San Diego Air & Space Museum now offers a way for the public to search the holdings of its Library & Archives' extensive collection of aviation- and aerospace-related books. AeroCat, the Museum's new online catalog, offers immediate Internet access to thousands of items related to aviation, space history, and technology. AeroCat can be searched through the Museum's website at www.sandiegoairandspace.org.

The SDASM Library & Archives, recognized nationally and internationally by researchers, the media, and students alike, is the third largest of its kind in the nation. The collection, which reflects the depth and breadth of San Diego's rich aviation heritage, consists of books, periodicals, films and videotapes, more than two million photographs, aircraft manuals and drawings, and other archival materials. Many of these items are unique, rare, and one-of-a-kind.

The Library's card catalog has been converted by an outside company, MARCIVE, to an international standard format called MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging), developed in the 1960s by the Library of Congress. Virtually every online cataloging system uses MARC, offering flexibility for future growth.

At the present time, only the book collection and periodical titles are searchable online. Library & Archives staff and volunteers are now trying to identify additional indexes that can be edited and converted for uploading to AeroCat. Once the index

has been identified, it will be converted to an Excel spreadsheet, edited as necessary, then sent to MARCIVE for conversion to the MARC format. Once the conversion is completed, the file will be loaded into AeroCat. During the next year, we hope to add oral histories, videos, manuals, and drawings (including blueprints) to the online catalog.

The developer of our cataloging software, EOS International, is headquartered in Carlsbad, California. With more than 3000 clients worldwide, EOS is a leader in providing library automation software to many specialized libraries.

The Library & Archives requires additional funding for this project. We are continuing to convert data to MARC, and we must pay the annual software fees. For more information, please contact Katrina Pescador, Head Archivist at 619-234-8291 x123.

AeroCat Search Tips

Searching any online database can be more efficient if the researcher is aware of certain "idiosyncrasies" of both the software and the information in the database. The search tips below should help explain some of the trickier searches in AeroCat, particularly aircraft designations. Contact the Library & Archives if you need further assistance.

Titles: Titles are easily searched by either significant keywords or the first few words in the title.

Aircraft types: Aircraft with numerical designations such as DC-3, F-18, etc., should be searched using a hyphen and no space. The F/A-18 Hornet must be searched with a forward slash as shown. Some aircraft could also be searched by manufacturer's proper name and a number, such as "Convair 340" (without a hyphen).

Authors: Authors may be searched by full name, either first name then last or last name then first. No commas are needed (e.g., Myron Smith or Smith Myron).

Business names: Names of businesses may be searched using the full name or significant words. When searching corporations, keep in mind that names change, for example: Consolidated Aircraft

became Consolidated Vultee Aircraft (Convair), and then became General Dynamics/Convair Division.

Word variations: Use an asterisk (*) to indicate a truncated word (e.g., enter “bomb*” to retrieve all records beginning with the word bomb: bombs, bomber, bombardment).

Publication Wins Award



Aviation in San Diego, a book authored by SDASM’s Katrina Pescador, Head Archivist, and Alan Renga, Assistant Archivist, won the best 2007 local interest

book award at the 14th annual San Diego Book & Writing Awards ceremony on May 24th 2008. The trophy is proudly displayed in the Library & Archives at the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

Museum Collection

Historically speaking, one of the most unique airplanes in the collection of the San Diego Air & Space Museum is the Consolidated PT-1, serial number 27-150. Of the 819 PT series planes built in Buffalo, New York, by Reuben Fleet’s company, only two original intact aircraft survive. The aircraft on display here still carries vintage fabric and paint! The other aircraft is at the Air Force Museum in Ohio.



Local officials line up in front of the PT-1 after it landed at Lindbergh Field in 1928

Intended to replace the World War I era Curtiss Jenny, then serving with the Army Air Service, Fleet’s design was robust, economical to operate, and easy to build and maintain. The Army was so impressed, over 200 of the initial version were ordered. Known as the

“Trusty,” the plane quickly earned a reputation for its excellent handling characteristics and safety record. Follow-on versions included over 200 PT-3s, and over 240 aircraft for the Navy, which were designated NY. Early versions, like the one on display here, were powered by the Wright “E” water-cooled V8 engine. Later models used the Wright Whirlwind radial. Several firsts attributed to this type aircraft include Consolidated’s first export sales (four PT-1s to Siam in 1928), and the first demonstration of “blind flying” by Jimmy Doolittle in September 1929. A Consolidated PT-1, flown by Army pilot Col. Frank Siefert, was the very first airplane to land at Lindbergh Field on August 16th 1928, with Mayor Harry C. Clark as the first passenger.

After initial service at Fairfield and Maxwell Field, the Museum’s aircraft served much of its career with the famous First Pursuit Group at Selfridge Field in Michigan. At one point it was assigned to Rockwell Field on San Diego’s North Island. The plane was eventually declared surplus and donated to the University of Nebraska in 1932, where it served as a training aid for budding aviation mechanics. Purchased in 1946 by Harry Kirk of Lincoln, Nebraska, the plane was eventually loaned to the National Air and Space Museum but never displayed. In August 1978, Atlas Hotels Incorporated purchased the plane and donated it to assist in rebuilding the San Diego Air & Space Museum’s collection, after the devastating fire in February 1978. This historic representative of Reuben Fleet’s company has been on display ever since.

The Museum holds the largest collection of Consolidated’s (later Convair) history, including documents, photographs, technical drawings and manuals, brochures, newspaper clippings, film, newsletters, and more. For more information, please contact the Museum’s Library & Archives, or purchase a copy of *Consolidated Aircraft Corporation*, the Library & Archive’s latest publication.

Thank You for Your Support

Your gifts to the San Diego Air & Space Museum make it possible for many dedicated people to pursue important work and help the Museum remain California’s premier institution for aviation history and technology. Some of the world’s most talented, caring, passionate, and involved individuals, work and volunteer at the Museum!

You will find our staff and volunteers:

- Caring for some of the world’s most important collections

- Creating memorable visitor experiences
- Teaching school groups and other local organizations
- Assisting researchers in the Library & Archives
- Producing informative publications about the collections

Valuable Volunteer



Kathy Wright decided she wanted to volunteer at the Museum's Library & Archives several years before retiring as Library Director for SPAWAR Systems Center (formerly NOSC), a Navy research and development laboratory on Point Loma. Although she claims virtually no knowledge

of airplanes, she has an interest in space and rocketry from working as a chemist at Rocketdyne during the late 1960s. Her work there led to an interest in the scientific and technical literature and eventually to a master's degree in library science. As Kathy says, "The Museum has a whole building full of people who know about aircraft, but my library background and experience with technical literature in defense and aerospace settings is both unique and directly applicable to the goals of the Library & Archives."

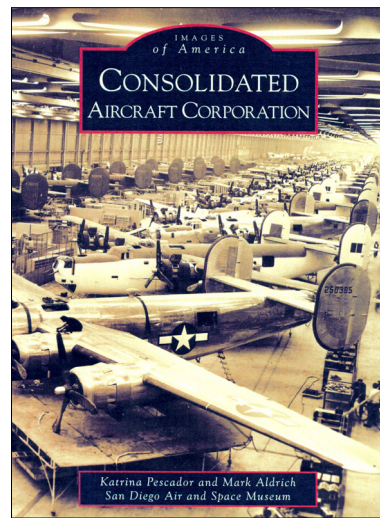
On her first day of volunteering at the Museum nearly four years ago, Kathy was given the challenge of automating the card catalog. Three years later, the online catalog (AeroCat) is now available to the public via the Museum's website. Presently, only the book and periodical records are available, but the indexes of oral histories (a joint project with five other San Diego museums), films, videos, and other digital media should be part of the catalog sometime next year. According to Kathy, "Evaluating systems and preparing the records for conversion to an online catalog was a lot of work, but being able to use an online catalog now makes work so much easier for volunteers and staff. Plus, the public access helps spread the word about the incredible resources available."

Kathy, with her passion for libraries, is pleased she has been able to make a significant contribution and enjoys the time she spends working for the Museum. She's made many new friends and continues to learn and be challenged by her work.

Kathy and her husband Chuck, a retired Navy submarine officer, are both active in their church and enjoy spending time with their family. In her "spare time," Kathy makes all types of jewelry and can usually be spotted wearing one of her necklaces or a new pair of earrings.

Library & Archives Receives Award

This year the Museum's Library and Archives was the proud recipient of the Mary Ward Archival Award for contributions to the archival preservation and development of the history of this region by the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties.



New Release!

Founded by Reuben H. Fleet in 1923, Consolidated Aircraft Corporation (later Convair) became one of the most significant aircraft manufacturers in American history. For roughly 60 years this prolific company was synonymous with San Diego and, except for the U.S. Navy, the largest

single employer in the United States. Whole sections of the city were designed and built to meet the needs and provide homes for the workers and their families. When shifts at the plant changed, the streets were overflowing with the men and women responsible for building some of the most important aircraft in aviation history, including the PBY Catalina, B-24 Liberator, Convair 880 airliner, F-102 Delta Dagger, as well as the reliable Atlas missile, vital in launching America into space. To this day, nearly a decade after the company passed from the San Diego scene, tens of thousands of San Diegans can celebrate a seminal connection with Reuben Fleet, his company, and his popular slogan, "Nothing short of right is right."

Consolidated Aircraft Corporation retails for \$19.99. All proceeds go directly to support the San Diego Air & Space Museum's Library & Archives. Copies of this book can be ordered by going to our web site at www.sandiegoairandspace.org.



Archivist to Speak At SOHO

Katrina Pescador, the Museum’s Head Archivist, along with Assistant Archivist and co-author Alan Renga, will speak at the SOHO-operated city museum, the Adobe Chapel, located at 3950 Conde Street in historic Old Town San Diego on November 20th at 6:00 pm. The authors will discuss their book, *Aviation in San Diego*. This 1-hour lecture includes a 15-minute question and answer period, followed by a book signing. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) by phone at (619) 297-9327 or online at <http://sohosandiego.org/main/authors.htm#series>. Save \$10 when you reserve in advance.

The \$25 fee (\$35 at the door) includes lecture and a copy of the book. Lecture-only tickets are available for \$15.00 (at the door or in advance).

Open for Research

The SDASM Library & Archives collection is available to Museum staff, volunteers and docents, academic researchers, students, and aviation enthusiasts. Access to these collections is included in the SDASM membership fee. All other visitors and researchers pay the small Museum admission fee. Staff and/or volunteers are available for assistance. Appointments should be made in advance by calling 619-234-8291, x125, or emailing arenga@sdasm.org, to ensure someone is available. Information can often be pulled prior to your visit if we are aware of your research request. Contact the Library & Archives staff for research rules and regulations.

Hours of Operation

Tuesday to Friday, 10:00am – 4:00p.m.

*(Closed on Mondays, weekends,
federal holidays, and
for some special Museum functions)*

SDASM Library & Archives
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101
619-234-8291
www.sandiegoairandspace.org

Celebrate...Educate...Inspire!

(Attach address label here)

.....
.....
.....