



FAM 14

Prepared by the SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

President's Message Spring 2002 AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY MOVES AHEAD WITH SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

In this the sixth edition of *FAM 14*, it is a pleasure to report on activities of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society. This issue features the exciting events taking place at the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. It is also our special honor to pay tribute to San Francisco International Airport as it celebrates its seventy-fifth year of service.

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society enthusiastically welcomes its two newest members, Mr. George Doubleday II and Mrs. G. Wilkinson Wright. Both have graciously accepted positions as Directors of the Society bringing their respective experience and expertise in aviation and their dedication to preserving and sharing the important history of flight. In joining their fellow board members, the Society is furthering its mission.

The Society's second annual reception on May 3rd in the Aviation Library and Museum will celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of San Francisco International Airport and honor Mr. Stanley J. Hiller, Jr., recipient of the 2001 Achievement in Aviation Award. The unveiling of the new support level designation of "Patron" of the Society is also planned.

On May 4th, the Society presents its first Spirit of Flight Lecture. Mr. R.E.G. Davies, noted author and Curator of Air Transport at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, will deliver two slide presentations; *Directions of Air Transport in the 21st Century*, and *The Comet: World's First Jet Airliner*. Mr. Davies will also sign books during this rare West Coast appearance. We look forward to enjoying these Society activities with you.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Turpen
President

Board of Directors

Louis A. Turpen, Patrick A. Murphy, Athena Tsougarakis, Angela G. Gittens, William K. Coblenz, George Doubleday II, Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, Jerry O'Donnell, Mrs. G. Wilkinson Wright
Hon. Dianne Feinstein, Honorary Member

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CELEBRATES SEVENTY- FIVE YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

May 7, 2002 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of San Francisco International Airport. On that date in 1927, a hastily assembled group of aviators, employees, and well-wishers witnessed Mayor James Rolph, Jr. dedicate Mills Field Municipal Air Port of San Francisco. Other dignitaries, including Supervisor Milo Kent, Chairman of the Air Port Committee, joined the Mayor on a platform by the tiny, unfinished administration building. He, and many others who worked hard to "place San Francisco on the airways of the world," had finally achieved their objective. As the speeches came to a close, thirty-seven airplanes powered down the dirt airstrip sending up great swirls of dust. In its first month of operation, Mills Field had fifteen passengers.

Two weeks after the ceremony, Charles Lindbergh made his epic crossing of the Atlantic. His flight ignited interest in aviation around the world, and San Francisco stood as one of the few cities with a municipal airfield in place. The facilities, however, were modest and business was hard to come by. The airport was labeled "experimental" as the City had secured only a three-year lease for the 150-acre cow pasture it was renting from the Mills Estate for \$1,500 per year. Oakland tended to get most of the airline business at its field, which opened the same year. It was a decade before San Francisco hit its stride in commercial aviation. In 1937, the first substantial administration building and airfield improvements were completed for use by that year's 53,000 passengers. By 1954, passenger traffic reached 2.6 million, and a new, modern terminal was opened in anticipation of the jet age.

With completion of the new International Terminal in 2000 and annual passenger totals approaching 40 million, San Francisco International Airport has kept pace through seventy-five years of rapid growth in the aviation industry. As Airport Director John L. Martin recently commented, "SFO continues to set the standard in serving the traveling public and the international community. On its seventy-fifth anniversary we can all share in the sense of pride we feel for the hard work of those who created the Airport and our continuing commitment in meeting the challenges of the future."

FAM 14 is the abbreviation for the world's first transoceanic Foreign Air Mail route, which originated in San Francisco and linked the East and West by air. The FAM 14 masthead photograph was taken by Clyde Sunderland and shows Pan American Airways' China Clipper over the City of San Francisco on November 22, 1935, departing on the first transpacific commercial flight to Manila. Courtesy of Pacific Aerial Surveys.

EXHIBITION REVISITS THE GOLDEN AGE OF AIRSHIPS

Majestic *Graf Zeppelin* and Selections from The Miottel Collection of San Francisco are Featured in History Display

An exhibition entitled, "The Golden Age of Airships," on view in the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum through June 3, 2002, looks back at this short but fascinating era of lighter-than-air travel. Included is a highly detailed, twelve-foot model of the *Graf Zeppelin* created by master modeler, Edward Chavez. Also shown are in-flight meal service wares from the Luftschiff Zeppelin Co., remnants of the skin material, and a cabin lantern from the ill-fated *Hindenburg*, as well as numerous related photographs and publications.

In 1900, a time when France ruled the land and England dominated the seas, Germany claimed the skies as their province with the flight of the first Zeppelin. Over the next forty-five years, no less than 130 Zeppelins were constructed. During their heyday in the 1930s and 40s, these behemoths cruised over continents and oceans while passengers enjoyed unparalleled luxuries. The 804-foot *Hindenburg* carried food and water for 100 passengers and crew for one week without landing. Three bars staffed by seven stewards served refreshments to passengers during the day and most of the night. In the words of Consulting Curator Frank Norick, Ph.D., organizer of the exhibition, "This was the privilege of travel at its best, and a mode of transportation unrivaled even today. Lie back, have a drink, and watch the farm animals pass beneath."

The exhibition was made possible through the kind loan of objects from Mr. W. John Miottel, Jr. of the Miottel Collection of San Francisco.



Dirigible LZ-127 *Graf Zeppelin* Model 1:62 scale
Model maker: Edward Chavez
polychrome balsa, spruce, fabric, and foam
San Francisco Airport Museums, Nut Tree Restaurant
and Airfield Collection

From the Bookshelf

Era of the Flying Boat Comes to Life in Richly Detailed and Illustrated Work

The old adage that there is no greater vessel than a book to carry us lands away seems to fit perfectly with the experience of reading *Pan American's Pacific Pioneers: The Rest of the Story*. In this follow up to his first book, *Pan Am's Pacific Pioneers*, author Jon E. Krupnick goes to new lengths in his celebration of events that rank high among the greatest of all achievements in the age of flight.

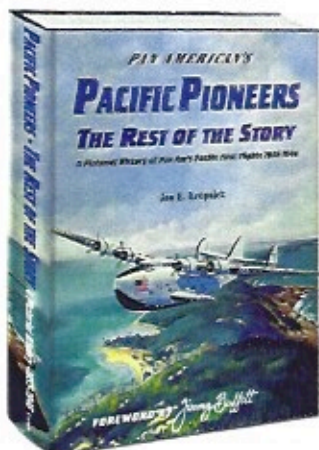
After the Wright brothers' 1903 triumph, Pan American Airways' installation of commercial air routes across the Pacific stands as the aerial equivalent to the Brooklyn Bridge, the Trans-continental Railroad, or the Panama Canal. The geographical and technical challenges would have seemed insurmountable. Yet just thirty-two years after Kitty Hawk those barriers

yielded to a daring company that embodied the spirit of a vigorous nation determined to emerge from economic depression.

Unlike a bridge, a railroad, or a canal, no one can point to an air route. Even the mighty four-engine Sikorsky, Martin, and Boeing ships have long since vanished. And so we turn to Mr. Krupnick's book where the bits and pieces of the story take us back to the brief period (1935-1946) when boats flew the oceans and the *China Clipper* captivated the imagination of the world. Throughout the 696-page large format pictorial is a stunning array of artifacts, photographs, documents, and ephemera, all assembled with the passion of a true collector. The author's award-winning aerophilatelic collection forms the foundation of the book and presents a meticulously researched chronology of the mail-carrying first flights along F.A.M. 14 and F.A.M. 19. These tangible links with the past come alive in the anecdotes of the many Pan American personalities encountered and retold by the author.

Pan American Airways' pioneering of the Pacific is a colossal tale to tell. Happily, this book is up to the task, and readers will be enormously grateful to the author for sharing the rest of the story.

Jon E. Krupnick. *Pan American's Pacific Pioneers: The Rest of the Story*. Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., Missoula, Montana. \$59.95 hardcover. \$250 leather-bound limited edition in slipcase. www.pacificpioneers.com



Volunteerism—the Cornerstone of America's Can-Do Spirit

Aviation Library and Museum Volunteers Honored at Appreciation Ceremony upon Completing First Year of Service

At a festive gathering one evening last December, Airport officials and staff honored the volunteers who have served during the first year of operation of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. Airport Director John L. Martin awarded certificates of appreciation to the volunteers in recognition of their valuable contribution to the success of this new facility.

In the first year, the group of fifty-one volunteers logged over 2,100 hours in service to more than 60,000 visitors. Their professional work and personal touch in welcoming the public has added a special dimension to the library and museum experience. While each volunteer has contributed greatly to the inaugural year, several were awarded special mention based on their total hours of service. Mr. David G. Coen was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Honorable Mentions went to Mr. Cary C. Fong, and to the husband-and-wife team of Mr. Thomas A. Northrop and Ms. Julianne Ward-Northrop. Mr. Thomas G. Dragges was given a Certificate of Appreciation with Special Recognition for his great support and work in collections development.



Volunteers celebrated at a recent recognition ceremony in honor of their dedicated service to the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum during the first year of operation. A certificate of appreciation was awarded to each of the volunteers by Airport Director John L. Martin.



Clockwise from left: Aviation Library and Museum Volunteers David G. Coen, Cary C. Fong, Thomas A. Northrop, Julianne Ward-Northrop, and Thomas G. Dragges.



San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum Volunteers in the First Year of Operation

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| David A. Abercrombie | Evelyn R. David | Thomas A. Northrop |
| James H. Abrams | Thomas G. Dragges | Yvonne V. Olivier |
| June A. Armanino | Howard T. East, Jr. | Aaron A. Ortega |
| Roma M. Auerback | Cary C. Fong | Wasson Quan |
| Kenneth J. Austin | Pauline S. Glen | Denis F. Quinn |
| Edward A. Badt | Dorene T. Goad | Thomas V. Reilly |
| Robert M. Baron | Robert S. Harmon | Willie Robinson |
| Merry Barton | Robert L. Hendrickson | Norman R. Rogers, MD |
| Irene P. Bluth | Theodore C. Johnson | Barbara F. Sharfstein |
| Richard J. Borger | Denise A. Joseph | Ray B. Sherman |
| David G. Coen | Ululani M. Jung | Angela C. Sumner |
| Eva G. Condy | Kyong Suk Kim | Harriet I. Tripp |
| Claire B. Crosse | David Laudanat | Margaret Ullrich |
| Carol V. Crown | Larry Marks | Hanns O. Ullrich |
| Charles D. Cutting | Reuben O. Martinez | Julianne Ward-Northrop |
| Teresa C. Damgaard | Diana E. Mion | Alan Widdicombe |
| Laverne Davey | Edward J. Murtha | Barbara L. Zelinsky |

MUSIC OF THE SKIES

Inspired Pacific Mozart Ensemble Concert Celebrates the Wonder of Flight

It was an evening of musical high adventure. The audience in attendance on March 10th at the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum was treated to a concert program with great historical references that were wonderfully matched to the setting. The Pacific Mozart Ensemble, a twenty-two piece orchestra and forty member chorus, presented the concert in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversaries of the flight of the *Spirit of St. Louis* and the opening of San Francisco's airport. Selections included the rarely performed Kurt Weill composition *Der Lindberghflug*, a piece entitled *Vessels* from the

Philip Glass score for the film *Koyaanisqatsi*, and Meredith Monk's *Astronaut Anthem*.

Skillful direction and staging of the chorus transformed the Aviation Library and Museum into an instrument of sound.

A migration of voices from the mezzanine to the grand staircase and along the arcades of the main hall added dimension and drama. With the museum surroundings, such as the large scale model aircraft overhead, the visual blended with the acoustic in a soaring tribute to the spirit of human flight.



Pacific Mozart Ensemble performance at the Aviation Library and Museum.

PATRICK A. MURPHY

PROFILES IN AVIATION



Patrick A. Murphy

Patrick A. Murphy brings his extensive experience in the law profession and his tenure on the San Francisco Airport Commission to his role as a member of the Founding Board of Directors and Vice President of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

Mr. Murphy is the Chairman of Murphy Sheneman Julian & Rogers, an insolvency, finance, and litigation firm with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles. He specializes in corporate reorganizations and insolvency law. He has participated as chair or as a panelist in over fifty legal education programs in the fields of bankruptcy, commercial law, and lender liability litigation for the American Law Institute-American Bar Association (ALI-ABA), the Practising Law Institute, the California Continuing Education of the Bar, and numerous other organizations. Mr. Murphy has been a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference since 1973, and was elected in 1990 to the initial class of the American College of Bankruptcy.

He received his BA in 1961 from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and his JD in 1965 from Boalt Hall at the University of California at Berkeley. He is a member of the State Bar of California, the Bar Association of San Francisco, and the American and International Bar Associations.

Mr. Murphy served as a member of the San Francisco Airport Commission from 1988 to 1995. During this critical period, his active participation and guidance as Vice President of the Commission saw the Airport's \$2.8 billion Master Plan

Program successfully through a complicated planning and environmental approval process. The Master Plan Program broke ground in 1995 and was the largest public works project in the country.

We would like to thank Founding Board Member Patrick A. Murphy for his continued commitment to the preservation of aviation history through his dedication to the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE AND SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Corporate Members: Greater Toronto Airports Authority • Miami-Dade Aviation Department • World Trade Center Miami
Supporting Members: Moon F. Chin • Patricia Patterson Dudley • Catherine Mayer • Blake Summers

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The San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum is located at San Francisco International Airport, International Terminal, Level 3. It is open Sunday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is (650) 821-9900.

For additional information and to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact the San Francisco Airport Museums at (650) 821-6700, or e-mail curator@sfoArts.org. Please visit our website <http://www.sfoArts.org>



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