



FAM 14

SPECIAL EDITION

Prepared by the SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

President's Message Summer 2001

SFO SETS NEW STANDARDS IN PRESERVING AVIATION HISTORY

In this, the fifth edition of *FAM 14*, it is a great pleasure to report on the activities and events related to the opening of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum.

With the activation of the spectacular new International Terminal—San Francisco International Airport's \$2.4 billion Master Plan centerpiece—the Aviation Library and Museum was made ready for public use. It occupies a prominent space in the new state-of-the-art terminal where it functions as a "building within a building." With an "Opening the World" theme, a series of events, beginning with a Director's Gala hosted by Airport Director John L. Martin, celebrated the Bay Area's newest gateway. The Aeronautical Society then hosted an inaugural reception in the Aviation Library and Museum. The Society launched its General Membership and presented a program of awards and donations of important historic artifacts. These included gifts made possible by the Pan Am Historical Foundation and the National Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton, Ohio.

On Sunday, December 10th, a Community Open House welcomed over thirty thousand people to tour the new Airport facilities. This marked the first day for public access to the Aviation Library and Museum and staff recorded over nine thousand visitors. It has received high praise from the public and earned acclaim from print and broadcast media worldwide.

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society salutes the Airport Commission for creating an appropriate repository equal to the historical significance of San Francisco's role in aviation. This educational outlet provides a source of cultural enrichment for the Bay Area while inviting the international community to share in the legacy of flight.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Turpen
President

Founding Board of Directors

Louis A. Turpen, Patrick A. Murphy, Athena Tsougarakis, Angela Gittens, William K. Coblenz, Dr. Zuretti L. Goosby, Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, Jerry O'Donnell

Hon. Dianne Feinstein, Honorary Member

Aeronautical Society Mission and Goals: The Role of a Museum Affiliate Support Group

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society was founded in 1997 as a nonprofit organization. It serves as the affiliate support group of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum, which is part of the San Francisco Airport Museums. Now in its twentieth year, the San Francisco Airport Museums, a division of the Airport Commission, has gained an international reputation for its innovative programs. It is the first and only museum in an airport to have been accredited by the American Association of Museums. As defined by its mission and goals, the Society's relationship with the Airport Museums follows a standard model of museum affiliation.

The Society Board of Directors, who volunteer their professional expertise and extensive experience in the aviation industry, has established the following mission and goals.

The mission of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society is to support the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum by:

- Seeking donations to the collection**
- Raising funds for acquisitions to the collection**
- Promoting scholarly research within the collection**
- Producing educational publications, lectures, and seminars**
- Identifying subjects for oral histories**
- Sponsoring special exhibitions**

The goals of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society are to:

- Create a volunteer group of aviation professionals and enthusiasts to provide broad-based support for the promotion of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum**
- Establish a San Francisco Aeronautical Society General Membership**

Please help us in meeting these objectives. By joining the Society's General Membership, you can play an important role in preserving aviation history. For membership categories and benefits, see the **contact!** section in this issue.

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 the 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.

Aeronautical Society Hosts Inaugural Reception

Occasion for Major Donations to Airport Collection upon Completion of the Aviation Library and Museum and Opening of Society's General Membership

On the evening of November 29, 2000, more than 150 guests attended an inaugural reception for the San Francisco Aeronautical Society at SFO's new International Terminal. The event marked the completion of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum, which opened to the public on December 11, 2000.

The presentation of several significant aviation artifacts for donation to the San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection highlighted the program. Society President Louis A. Turpen presented Airport Commissioners Michael S. Strunsky, Linda Crayton, and Caryl Ito, and Airport Director John L. Martin with a one-quarter scale model of the Fokker FVIIb-3m *Southern Cross*, the first airplane to span the Pacific Ocean. The 16-foot wide replica was exhibited overhead, suspended from the museum ceiling. It is a unique, assembled model in extraordinary detail. Created by Golden Era Classics of Australia, it symbolizes the beginning of transpacific flight in 1929.

A piece of the original wing cover fabric from the 1903 *Wright Flyer* used in the world's first successful powered flight was then presented by Society Founding Board Member Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter on behalf of the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, where she serves as a trustee. Ms. Marti Sullivan, on behalf of her mother, Ms. Marion Davis Wright, of the Wright Foundation, accompanied Ms. Nutter in the presentation.

On behalf of the Pan Am Historical Foundation, Vice President Jerry O'Donnell, who is also a Society Founding Board Member, and Captain Kenneth Beer presented a model of the Martin M-130 *China Clipper* and the original flight officer's briefcase from the famous flying boat. Captain Beer, who began flying for Pan American in 1929, charmed the assembly with a few recollections of his days as a Master of Ocean Flying Boats. Together with Mr. O'Donnell, who served as a Director for Pan American World Airways in Hong Kong, they represent extensive experience in Pacific aviation.

The program of awards and presentations of these major donations were well received by all who attended. Mr. Turpen brought the evening to a close by declaring the General Membership open to those who wish to join in supporting the mission and goals of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.



Left to right: Commissioners Michael S. Strunsky and Linda Crayton, Airport Director John L. Martin, and Society President Louis A. Turpen at the presentation of the original wing cover fabric from the 1903 *Wright Flyer*. The fabric was used by Orville and Wilbur Wright on their first successful flight. The artifact was donated by the Society to the Airport Commission from Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter on behalf of the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio.

Aeronautical Society guests applaud as the model of the *Southern Cross* is illuminated above the main hall of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. The unique, one-quarter scale replica was donated by the Society to the Airport Commission. As part of the San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection, it fittingly represents the beginning of transpacific aviation. The famous Fokker FVIIb-3m trimotor made the world's first flight from California to Australia in 1928. The epic flight, commanded by Charles Kingsford Smith, covered a distance of 7,200 miles. Stops were made at Hawai'i and Suva, Fiji with a total flying time of 83 hours and 50 minutes.



Aviation Award Recognizes Pan Am Group

Society's First Achievement in Aviation Medallion Awarded to the Pan Am Historical Foundation

In order to recognize outstanding contributions and excellence in the aviation industry made by organizations or individuals with a demonstrated commitment to preserving its history, the San Francisco Aeronautical Society has established its annual Achievement in Aviation Medallion.

The Pan Am Historical Foundation was honored as the first recipient of the award at the Society's Inaugural Reception on November 29, 2000, in San Francisco. The Foundation was selected because of its commitment to preserving the history of aviation for future generations. Society President Louis A. Turpen commended the Foundation as the embodiment of Pan Am and the award as recognition of the Foundation's important work in sharing the legacy of the world's most experienced airline. The bronze medallion bears the image of the *China Clipper* on its maiden voyage as it passed by the unfinished Golden Gate Bridge. The award symbolizes the close association between San Francisco and Pan American Airways and the opening of the Far East via the world's first continuous transoceanic commercial air service which began in 1935.

Pan Am Historical Foundation Vice President Jerry O'Donnell accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation. The Foundation was formed in 1992 to preserve the history and accomplishments of Pan American World Airways in pioneering global air transport, and the people who worked to make it the "world's most experienced airline." The Achievement in Aviation Medallion will be displayed at the Pan Am Historical Foundation offices in New York City.



Left to right: Capt. Kenneth Beer and Society President Louis A. Turpen listen as Jerry O'Donnell accepts the Society's Achievement in Aviation Medallion awarded to the Pan Am Historical Foundation where Mr. O'Donnell serves as Vice President.



The San Francisco Aeronautical Society Achievement in Aviation Medallion is awarded annually to an organization or individual with a demonstrated commitment to preserving aviation history. The bronze medallion (shown front and back) depicts Pan American Airways' famous *China Clipper* on its first flight across the Pacific from San Francisco Bay to the Philippines in 1935. The medallion symbolizes the close historical ties between the San Francisco Bay Area and the airline that pioneered the global aviation.

ANGELA GITTENS

PROFILES IN AVIATION



Angela Gittens

Angela Gittens brings extensive experience in the field of aviation to her role as a member of the Founding Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

Ms. Gittens, Director of the Miami-Dade County Aviation Department, has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Farleigh Dickinson University, and from 1967 to 1970 she was a full-time doctoral student at the University of Michigan.

Ms. Gittens was Vice President of TBI Airport Management, a company that manages airport facilities under contract. Prior to that she directed Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport.

At Hartsfield Atlanta, Ms. Gittens oversaw numerous capital improvement projects. These included a new international concourse that was then the largest in North America, a renovation of the terminal complex, a major expansion of the people mover system, and one of the largest concession development programs in the country. She simultaneously directed several major airfield projects including runway electrical system rehabilitation, additional parking facilities, security enhancements, and other improvements.

In addition to her experience as General Manager of the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, Ms. Gittens served from 1983 to 1993 as the Deputy Director for Budget and Finance at San Francisco International Airport. Prior to that, she served for five years as Deputy Administrator at San Francisco General Hospital, and from 1970 to 1978, she

held positions at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

We would like to thank Founding Board Member Angela Gittens for her continued commitment to the preservation of aviation history through her dedication to the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE FOUNDING MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society gratefully acknowledges the following Corporate Founding Members for their support of the Society's mission and goals.

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CONTACT!

For Society General Membership and other programs, please use the following contact information:

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The San Francisco Airports Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum is located at San Francisco International Airport, International Terminal Third Level. 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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