



FAM 14

Prepared by the SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

President's Message **Winter 2000**

A UNIQUE AVIATION LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OPENS

In this, the fourth issue of FAM 14, I am pleased to inform our readers that December 11, 2000, marks the opening to the public of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. With this milestone comes the fulfillment of a San Francisco Airport Commission goal to provide a suitable repository for aviation's important history. Under Airport Director John L. Martin, San Francisco has achieved another great distinction in creating this first of its kind facility.

Through the combined collections and exhibition programs, new research and educational opportunities are offered in a unique setting. Created in the architectural spirit of a 1930s-era airport, the Aviation Library and Museum occupies a primary site within SFO's prestigious new International Terminal. Its design, based on the Airport's own 1937 passenger waiting room, forges a link with the past while its location keeps it directly connected to the Airport's ongoing role in the development of commercial aviation.

The Founding Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society commends the Airport Commission on this great achievement. As the affiliated support group, the Aeronautical Society is dedicated to the success of this new facility. As we approach the 100th anniversary of powered flight, it becomes even more important to preserve this legacy. The Aeronautical Society extends an invitation to all to participate in this exciting new endeavor by joining our General Membership. Together we can all share in our great aviation heritage.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Turpen
President

Founding Board of Directors

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

Hon. Dianne Feinstein, Honorary Member

General Membership: An Invitation to Join the San Francisco Aeronautical Society

The Founding Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society is pleased to announce the launch of a General Membership in conjunction with the opening of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. Exciting membership opportunities and benefits exist for those who wish to join.

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society was founded in 1997 as a nonprofit organization to serve as the affiliated support group of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. Your participation as an Aeronautical Society inaugural member is vital to its mission and goals which include: seeking donations and funding acquisitions for the Airport's aviation collection, promoting research within the collection, producing educational publications, lectures and seminars, and sponsoring special exhibitions.

Please see the accompanying membership information, or contact the San Francisco Aeronautical Society at P.O. Box 250250, San Francisco, CA 94125. You can play an important role in the enrichment of public awareness of the historic achievements of air transport.

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:

ARINC • DFS Group Limited • Fong & Chan Architects • Holmes & Narver • Host Marriott Services Corp. • Morrison and Foerster LLP • National Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton, Ohio • Parsons • Pan Am Historical Foundation • Salomon Smith Barney • San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce • Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP • United Airlines

FAM 14 is the abbreviation for the world's first transoceanic Foreign Air Mail route. It originated in San Francisco and linked the East and West by air.

The FAM 14 masthead photograph was taken by Clyde Sunderland. It shows the China Clipper over San Francisco on November 22, 1935, departing on the first transpacific commercial flight to Manila. Courtesy of Pacific Aerial Surveys.

San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum

Preserving Commercial Aviation History: A New Museum Takes Flight

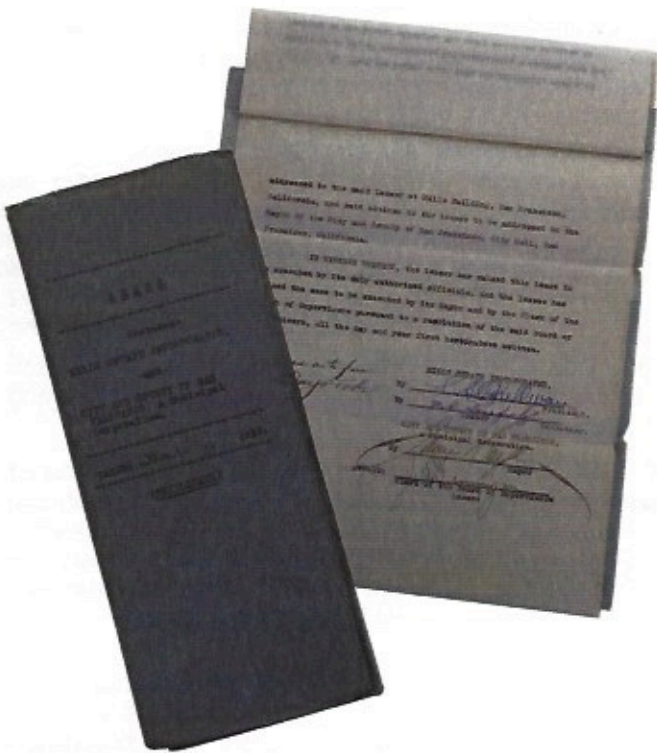
It is not every day that a new aviation museum opens. And certainly not one focused on commercial aviation that is located in the newly acclaimed international terminal of the world's ninth busiest airport. Visitors to SFO can now experience the history of air transportation on a variety of levels. The Aviation Library and Museum collection is housed in a new state-of-the-art facility that adapts the ambience of a 1937 airport terminal.

The Fong & Chan Architects design provides public spaces, such as exhibition galleries and a reading room, with private areas for collection management and professional staff. FCA principle architect David Fong comments, "The design creates a rich layering in the understanding of air travel past and present, from casual observers entering a gallery to research scholars seeking detailed information." As part of the San Francisco Airport Museums, and the first facility of its kind in an airport, the Aviation Library and Museum sets a new standard that further demonstrates the San Francisco Airport Commission's commitment to excellence.

The collection is focused on the history of commercial aviation in the Pacific Region and the role of San Francisco International Airport in the development of air transport. The library contains unique documents related to the origin and development of the Airport, approximately 6,000 books, 2,000 current and early aviation magazines, and oral history transcriptions. Museum collection objects include three-dimensional artifacts and promotional materials associated with airports and airlines.



Interior rendering of the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum
Courtesy of Fong & Chan Architects (FCA)



Lease for a San Francisco municipal airport 1927

Ink on paper
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection
Photo: Gabriel Branbury



Northwest Airlines
Lockheed Constellation model
c. 1950

Polychrome metal
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection
Photo: Catherine Buchanan



Pan American Airways
demitasse and saucer c. 1935

Ceramic
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection
Gift of Theodore C. Johnson
Photo: Catherine Buchanan

PAN AM ASSOCIATION COLLECTION DONATED TO AIRPORT



China National Aviation Corp. luggage label
1930s

Printed paper
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection
Gift of the Pan Am Association



Pan American World Airways luggage label
1940s

Printed paper
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection
Gift of the Pan Am Association

The San Francisco Airport Commission has received a major gift of historic artifacts and documents from the Pan Am Association, Mainland Chapter. Over 1,000 objects have been donated and added to the San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection. These include flight and ground crew uniforms, in-flight meal service wares, menus, timetables, first flight airmail covers, luggage labels, posters, and photographs. The collection chronicles Pan American World Airways' prestigious history in pioneering long-range commercial aviation. Initiating the world's first regular transoceanic route by opening San Francisco to Manila service with the famous *China Clipper* in 1935, the airline set the industry standard. These important artifacts tell the story of Pacific flight from the romance of the flying boat era to the phenomenon of the jet age and the company that made it all possible.

The Pan Am Association, a retiree's group, is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the world's most experienced airline. Association President Glenda Bready Duste states that, "We are a coherent group, sharing a common objective, and the Airport's museum is well suited to preserving this history. It provides an educational outlet for Pan Am's legacy." The collection arose out of the tireless efforts of Pan Am Historian and Association Director Fred Nott who gathered artifacts, documents, mementos, and memorabilia from fellow members. Mr. Nott considers his work, "A tribute to all the great people of Pan Am. If you love a company a lot, you enjoy doing something to preserve its history."

Pan American Airways, founded in 1929 by Juan T. Trippe, shares a special place in history with San Francisco. When it moved its transpacific operation from Alameda, California to San Francisco's Treasure Island in 1939, it became the city's first intercontinental carrier. Its *China Clipper*, linking East and West, will forever be associated with the City by the Bay. Thanks to this generous donation from the Pan Am Association, this illustrious history can be shared with current and future generations



China Clipper postcard
inscribed by Clara Adams 1936

Printed paper
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection
Gift of the Pan Am Association

LOUIS A. TURPEN

PROFILES IN AVIATION



Louis A. Turpen

In each FAM 14 newsletter we have profiled a member of our Board of Directors. It is only fitting that in this issue we profile Louis A. Turpen, President of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society. He is one of the leading airport executives in the world and the person for whom the Aviation Museum is named.

Mr. Turpen is a graduate of United States Air Force Academy in Civil Engineering. He holds multiple professional

engineering registrations as well as a Masters degree in Business Administration. Mr. Turpen was elected as a Fellow in the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1991. He is a member of the Governing Board of Airports Council International, which represents some 1,400 airports in 165 countries. He has distinguished himself with a number of firsts in the field of aviation in addition to being the primary force in the capital redevelopment of San Francisco International Airport and Toronto-Pearson International Airport. He has completed or placed in progress more than \$8 billion in capital airport development during his career.

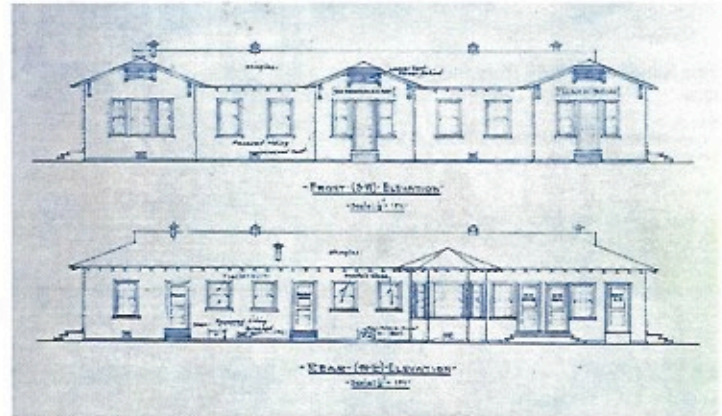
In the early 1980's, aware of the imminent demise of Pan American World Airways, and as well its significant history in relation to San Francisco, Mr. Turpen as Chief Executive Officer of the San Francisco International Airport, initiated a program to collect and preserve the history of Pan Am and San Francisco International Airport. Unanimous support from the San Francisco Airport Commission enabled the program to move forward so successfully, in fact, that in the late 1980s, the concept of a San Francisco Airport Aviation Library and Museum came into being. Mr. Turpen and the Commission felt that an appropriate repository for the birth place of transoceanic air travel was needed, and it was decided that the 1937 passenger terminal at San Francisco would serve as a model. The idea was overwhelmingly supported and has resulted in the Aviation Library and Museum, which is located in the New International Terminal. In support of the Aviation Library and Museum, Mr. Turpen has founded the San Francisco Aeronautical Society and currently serves as its President in addition to numerous other responsibilities.

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

SFO History

New International Terminal Crowns 73 Years of Progress

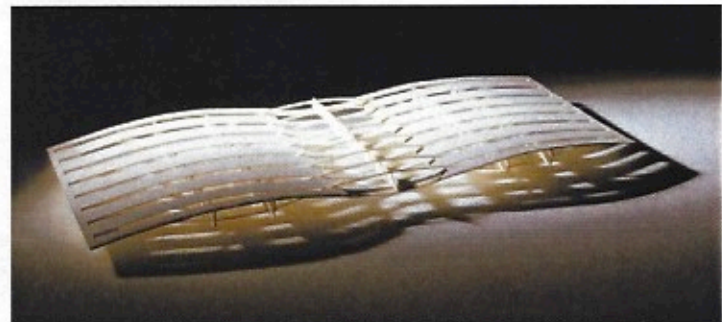
Seventy-three years ago, just two weeks before Lindbergh flew the Atlantic, San Francisco dedicated its municipal "Air Port." The 150-acre airfield, still part of its present site, was known as Mills Field. The first terminal building, a single-story wooden structure, was finished in September of 1927. It measured 34 by 88 feet and included sleeping quarters for pilots, a lunchroom, and a bay window at the back looking out on the dirt airstrip. Fifteen passengers came through Mills Field in its first month of operation.



Elevation drawing (detail), Mills Field Municipal Airport of San Francisco, administration building 1927

Blueprint
San Francisco Airport Museums Aviation Collection

With this year's opening of the new International Terminal, San Francisco continues to set the standard for airport planning and management. Architecturally prominent, the 2.5 million square-foot facility provides the public with services that are second to none. In keeping with its tradition of anticipating and preparing for the future, SFO has taken its leadership role into the second century of flight.



Roof diaphragm study model for the New International Terminal Building 1995

Paper
Courtesy of Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP

CONTACT!

For additional information, please contact the San Francisco Airport Museums at (650) 652-2772, or e-mail curator@sfoArts.org. Please visit our website <http://www.sfoArts.org>

