



# FAM 14

Prepared by the SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

## President's Message

Winter 2003

### A YEAR TO REMEMBER ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT

As we reach the final months of this centennial year of flight it is my pleasure to report on the activities of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

Just six years after the Wright brothers' 1903 success, Louis Blériot flew the English Channel. Within twenty-four years Charles Lindbergh would cross the Atlantic alone. In less than thirty-two years a transpacific commercial air route was established by Pan American Airways. By 1969 the Apollo space program had journeyed to the moon and back. Since then progress has been measured in both magnitude—well over half a billion passengers fly annually in the United States alone—and in innovative technologies that are opening new frontiers in unmanned, suborbital, perpetual, and alternative fuel flight. The century mark gives us an opportunity to look back to where we have come from, appreciate where we are, and imagine where we can go.

Highlights of Society activities in this issue include a report on our 2003 Annual Reception, the awarding of our annual Achievement in Aviation Medallion to Dr. Tom D. Crouch, the Spirit of Flight Lectures, and the announcement of the Society's sponsorship of the Oral History Program. Museum news includes the current exhibitions and the recent participation in the Crissy Field Centennial of Flight celebration. We also provide a profile of the aviation career and interests of fellow Society Director George Doubleday II.

Lastly, we want to say thank you to our members, our patrons, and all of those who have helped the Society continue its work in preserving and sharing the proud history of 100 years of flight.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Turpen  
President

### Board of Directors

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

### San Francisco Airport Museums Cosponsors Crissy Field Centennial of Flight Festival for 5,000 Visitors

The San Francisco Airport Museums in partnership with the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the Presidio Trust presented a celebration of the 100th anniversary of flight on October 18, 2003. More than 5,000 people came out to San Francisco's historic Crissy Field to attend the free event.

The program included the display of a full-scale replica of the 1903 Wright Flyer built by Tom Ivceovich; wildly popular fashion shows of vintage uniforms by the Pan Am flight attendants of World Wings International and the United Airlines Historical Foundation and members of their Clipped Wings organization; and kids' activities, including a kite building competition. Exhibitions were presented by the Air Mail Pioneers, the Crissy Field Aviation Historical Society, and the San Francisco Airport Museums.

In addition, San Francisco Airport Museums presented two aviation lectures at SFO in advance of the main festival event. Dr. Mark D. Ardema delivered a talk entitled *John J. Montgomery: California's Pioneer of Flight*. Dr. Morton Grosser's lecture, *Flight of Imagination: Adventures with the Gossamer Airplanes*, was also enthusiastically received.

### OUR 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

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 mast-head 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.

## SOCIETY CELEBRATES AT ANNUAL RECEPTION

### Achievement in Aviation Award to Dr. Tom D. Crouch, Induction of Five New Society Fellows, and Announcement of Annual Giving are Highlights at Gala

On May 2, the San Francisco Aeronautical Society held its Annual Reception for members and distinguished guests. The setting was the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum where those attending could enjoy the current exhibitions on view.

The program events emceed by Society Director Angela Gittens included the awarding of the 2002 Achievement in Aviation Medallion to Dr. Tom D. Crouch. The award is given annually for a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of aviation history. This year's recipient was acknowledged for his scholarly work regarding the lives of the Wright brothers and their development of the airplane. Dr. Crouch, Senior Curator of Aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, authored *The Bishop's Boys*, a definitive biography of the Wrights. Society Director Mrs. G. Wilkinson Wright made the presentation and spoke of her warm regard for Dr. Crouch, who works closely with members of the Wright family in his research.

Fellowships in the Society were bestowed upon individuals recognized for their singular contributions to the aviation community. In addition to Dr. Crouch, Mr. Thomas G. Dragges, co-founding president of the Bay Area Airline Historical Society; Mr. Jon E. Krupnick, author; Mr. William T. Larkins, author, photographer and founder of the American Airline Historical Society; and Mr. Ronald V. Wilson, a well-known Bay Area personality and longtime SFO spokesperson, were presented Fellowships by Society Director Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter.



Society Director Mrs. G. Wilkinson Wright presenting Dr. Tom D. Crouch with the Society's Achievement in Aviation Medallion for 2002.



From left to right: Society Directors George Doubleday II and Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter, and 2003 Society Fellowship inductees Ronald V. Wilson, William T. Larkins, Dr. Tom D. Crouch, Thomas G. Dragges, Jon E. Krupnick, and Society Director Angela Gittens and Vice President Patrick A. Murphy.

### Society to Fund Oral History Program

In the tradition of the Society's role as the support organization for the aviation library and museum a bound oral history transcript was presented to Airport Director John L. Martin by Society Directors Angela Gittens and Jean Kaye Tinsley at this year's Annual Reception. The transcript symbolized the announcement of a gift from the Society to fund the Oral History Program at San Francisco Airport Museums. This important program has collected unique first person accounts from individuals whose careers helped to develop the commercial aviation industry, and this financial underwriting provides for the continued development of this important resource for the student, the scholar, and the enthusiast. Over forty subjects have been interviewed in the past producing bound transcripts for public use.



Members and guests of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society enjoying their 2003 Annual Reception.



Society Vice President Patrick A. Murphy, left, and Airport Director John L. Martin at the Society's announcement of its underwriting of the Oral History Program.

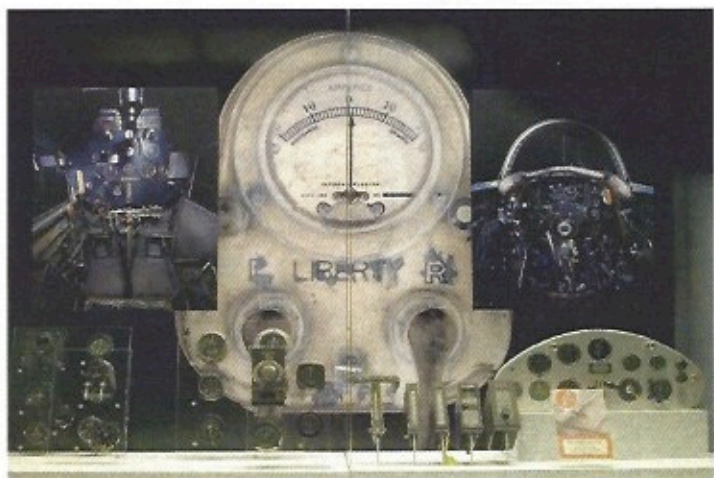
## AVIATION EXHIBITIONS PRESENTED AT SFO

### Model Aircraft, History of Flight Instrumentation, Airline Bags, and Wright Brothers' Reading Materials are Currently on View

Examples of the work of master modeler Eddie Chavez are on view through April 2004 in the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum. The exhibition, *Masters of the Sky: Model Aircraft by Edward Chavez*, showcases thirteen examples of the model maker's art. Each scratch built replica of a historic airplane is rendered at either 1:10 or 1:12 scale. These models were originally commissioned by Edwin J. Power Jr. of the Nut Tree Restaurant in Vacaville, California, where they were displayed for many years. The San Francisco Airport Museums acquired eighteen Chavez models from the Nut Tree upon its closure in 1996.

The exhibition, *On Instruments*, takes the viewer inside the cockpit and back in time to see how flight technology evolved. A rich array of over 150 examples of aircraft instruments trace the origins of basic flight, navigation, and engine control from pre-WWI to the present. "On Instruments covers the technical solutions developed over the past 100 years that overcame the fliers' seat-of-the-pants mystique and made flying the safe mode of transportation we enjoy today," comments Dr. Frank Norick, the exhibition curator. Lenders to the exhibition include Frederick W. Patterson III, David M. Rogers of Instrument Pro, Oakland, California, and Gordon Werne. The exhibition continues through June 2004.

A history of the airline bag is on view in the A-3 Entrance Lobby Gallery in Terminal 1 through March 2004. *The Flight Bag: Icon of Air Travel* looks at its subject as a unique cultural object. The flight bag established itself within the social fabric far beyond commercial aviation and became a status symbol during the jet age of air travel.



*On Instruments*, an exhibition, traces the first century of aircraft control technology.

An exhibition titled *The Wright Brothers: Flight through Literature* is being presented in the library upper level gallery through February 2004. Drawn from the San Francisco Airport Museums aviation collection, publications known to have been studied by the Wrights are featured. The exhibition was organized by librarian Christine Harris who stated, "We are fortunate that our special collection has copies of the books and pamphlets that the Wright brothers used in doing their original research. And, that by displaying books, magazines, and contemporary coins and stamps we are reminded how they influenced scientific, intellectual, and popular culture for the past 100 years."

## 2003 SPIRIT OF FLIGHT LECTURES AT SFO DRAW LARGE AUDIENCES

### Dr. Tom D. Crouch, Jon E. Krupnick Speak

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society presented its annual Spirit of Flight Lecture series on May 3, 2003. An audience of over 100 attended both the morning and afternoon lectures. Dr. Tom D. Crouch of the Smithsonian Institution delivered a slide presentation and talk entitled, *Why Wilbur and Orville?* He drew from his highly regarded biography of the Wrights, *The Bishop's Boys*, in explaining how two self-taught bicycle makers succeeded in controlled flight where scores of others failed.

Jon E. Krupnick, author of *Pan American's Pacific Pioneers* and *Pan American's Pacific Pioneers: The Rest of the Story*, delivered the second lecture. A noted collector of Pan American Pacific aviation history, he explained the process of researching and compiling his two highly detailed and richly illustrated books. Mr. Krupnick graciously acknowledged many of the former Pan Am personnel in the audience.



Above left: Dr. Tom D. Crouch. Above right: Jon E. Krupnick at SFO. Above: The annual "Spirit of Flight Lecture" series presented by the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

## GEORGE DOUBLEDAY II

### PROFILES IN AVIATION



George Doubleday II

George Doubleday II brings his considerable background in aviation and travel related business experience to his role as a member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.

Mr. Doubleday is the founder and chairman of several companies active in Asia-Pacific trade development and tourism. After sixteen years with Pan American

World Airways, he co-founded InnerAsia Travel Group in 1982, which is the parent company of Geographic Expeditions and Geographic Travel. He went on to form InnerAsia Consulting Group and InnerAsia Trading Company in 1986, and InnerAsia Development Company in 1992. His other business interests include Crossfire Technology Group, Alaska Seacoast Adventures, Pacific Micronesia Corporation, Inc., and Lynwood Capital Partners.

He received a private pilot's license in 1958, and entered Navy flight training in 1961, becoming a designated Naval Aviator the following year. Between 1963 and 1965 he served in Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 122 with carrier qualification on the USS *Forrestal*, USS *Midway*, and USS *Ticonderoga*. In 1965 he joined Pan American World Airways and worked in flight operations, flight training, operations control, and marketing. He simultaneously held Boeing 707 first officer qualifications and had flight time in DC-8 and B747 aircraft. He became Regional Managing Director for Southeast Asia and left the company in 1981.

Mr. Doubleday also earned his helicopter rating in a Bell 47 and has taken instruction in hang gliding and para-gliding. He is the vice president and managing director for Western U.S. and Alaska of the Pan Am Historical Foundation.

*We would like to thank fellow Board Member George Doubleday II for his continued commitment to the mission and goals of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society.*

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### In Memory: Fred Nott, Society Fellow

With great sadness we report that Fred Nott passed away on November 13, 2003. Mr. Nott, a longtime employee of Pan American World Airways, was a tireless champion of its legacy and the official historian of the Pan Am Association. He gave over 200 presentations and talks on the airline and was inducted as a Fellow of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society in 2002 for his efforts in preserving aviation history.

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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 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](mailto:curator@sfoArts.org). Please visit our website: <http://www.sfoArts.org>



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