



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 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.

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.

