

- Interesting Publications – Hiller Aviation Institute and Museum Captain Michael King Smith Library

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Pick an interesting aviation subject and you can likely find many great references in the Smith Library. Below are several subject headings, and a specific, related resource selected by volunteers or staff members that can be found and read in this research facility. With over 6,000 data based books, thousands of periodicals and related ephemera, the Smith Library is likely your one-stop destination for information on aviation, and aviation history, especially California aviation history. **Current library hours: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tuesdays & Thursdays.**

Airplane Manufacturers

Curtiss Aircraft, 1907-1947

By Peter M. Bowers

ISBN 0-370-10029-8 Published in 1979 in Great Britain by Putnam & Co., LTD.
London, 637 pages

Selected by Volunteer Don Flannigan

Donated to the library by Volunteer John Hill

Smith Library location: D TL686 C8 B68

Excerpts from the dust jacket:

This important work is a complete history of the pioneer work of Glenn Curtiss and of the subsequent companies which bore his name. Glenn Curtiss was involved in some of the earliest practical flying experiments with gliders and flying aircraft. Many thousands of First World War pilots learned to fly on the Curtiss JN Jenny... During the Second World War Curtiss aircraft were used by US, British, French and other services. There was a range of single-seat fighters including the P-36, Tomahawk and Kittyhawk; there were naval types such as the SBC and SB2C Helldivers, the seagull, Seamew and Seahawk; there were large numbers of C-46 Commando transports... All these aircraft and many others... are described and illustrated with a large number of photographs and general-arrangement drawings.

American Aviation Heroes

Rickenbacker, an Autobiography

By Edward V. Rickenbacker

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 67-22580 Printed in 1967 by Prentice-Hall, 458 pages

Selected by Volunteer Chuck Patterson

Smith Library location: A E748 R4 A3

Excerpts from the dust jacket:

Here is the long-awaited story of one of the most exciting American heroes of this century... was one of the earliest racing-car drivers on the national circuit...became focused on aviation...during World War I, he joined up, was sent to France...downed 26 enemy aircraft, became America's Ace of Aces-earning nineteen decorations for bravery in action...built his own company and his own car...served as special confidential consultant to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson...he and his crew crashed into the sea. They spent an incredible 24 days and nights floating in rubber rafts until rescued. In this gripping story, great moments of history and their colorful personalities are re-created...

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Flight Technology

Boeing 777 London Gatwick - Atlanta

Selected by Volunteer John

Mallinson

By Bruce Champion-Smith

ISBN 0 71102565 7 Published in 1999 in England by Ian Allan Publishing Ltd., 96 pages
Smith Library location: A TL 686.B65 C1

Overview:

An Airline Captains account of a typical transatlantic flight on what is truthfully stated as "...a remarkable aircraft." Virtually everything that goes on with the aircraft is covered in detail from before the aircraft's pre-flight actions, through departure from London, en-route actions & activities and subsequent arrival in Atlanta. Instruments, procedures, communications & much more are covered in a method that is easy to read about the flight. You'll find dozens of informative black & white photographs, detailed drawings & charts. Each page is enjoyably packed with facts and figures specific to the Boeing 777 & its historical predecessors. If high-tech equipment at the turn of the century is your interest, this is it.

Combat Aircraft

Modern Fighting Aircraft Volume 6: A-10

Selected by Volunteer Dave Cooper

By Bill Sweetman

Donated to the library in memory of Doug Penny

ISBN 0-688-06070-0 Published in 1984 by Arco Publishing, Inc. New York, 64 pages
Smith Library location C UG1242.A28.S93V6

Overview:

One of a series of Arco publications covering the Fairchild A-10A Thunderbolt II, also unofficially known as the Warthog, the USAF's first dedicated tank-killer. Delivers an excellent understanding of the aircraft - development, structure, power plant, avionics, weapons, aircraft deployment, performance and tactics - within just over 5 dozen pages. As an example, the development of the 30mm General Electric GAU-8/A Avenger armament system is chronicled and illustrated with color photographs & drawings. Integral to its tank-killer role, the Gatling-type cannon has an armor-piercing incendiary round weighing over 2 pounds. A single Warthog can carry enough weaponry to disable 16 main battle tanks, using the Avenger and the highly accurate, fire-and-forget Maverick missile. Includes many photos, detailed drawings & ends with specifications, a glossary and abbreviations.

American Aviation Heroes

Forever Flying, an Autobiography

Selected by Volunteer Bob Davis

By R. A. "Bob" Hoover

Donated in memory of a pilot, Sheldon M Klotz

ISBN 0-671-53760-1

Published in 1996 by Pocket Books, New York 291

pages

Smith Library location: A TL 540.H66 A3

Excerpts from the dust jacket:

At twenty-two, Hoover was a decorated World War II fighter pilot... surviving seventeen equipment-failure crash landings as a test pilot. [after being shot down] ... He made three

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Excerpts from the dust jacket (continued):

attempts to escape en route to the...prison camp...finally escaped by stealing a German plane and flying it to Holland.... After the war, Hoover tested the first jets...dogfighting Chuck Yeager...broke both his legs in a desperate bailout from a blazing F-84 Thunderjet...we relive the thrills and danger Hoover continued to face as a civilian test pilot: testing the first jets to take off and land aboard aircraft carriers, flying bombing runs over North Korea; and demonstrating new planes for fighter pilots...has flown over 300 types of aircraft, dazzled crowds at more than 2,000 air shows all over the world, and is still flying today. He's set both transcontinental and "time to climb" speed records...[the book is] spiced by reminiscences from fellow flyers, friends and his wife...FOREVER FLYING reveals the magnificent true story of a great American hero.

Aircraft Racing

The Golden Age of Air Racing, Pre-1940 Selected by VP Operations Willie Turner
By S. H. Schmid and Truman C. Weaver Labeled Property of Stanley Hiller, Jr
Second Revised Edition 1991 Published by EAA Aviation Foundation, Times
Printing Company, Random Lake, WI, 555 pages Smith Library location: B GV
759.S36

Overview:

The significance of the Thompson, Bendix & Greve Trophies motivated hundreds of skilled pilots into the sport of air racing. The challenges were many; with speeds never before attained & previously unknown conditions such as G-load factors, newly developed highly super-charged engines with increased engine RPM's and aircraft flutter problems. Air racing in the late 1920s and 1930s captured the public's imagination and motivated many youngsters to consider aviation as a career. During this era, civilian experimental racing planes were the fastest aircraft in the world. The writings and entertaining stories of many authors and hundreds of photographs, charts and illustrations demonstrate the excitement of the times. Specific races and aircraft are reviewed many times in great detail, such that one can gain a comprehensive understanding of many key events and what was learned by designers, pilots, manufacturers & the public. An example is the 1932 National air race in Cleveland, where Jimmy Dolittle in a Gee Bee R-1 won the famed Thompson Trophy. The review of the competition covers 8 pages, has 14 photos, a drawing of the field layout and is so loaded with exciting event details that a reader can easily be caught up in the moment. While the publication captures many statistical bits of information, there are exciting stories throughout that do true justice to the title of the "Golden Age of Air Racing", indeed.

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Dust jacket excerpts, overviews and concept by Volunteer David A. Cooper