Erik D. Carlson Appointed Senior Librarian, Special Collections

Effective August 1, Dr. Erik D. Carlson, a historian specializing in U.S. aeronautics and military subjects, was appointed to the Special Collections Department of the McDermott Library which includes the History of Aviation Collection (HAC). He earned bachelor, master and doctoral degrees from Texas Tech University, the latter in 1996. He has held teaching positions at Univ. of Texas (Arlington), Texas Wesleyan Univ., Univ. of Dallas, Dallas Baptist Univ. and Texas Tech Univ. since 1987.

Carlson’s research fields have been in military and commercial aviation, airline economic regulation and the Pacific Theater during World War II. His doctoral dissertation was entitled The Origins and Development of the Civil Aeronautics Board and Economic Regulation of the Domestic Airlines, 1934-1953. The thesis for the master’s degree was Bilateral Air Transport Negotiations Between the United States and Mexico, 1945-1957. He has reviewed books for Journal of the West and Southern Historian.

“I’m very pleased to be associated with the History of Aviation Collection,” Carlson said. “Its wealth of archival material makes it a unique source of aviation information for writers, historians and researchers throughout the region, nation and world. I want to focus on its importance to the academic world and continue its legacy under the strong leadership of Dr. Larry Sall. My priorities will include increased attention to the unprocessed collections on hand and making the HAC a prime repository for those who wish to donate their private aviation collections. I envision an expansion of the staff to include at least one full-time archivist to supplement our current staff and outstanding volunteers.”

Haddaway Medals Presented at Gala

Three men were honored with the George E. Haddaway Medal for Achievement in Aviation during their lifetimes at the “Evening of Tribute” gala of the Frontiers of Flight Museum in April. The annual dinner was held at the site for the new museum on Love Field. Those honored were Walter L. Cunningham, John W. Konrad and Jay N. Miller.

Walter Cunningham, an astronaut, logged more than 263 hours in space aboard Apollo 7 in October 1968. He received his wings in 1953 and flew on active duty with the Marines for three years, followed by 19 years in the reserve, and retired from the Marines as a colonel in 1975. Prior to joining NASA in 1963, he worked as a scientist with the RAND Corporation on classified defense studies and problems associated with the Earth’s magnetosphere for seven years. Along with Wally Schirra and Donn Eisele, he tested maneuvers required for the Moon missions including transportation and docking, lunar orbit rendezvous and maneuvering ignitions of the service module’s propulsion engine. He was instrumental in providing the first effective television transmission of on-board crew activities during flight. Before retiring from the Johnson Space Center he was chief of the Skylab branch of the Flight Crew Directorate. He has over 4,500 hours flying time, including more than 3,400 in jet aircraft.

John W. Konrad is a veteran of more than 40 years of military flying in 160 different aircraft, beginning with bombers and fighters in World War II. Graduating from flying school in 1943, he helped develop bomber tail warnings and radar bombing systems. He also assisted in the development of the Ground Control Approach (GCA) system which proved especially valuable during the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49. Later he was a test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base and joined Chance Vought (later LTV) in 1953 where he
became Chief of Flight Test and Director of Flight Operations. He has flown such classic fighters as the F7U Cutlass, F8U Crusader and A-7A Corsair and the experimental tilt-wing tri-service transport. He is a charter member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and has logged more than 3,000 hours in multi-engine piston aircraft in addition to 3,700 hours in jets.

Jay N. Miller has had a long-time interest in aviation history and was one of the first curators for the History of Aviation Collection when it was located at the University of Texas, Austin. He has written and self-published 31 books and produced more than 60 books written by others. His personal extensive collection of books, magazines and photographs became the basis for the library at the Aerospace Education Center at Little Rock, Arkansas. He has logged more than 600 hours in a Cessna and has been a passenger in advanced jets of the U.S. and former Soviet Union. He is currently Director of the American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum near the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

The George E. Haddaway Medal was created in honor of Haddaway’s own contributions to aviation as a pilot with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, as a publisher of a preeminent aviation magazine for more than 40 years, and as founder of the History of Aviation Collection. The medal is awarded annually to regional and national recipients who have distinguished themselves in aviation and space activities.

The Frontiers of Flight Museum has received $7.2 million in the form of reimbursement funds last January from the Texas Dept. of Transportation toward the construction of a new museum on 6.3 acres of land on the southeast corner of Love Field. The 60,000 square-foot facility will feature historic aircraft and aviation displays depicting the history of manned flight.

**Sall Testifies for HAC in Federal Court**

Dr. Larry Sall, Interim Director of Libraries, testified recently in a case before the Federal Bankruptcy Court in Long Beach, California. Parties in the proceeding sought information from the CAT/Air America Archives. The judge asked Sall to authenticate certain documents from the collection.

This is another indication of the potential use of the materials stored in the UTD History of Aviation Collection. In this case, copies of HAC documents were entered into evidence in a federal court action.

**The End of the Morse Code?**

Veteran military pilots remember those Morse code classes during WWII flying training when the requirement was to be proficient at a five-words-a-minute speed. But the days of using Morse code for communications seem to be ending.

According to Dave Sher, Skokie, Ill., the U.S. Coast Guard stopped monitoring frequencies for Morse code distress signals on April 1, 1995. On October 1, 1996, the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) eliminated the use of Morse code. On Feb. 1, 1999, by international agreement, all commercial ships no longer use Morse code. As of April 1, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) lowered the code requirements for general and advanced (13 words per minute) and extra-class (20 wpm) licenses to 5 wpm.

**Doolittle Raiders Initiate Campaign for Stamp to Honor Their Leader**

The surviving members of Doolittle’s Tokyo Raiders recently signed a petition to the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp to honor General James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle, their leader on the epic mission of April 18, 1942. In addition, all members of the Class of 2000 at the Air Force Academy signed a petition to secure this distinct honor. First to name an airman as an exemplar, the cadets designated themselves “the Doolittle Class” because he exemplified all the qualities they want to emulate in their lives and careers.

Doolittle is one of America’s greatest flyers and aerospace statesmen who served the country extensively and with distinction in war and peace. According to U.S. Postal Service criteria, a stamp cannot be issued to honor an individual until he has been deceased for ten years. General Doolittle died on Sept. 27, 1993. Thus, his date of eligibility would be on or after that date in 2003. He was born Dec. 14, 1896.

Subjects to appear on U.S. stamps are suggested by the public and recommended to the Postmaster General by a 15-member Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee. Because of the long lead time to study, approve, design and print a stamp, at least three years are required in advance of a proposed issuance date. Thus, the committee is already considering stamps to be issued in 2003 and 2004. Once a subject is approved, the Postal Service relies heavily on design coordinators for the selection of artists who will execute the designs.

Every stamp suggestion is considered regardless of who makes it or how it is presented. The committee meets four times a year to review all proposals. Readers of Air-Log who want to help honor this famous American airman should write to the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Management, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L’Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 4474E, Washington, DC 20260-2437.
D-Day Museum Opened in June

New Orleans now has another attraction to woo visitors to the city. Last June 3, the National D-Day Museum held a preview grand opening there with hundreds of veterans, international figures, celebrities and national media attending. Located in the warehouse district of the city, it features World War II artifacts donated by veterans and their families.

The celebrities who focused national attention on the three-day festivities included Tom Brokaw who emceed the opening ceremonies, director/producer Stephen Spielberg, actor Tom Hanks, both of Saving Private Ryan, and historian Stephen Ambrose, founder of the museum. According to Ambrose, “This is the only museum in the country dedicated to all the ‘D-Days’ of World War II and to those at home who supported those efforts.” Artifacts will include a reproduction of the Higgins Boat Landing Craft, one of the tools of war manufactured in New Orleans that helped bring victory, and a collection of oral histories and filmed interviews with nearly 2,000 veterans.

The museum opened to the public officially on June 6. Information can be obtained from the National D-Day Museum, 945 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70130. The phone number is (504) 527-6088.

Four Enshrined In National Aviation Hall of Fame

Four outstanding airmen were enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame held in the Convention Center at Dayton on July 15. They are: Buzz Aldrin, Eugene A. Cerman, Thomas B. McGuire, Jr. and Laurence C. Craigie. Buzz Aldrin was a Korean War combat pilot and MIT graduate prior to being selected as an astronaut in 1965.

He flew on NASA’s Gemini 12 with James Lovell in 1966 and made a 5.5-hour space walk. He then flew on Apollo 11 with Mike Collins and Neil Armstrong and became the second man to walk on the moon.

Eugene Cerman was a Navy ROTC graduate who became a pilot and was selected as an astronaut in 1963. He flew on Gemini 9, Apollo 10 and Apollo 17 missions. He flew to the moon twice and was the second American to walk in space and the last to leave his footprints on the moon.

Thomas McGuire earned his wings in February 1942 (Class 42B). After a tour in Alaska, he was assigned to the 475th Fighter Group in the Pacific and was credited with 38 victories, second only to Dick Bong. McGuire was killed in combat in January 1945 and received the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Laurence “Bill” Craigie, a West point graduate, earned his wings in 1934. He held peacetime engineering and maintenance assignments and then flew combat missions in North Africa during World War II. He then was assigned to key flight testing and development positions and became the first military pilot to fly the Air Force XP-59 Airacomet jet in 1942. His final assignment was in NATO and he retired as a Lieutenant General. He died in 1994.

The cemetery entrance is located west of Loop 12 and Spur 408 on Mountain Lake Rd and east of Dallas Baptist University. There are 14,600 grave sites, 2,000 in-ground crypts for caskets remains, 2,000 columbaria niches for cremated remains, two committal service shelters for religious services and military honors; a service area; public information center; memorial walkway; and an assembly area with lake and avenue of flags.

Korean War 50th Anniversary Events

Congress authorized a series of events this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. Conducted by the Department of Defense, the purpose is to honor and thank Korean War veterans and their families, especially those who lost loved ones.

Events completed so far this year include commemorative wreath layings and ceremonies in Seoul, Korea and Washington, D.C.; Task Force Smith Commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery, and a Twilight Tattoo on the Ellipse in Washington.

Future events during 2000 are the Inchon Landing/Pusan Perimeter Commemoration, Norfolk, Va., Sept. 15-17; Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir Commemoration in Seoul, Nov. 11, and Camp Pendleton/San Diego, Nov. 27; and Hungnam Redeployment and Evacuation Commemoration, Navy Memorial, Washington, Dec. 12. Other events will be held throughout the U.S., Republic of Korea and the Pacific region through 2003 to reflect the concerted efforts of the allied and United Nations.

The Secretary of Defense approved the acceptance and wearing of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal in August 1999 for those who served there.