Jalonick Presenter to Tell Definitive Story of 9/11

By Paul Oelkrug, CA
Coordinator for Special Collections

Each year, around December, I have the responsibility of securing a speaker for our annual George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Memorial Distinguished Lecture Series. By January I try to have a commitment from the chosen speaker so planning can begin. I try to find a speaker that can lecture about a topic in aviation that is unusual and different.

We have had some great speakers in the past, so maintaining a high level of excellence is not easy. For inspiration, I often turn to my book shelf for an author that would be a likely candidate, which is what I did this year.

It did not take long before a book title jumped out at me - Touching History: The Untold Story of the Drama that Unfolded in the Skies Over America on 9/11 by Lynn Spencer. Released by Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, in 2008, Touching History is considered the definitive account of what took place in the skies over America on 9/11.

Ms. Spencer’s Jalonick presentation is titled “The 9/11 Air Response: Chaos & Improvisation During an Unanticipated Transition to a Military-Controlled National Airspace.”

Ms. Spencer spent three years researching her book. She interviewed pilots, air traffic controllers and high ranking government officials to report events that did not always make the news. I contacted her and she readily accepted my invitation to be this year’s speaker.

Lynn has an extensive background in aviation. She graduated from Duke University and holds a Commercial Pilot’s license and Certified Flight Instructor Certificate with Instrument and Multi-Engine Ratings. In addition to flying, she is a member of the National Security Committee of the Air Line Pilots Association where she served on the Threatened Airspace Management Task Force. Lynn has also worked with the Department of Defense and Homeland Security on issues relating to the management and implementation of threatened airspace response and management.

The 2010 Jalonick Lecture will take place on June 19 at 4 p.m. in McDermott Library Auditorium (MC 2.410). A reception will follow in the McDermott Suite on the 4th floor of the library. Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

For information please contact Carole Thomas at 972-883-2570 or email cthomas@utdallas.edu.

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Communities Foundation of Texas awards grant for archival system

By Paul Oelkrug, CA
Coordinator for Special Collections

On May 6, 2010, the Special Collections Department of McDermott Library was informed that the grant proposal submitted to the Communities Foundation of Texas for supporting the History of Aviation Collection was accepted.

The $2,500 grant will be used to implement an archival management system that will streamline collections management from the time a collection arrives to its completion including producing a finding aid.

Dallas-based Communities Foundation of Texas is one of the largest communities foundations in the nation. Since its beginning in 1953 it has awarded more than $1 billion in grants.
Duiven Papers cover German WWI air units

By Patrizia Nava, CA
Curator for Special Collections

On March 4, 2010, Special Collections received the Richard “Rick” Duiven Papers in 50 record center boxes, totaling about 50 cubic feet of materials. The late Richard Duiven was a World War I researcher specializing in the so called Schutz- (Schusta) and Schlachtstaffel (Schlasta) units of the German Air Forces in the Great War.

He was a welcome visitor to the Special Collections Department during his research. Because of his interest, the Duiven Papers are a great addition to our already existing George H. Williams, Jr. World War I Aviation Library by investigating a mostly overlooked aspect of the German Air Forces. A great part of the World War I aviation researchers concentrate on the Jagdstaffel (Jasta) units with Freiherr Manfred von Richthofen (known as the Red Baron) as their most famous aviator.

This collection contains about 600 books and 60 different aviation magazine titles. Most of the books and magazines will be added to our existing HAC book and magazine collection enriching our holdings with rare and unique items. The document part of the collection includes articles, correspondence, research notes, personnel and victory listings, ephemera, reports, clippings, and photographs.

For example, Duiven wrote articles he submitted to the journal Over the Front. He co-authored with Dan Abbott a manuscript Schlachtflieger.

Processing is planned to commence in fall of 2010.

New digital e-mail service for researchers

The Special Collection Department is offering a new service in addition to the photocopying of documents and other paper-based materials. Patrons either visiting our archives or requesting services through e-mail used to have to deal with large amounts of paper from copying. At times these would amount to several reams of paper increasing the shipping cost and the time of delivery significantly, especially if sent to Europe or other parts of the world.

Now, through our copy machine, we can scan the pages that are then diverted into a Portable Document Format (PDF), a stable and secure file-format for electronic document exchange. Depending on the size of the file, they can either be sent via e-mail as an attachment directly to the patron or burned onto a CD or DVD and delivered through regular mailing services, thus reducing the time of delivery and shipping cost tremendously. Another positive effect is that we save paper, which in turn, saves our environment.

Bob was extremely knowledgeable about aviation history, and was a valuable source of information about the collections in the HAC. Bob will be greatly missed.

Air-Log to offer optional digital version via e-mail

In this age of electronic media many newsletters are being offered in pdf format via the Internet. The Air-Log is no exception.

One benefit is that patrons will be able to view the Air-Log in color format. Plus, delivery will be timely and virtually spontaneous. Another benefit is that the History of Aviation Collection will be able to save on print costs and postage.

For those who wish to keep a printed copy they have the option to print the electronic version on their home printer.

For those who wish to continue receiving the black and white printed version, we will keep printing that version also.

To sign up for the electronic version, please contact Carole Thomas at cthomas@utdallas.edu. Please provide your email address and mailing address so we can remove you from the mailing list. If you are new and are not on the mailing list, please indicate that also.

As with any change of a mailing address, we ask that you notify us when your email address changes. Also, you may discontinue your Air-Log, regular mail or email, by notifying us.

Adobe offers a free pdf reader from its site on the internet.
New Prill collections cover aviation, global trade

By Thomas Allen, PhD
Curator for Special Collections

The HAC is pleased to announce the acquisition of the collections of George and Sally Prill of Galveston, Texas. These two collections provide an intriguing look into how the United States government dealt with issues related to international trade, commerce, and aviation, while highlighting the careers of two interesting people.

George Prill has had a long career in the management and direction of aviation, as well as serving as Chairman of the U.S. Aerospace Industry Trade Committee from 1977 to 1981. During this period he authored the first “Agreement on Trade of Civil Aircraft,” that became part of the 1980 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Sally Prill had a long career with the United States Commerce Department which saw her lead aerospace trade missions to Russia, oversee the U.S. Commerce Department’s participation in numerous international aerospace trade events including the Paris Air Show, Faraborough, and the Moscow Air Show, as well as becoming an expert on how Airbus and its operations interacted with U.S. laws and policies on companies and government subsidies.

The collections contain documents, reports, and information related to the Prills’ aviation careers, as well as pictures, aircraft models, and memorabilia, video tapes, and oral interviews with both George and Sally Prill. These new collections will help researchers looking for information on aviation and international trade, and make a fitting addition to the HAC’s holdings.

2010 Doolittle Raider Reunion Featured B-25 Fly-By

The 68th anniversary reunion in April of Doolittle’s Tokyo Raiders was held at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Featured was a salute to the Raiders with a formation fly-by by 17 civilian-owned B-25s which was believed to be one of the greatest number of these World War II medium bombers flying together in many years. A record crowd watched them take off from the runway behind the museum.

An estimated 18,000 museum visitors attended the reunion activities which included the traditional, unique toasting ceremony in which the silver goblets of Raiders are turned over if anyone dies since the last reunion. The goblet belonging to Colonel James Herbert Macia, Jr., was inverted; he had passed away on Dec. 20, 2009 after a long illness.

Col. Macia had a distinguished record after participating as a navigator on the Tokyo Raid. He undertook various intelligence assignments, including utilization of vital classified information from U-2 flights over the Soviet Union and served extensively with the Air Force Security Service. He retired in 1973 and was the last Raider on active duty.

A special luncheon hosted by Lockheed-Martin Co. was held to honor Tung-Sheng Liu, a Chinese aeronautical engineering student who risked his life helping several Doolittle Raiders evade capture by Japanese troops seeking revenge for the attack on their homeland. Liu came to study in America in 1946. He received a master’s degree in aeronautical engineering at the University of Minnesota, was granted citizenship in 1954 and was hired as an engineer in the Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1956. He was an expert in wind tunnel operations, was involved in the Dyna-Soar program, a forerunner of the present Space Shuttle, and was appointed chief engineer on the Lockheed C-5A transport program until retirement in 1981.

Liu had been designated as an Honorary Doolittle Raider and died on May 3, 2009. He had received an unusual Certificate of Appreciation from the Air Force Chief of Staff on the 50th anniversary of the Raid in 1992 for his heroic assistance in rescuing the Doolittle Raiders.

There are now eight surviving Doolittle Tokyo Raiders of the original 80. They accepted an invitation to hold their next reunion in April 2011 at the Strategic Air & Space Museum in Omaha, Neb.

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION GRANT

We chose Archivists Toolkit for its new archival management system. Toolkit was designed and developed by archivists through a grant provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Toolkit is an open source database application that supports description and management of archival collections. Although the software is free, the department will have to purchase items associated with it. A server and related software, and training for the staff on how to configure and use Toolkit.

Once implemented, Archivists Toolkit will allow the HAC staff to enter information about collections, donors, and more, while eliminating several steps present in our current processes. Toolkit will compile statistics and generate finding aids in Encoded Archival Description (EAD). EAD encoded finding aids are searchable and conform to professional standards. Toolkit is scheduled to merge with Archon, another open source database application which can be searched by researchers online. Once this takes place, our system will be searchable online, greatly benefiting our patrons.
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