We are excited to provide a summary of our accomplishments for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) for our Library & Archives (L&A) patrons, donors and supporters. Our team has been busy digitizing and uploading collections online, processing new donations and cleaning and improving our collection spaces. We also welcomed a new staff member, Melissa Culbertson.

We published a new book, *San Diego Aviation Through Time*, and are working on two additional books which will increase awareness of our collections and will educate the public on the significance of San Diego’s aviation history. Former Museum archivist Ray Wagner’s book, *China Wings*, is now almost complete, after thorough review and layout. and we are finalizing a condensed guidebook which will describe the Museum’s collections. A review of organizational records has also begun, which will lead to a complete and thorough history of the Museum’s accomplishments and progress through time. This publication will document the people behind the institution in addition to the changes to its mission and its focus through time to better serve the public.

The beginning of a new fiscal year is always an exciting point in time to look back and review our progress, and plan for the future. In addition to enjoying a great year with our experienced, long-term staff and volunteers, we have added a new librarian who offers a fresh
look for our team. We received continued support from the community to fund much needed projects, through
individual donations, and foundation and federal grants. It is our hope that we will continue this momentum to
enhance value and raise awareness of our collections.

We have continued to make significant progress in preserving and adding to the Museum’s collections, and in
providing greater online access for researchers from around the world. The L&A also supports the Museum’s education,
exhibit and restoration programs by providing historical background, photographs, films and documents. With
over 300,000 digitized photos and films now online, we are the largest source in the world for aerospace history.

Last year the Museum received 40 million views of its digital images and films offered online. It is especially
noteworthy that the Museum has now received 270 million views of its images since initiating its digitization
program in 2010. Our YouTube account has received 1.5 million views this year, up 50% from last year, putting
us just under 6.5 million views since our films went online in 2015. We received viewers from around the world,
the second most popular country to view our films was India, following after the U.S.

To help us achieve this significant work, the L&A staff is supported by more than 30 dedicated volunteers, who
contributed 5,193 hours this past year. Our volunteers digitized and cataloged more than 25,000 images and 550
films; processed, organized and cared for the collections; assisted with book sales and other fundraising activities;
and prepared articles for the Museum’s website, newsletters and other publications. These volunteers are truly the
main reason for our continued successes. Without them we could not accomplish as much as we have over the years.

I want to give a special thanks to the L&A staff for making this newsletter possible by submitting articles on
their work: Alan Renga, Debbie Seracini, and Melissa Culbertson; and to volunteer, Bob Johnston, for helping
with the editing.
RESEARCH REQUESTS

In the past 12 months, the L&A staff responded to a growing number of inquiries from around the world, answering more than 12,204 telephone and email requests for information. There were 18 onsite high-level researchers, and the global audience increased significantly through improved access and visibility of the L&A’s records on the Internet.

We received inquiries from more than 21 states, as well as countries from around the world, including Australia, Russia, Norway, Italy, Ireland, Switzerland, Bavaria, Luxembourg, France, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Many well-known organizations also requested assistance, including the CNN, Steinway & Sons, the Deutsches Museum, the University of British Columbia, the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, the Federal Aviation Administration, the County of San Diego Airports, Mystic Seaport Museum, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the Kennesaw State University Museum of History and Holocaust Education, the Ontario Heritage Trust, Georgetown University, and Underwriters Laboratories.

We assisted more than 45 authors and producers in their research and preparation of books, films, newspaper and magazine articles, as well as with online magazines, multi-media displays and exhibits, promotional catalogs, marketing advertisements and commercial websites. Topics included the Women Air Force Service Pilots of WWII, Aussie inventions that changed the world, flying cars, the Dole Air Race, Pre-WWII transatlantic flights, the Sea Dart, the Hell’s Angels stunt flyers, wing walker Lillian Boyer, Helen Richey, Edgar Schmued, space race and Space stations, breaking the sound barrier, Civil Air Transport travel posters, Yuri Gagarin, Lincoln Beachey, Pacific Southwest Airlines, and electric motorcycles.

Requests for drawings, photographs, and basic information about various aircraft, occur with great frequency. Subject information requests included the Ryan ST, the Babcock Teal, the PT-22, the Stits Flut-R-Bug, the Aerosport Quail, the Junker Ju388L, the North American AT-6A, the Convair 880 and 990, the Boeing 727, the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, the Douglas SBD Dauntless, the North American P-51 Mustang.

STAY CONNECTED

The Library & Archives is very active on the Internet and offers many ways in which you can stay connected to our collections and activities.

**AeroCat Online Catalog:** You can browse our immense collection of books and archives from the comfort of your own home. Our online catalog is available via the Museum’s website under the “Learn” tab.

**Flickr:** View our vast collection of digitized images at www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/ You can also add tags and comments that will be stored with our Digital Asset Management System in order to help researchers locate images.

**YouTube:** We have digitized thousands of films and videos that are available for viewing at: www.youtube.com/user/sdasmarchives New films are uploaded weekly.
NEW DONATION

We processed more than 55 donations during the year. Along with many books and photographs, there were several special donations, including the David Myhra collection, which includes photographs, manuscripts, letters, and cassette tapes pertaining to his research and interviews of Walter and Reimar Horten and their development of the Ho229. The family of Bob Battenfield, who worked in the space division at Ryan during the 1960s, donated documents, photos, news articles, publications, and patches related to Apollo missions. Other donations received included 20 original photographs of the 1927 Dole Air Race; a collection of B-24 Liberator Club newsletters; and two family photo Christmas cards from “the Morgans, Lindbergs, and Morrows,” with one signed by Edith Yates, an aunt to Anne Spencer Morrow, who was the wife of Charles Lindbergh. We also received two large collections of personal papers that historically complemented one another: from Ev Cassagneres and Ed Morrow. More information on these are included in the next section.

Spotlighted Collections

Ed Morrow, third from right.

The L&A received two significant donations of archival materials that have an interesting cross reference. Back in 2009, the L&A received the Ed Morrow papers, and, in 2018, an additional donation was made and combined with the original into one collection. Together, this collection contains photographs, negatives, magazines, books, newspapers, correspondence, blueprints, and drawings that range from the late 1920s to modern day. Ed Morrow worked for Ryan Airlines as a metal fittings expert and draftsman, and was one of the original team members who built Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis in 1927.

Everett “Ev” Cassagneres was born February 7, 1928 and spent over twenty-five years of his life as the Ryan Aircraft historian, creating a personal archive that grew to be the largest private collection of Ryan Aircraft memorabilia in the world. As a result of his many years of research, Cassagneres also became acquainted with Charles Lindbergh and his wife, Anne Morrow (no relation to Ed).

The Everett Cassagneres collection at the Museum contains Ryan aircraft files, correspondence, photographs, official records, publications, and personal papers. Together with the Morrow Special Collection, these two excellent collections are noteworthy and especially important to San Diego’s early development as the “Air Capital of the West.” Both are available for research.

Detailed finding aids can be found online at: http://sandiegoairandspace.org/collection/special-collections

Ryan Hangar at Lindbergh Field on Pacific Highway
Book Additions

The L&A also received a very large book donation from Dr. Roger Bilstein, a distinguished aviation scholar and Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Houston. When accepting book donations, we select materials that pertain to the general scope of aerospace history and are relevant to the mission of the Museum. Dr. Bilstein’s donation greatly enhances our collection of American twentieth century aviation history and adds a unique perspective of aerospace technology in various industries.

As of June 10, ninety-nine books from Dr. Bilstein’s donation have been added to the Library’s collection. Of these, 92 are new titles, with seven additional copies of titles already owned. A majority of these are monographs. This donation also included a number of periodicals that will be processed. A respected professor of aviation history, Roger Bilstein had a relationship with many of the authors. For this reason, many of these books are signed.

The scope of the donation covers a wide variety of subjects including biography, juvenile literature, air traffic management, experimental aircraft, weaponry, and commercial aviation. Various aspects of aviation history are covered including special topics in the history of NASA, the history of various aviation corporations, and the history of specific aircraft. Several items in his donation significantly added to our collection in the use of aviation in agriculture.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Early this year, we added a new staff member. Please join us in welcoming our new librarian, Melissa Culbertson. We are excited to have a new librarian who offers a fresh perspective to our team. She replaced long-time librarian Pamela Gay, who retired after 18 years with the L&A. Pam will be greatly missed.

Melissa Culbertson is a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia and grew up in the aviation industry as the daughter and granddaughter of pilots. She spent her childhood summers playing on the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, NC. Melissa learned to fly and completed her first solo flight during her senior year of high school.

Since then, Melissa earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia with a focus on Art History. During her time in Charlottesville she trained to become a docent at the Fralin Museum of Art. Melissa’s additional museum experience included serving as a docent at the Hunter House Victorian Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, as well as volunteering at the Military Aviation Museum in Pungo, Virginia. Melissa has a history in community relations and outreach and a passion for sharing museum collections with the public, especially in the context of digital collections.

Melissa earned her Master’s of Library & Information Science from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI). Her graduate studies included a focus on preservation and digital storytelling. Melissa’s past library experience includes working as a Public Services Assistant at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia, as well as in Course Reserves at the University of California, San Diego’s Geisel Library.

Melissa is excited to be a part of the Library & Archives at the San Diego Air & Space Museum where she can merge her personal history & interest in aviation with her professional enthusiasm for the role libraries play in preservation and education.
SPRING CLEANING

The L&A staff is currently in the midst of an extensive collections cleaning project. With our new librarian on board, we have begun an all-hands project to clean both our collections and storage spaces. These collections require stable temperature, humidity, minimal light exposure, consistent air circulation, and proper shelving to prolong their life and preserve their integrity. These collections include books, diaries, technical manuals, periodicals of historic value, and other types of unique paper material that are one of a kind and irreplaceable. In addition to paper materials, the collections also contain films, audio recordings, video tapes, and photo negatives, which require additional care unique to their material type.

Proper care for these materials is required for preserving the life of the material and serving as a trusted custodian of these objects. The care begins with basic housekeeping to ensure the collections are not exposed to dust that can lead to mold or pest infestations.

Main Library

The environment is stringently monitored in the library to prevent mold growth. However, there is an incredible amount of dust on many of the books housed in the main research area (see Figure 1). The first step in our collection cleaning process has been vacuuming the books and shelves with a specialized collection vacuum that prevents dust from returning to the air. Many items in the library are not properly shelved due to significant collection expansion over time: the spines are hanging off the edge of the shelves, some books are laid flat across the top of other books, or are shelved spine-up, with overcrowding in certain sections (see Figure 2).

The second step in our collection cleaning process has been to assess which of these books require transfer to larger shelving in our annex storage. Relocating books from the main library to the annex frees up much needed space in overcrowded sections and creates room for collection growth.

The third step in the cleaning of the main library requires inspecting books for autographs, and transferring those identified to the rare book storage room, if needed. Some of these books include a personalized message to the Museum. Transcription of these...
The cleaning and inspection process includes assessing and pulling books for repair, as well as removing sticky notes, bookmarks, paper clips, and fasteners from the pages. As the collection has grown, the shelf call number range guides have become outdated. These are being updated and relabeled as the cleaning is completed.

To date, 44% of the main library collection has been cleaned (see Figure 3). The next areas scheduled for cleaning include the reference collection, the rare book room, the library’s annex, and the periodical collection. Future projects include completing an audit of the collection to assess misplaced or missing items and creating wayfinding markers by topic to assist researchers.

Archival Storage Rooms

Cleaning and reorganization of the collections are also occurring in the film archives and the archival storage room. Materials in the film room were removed from the shelving to dust and wipe down both the objects and the shelves. The materials primarily included 16mm and 35mm films, housed in metal canisters and box storage containers that were sorted by source, such as Ryan or Convair, then restacked onto the shelves by source and film type. Some had damaged or lost labels that were also replaced. In addition, about 350 videos from the Atlas collection and 55 reel-to-reel tapes from the Apollo collection were sorted, cataloged, and rehoused into archival storage boxes.

Last year, our archival storage room underwent several renovation projects, one of which included construction of walls to enclose the area for environmental control, the other for the installation of several 16-foot tall, oversized storage racks. During construction, collections were relocated onto wheeled racks, old shelving removed, and archival materials temporarily relocated. Once the walls were completed, new shelving units were installed to store a portion of the collections, while other collections remained on their wheeled racks. Additional shelving will be installed in the future to accommodate the temporarily stored collections, but, in the meantime, cleaning and reorganization must be completed. All archival boxes and current shelving units are being dusted and cleaned, requiring that boxed materials are moved from shelving, dusted, shelves wiped down, and collections are returned to their shelving in numeric order. During this process we are also shifting the collections to allow room for growth and in preparation for the installation of additional space-saving units to optimize the footprint.

Many thanks to our volunteers and docents who continue to help with the cleaning process, especially our students from High Tech High and San Diego High School.
DIGITIZING COMPANY NEWSLETTERS

The Museum raised $2,500 to digitize its Convairity and General Dynamics News newsletters, which were published bi-weekly by Consolidated-Vultee, Convair and General Dynamics, from 1948 to the company's closing in 1993. These newsletters are an outstanding potential resource for information about the company, its products and its people. But, without scanning and providing computer search capability, they were seldom accessed.

San Diego's Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corporation (later known as Convair) began publication of Convairity in 1948, a company newsletter, with the newsletter name changed to General Dynamics News in 1961. The last issue of this newsletter was in 1993, at the closing of the company's facilities in San Diego. Convairity was distributed to keep Convair employees connected and to improve internal communications at the company. It was founded with the following objectives: 1) To help make Convair the best aircraft manufacturing company in the business; 2) To help make Convair the best place to work in the business; and 3) To help make Convair personnel the best informed in the business.

The newsletter was published every other Wednesday, and chronicled life at Convair, product news, employee profiles, aviation news, local news excerpts, as well as a variety of other topics of potential interest, including employee recreational activities, with different editions eventually published for different branches and divisions of the company. These newsletters have proven to be a “goldmine” for researchers at the Museum who are seeking information about Convair programs and products, as well as information about company employees. The Museum has a near-complete set of these newsletters. Once scanned, they will be word searchable and potentially become one of the Museum’s most popular and useful resources.

This will be particularly true in the Museum’s administration of the Convair Alumni Association (CAA) scholarship program. In 1997, the CAA provided Convair Recreation Association funds to the Museum, as well as funds from the General Dynamics Corporation, to support scholarships for San Diego County high school graduating seniors who are direct descendants of former employees of Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corporation, or the Convair, Astronautics or Space Systems Divisions of General Dynamics Corporation, and who worked in the San Diego area.

Since that time, 142 scholars have enjoyed the support of a Convair Alumni Association Scholarship, totaling $489,600. But, confirming applicant eligibility has become very challenging for the Museum’s Scholarship Committee with the passage of time. Applicants for the CAA scholarship are expected to provide proof of their ancestor’s employment with the company, but, today, the ancestor cited for scholarship eligibility is a grandparent, or a great-grandparent, with formal employment documentation often no longer available. The scanned newsletter project will open up an extensive resource in this effort. Once the digitization project is completed there will be 1,170 issues, typically eight pages each, totaling 9,360 pages.

Company newsletters were also produced for the Fort Worth, TX location. This historic “bomber plant” began operations in 1942 as part of Consolidated Aircraft. In the ensuing years, it operated as Consolidated Vultee (1943-1954), Convair (1954-1974), General Dynamics (1974-1993), Lockheed (1993-1995) and Lockheed Martin (1995-present). These newsletters provide an enlightening view of life inside the mile-long plant, highlighting aviation history made in Fort Worth, and the men and women behind that history. They have been digitized, and receive many hundreds of views a month, reinforcing the value and need of our project. They can be found at: https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/CONVAIR/
CURATORIAL COLLECTIONS ONLINE

The L&A staff is working closely with the Curatorial department to catalog and photograph the Museum’s object collections, and to place these photos online using the Museum’s Flickr site. Only a portion of the object collections is viewable in the Museum’s gallery areas. This project enables the Museum to bring visual access to objects currently in storage. But, this is a more involved process than many would think, and much time is spent preparing objects for imaging. Many of the objects in the collection are over a century old, and extreme care must be taken when handling.

A specially prepared room was designed for the cataloging and imaging process. The variety of objects that have thus far been cataloged is impressive, and includes artwork, helmets, uniforms, trophies, aircraft instruments as well as medals. As we had hoped, the public has become engaged in the project as the images have been placed on our Flickr site. We have received many comments that help us identify or add to the background of the individual objects.

One of the most unusual objects discovered thus far is a customized parachute made by the Irvin Parachute Company for the 5-year old daughter of Gladys Hartung, a member of the 99s. Keep an eye on our Flickr stream because you never know what this project will uncover next! Since we started we have uploaded 1,433 images of Museum objects and they have received over 250,000 views.

GEORGE ROWLEY

We were deeply saddened to learn of George Rowley’s recent passing. George, a seven year volunteer at the Museum, worked both in the Library & Archives and in Restoration. Born 14 November 1946 in Alameda County, George completed his BS degree in physics and an MS degree in mechanical engineering at San Diego State University. He concluded his 30 year engineering career at SPAWARS in San Diego, then joined the Museum as a volunteer. George is survived by two sons (Jedidiah and Adriel) and a daughter (Joelle).

George’s most recent L&A work was particularly important as we near publication of the late Ray Wagner’s China Wings. George was able to match Ray’s over 200 page typed manuscript with five three-ring binders of unidentified aircraft phonographs. He also completed missing sections in Ray’s draft, conducted a final review, and corrected footnote and page number references. This was a monumental several year task. Interestingly, George spoke four languages (Arabic, German, French and Russian), and could read six others.

George was also particularly important as a restoration volunteer, He had taken on the task of completing the large wood upper wing of the Boeing FB 5 fighter aircraft, begun by Chuck Harrington a number of years ago. Chuck’s unfortunate passing left a large void in the program, which George stepped in to fill. George had gained many of the necessary skills by taking an adult education course in upholstery. His work was top notch and his steadfast devotion to completing the project was inspiring. A memorial is planned at Gillespie Field on September 14th at 5:00 p.m.. We will miss him greatly.
The docent program is managed by the L&A department, using our historic resources to provide valuable information to assist trainees, as well as providing access to knowledgeable staff and volunteers to assist in the process. Of all the volunteers who give their time to make our Museum successful, members of the docent corps are the ones who most frequently come into contact with the public.

Docents serve as guides and teachers, bringing the excitement and history of flight to our visitors. They not only guide both scheduled and unscheduled tours through the Museum and the restoration area, but also make themselves available throughout the exhibit area to assist wherever and whenever needed. The Museum currently has 46 docents, who contributed 12,421 hours during the past fiscal year. Of these docents, we would like to spotlight one, Dudley Oatman, who has helped enhance the training program by creating a comprehensive visual study tool for new trainees.

A native of San Diego, Dudley’s aviation background spans 46 years, serving with the U.S. Army, Atlantic Southeast Airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration. As an Army aviator for 20 years, Dudley flew 10 different rotary and fixed wing aircraft. He served two Vietnam combat tours, flying the Cobra, Huey and Loach aircraft, and was later instrumental in development of the AH-1 Cobra weapon and flight sub-systems at Yuma Proving Ground. With some 3500 flight hours and a Master Army Aviator designation, Dudley retired in 1986.

For the next 10 years, Dudley flew over 6000 hours with Atlantic Southeast Airlines, as a captain, first officer, flight instructor, check airman and manager of pilot training and standardization. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot license for multi-engine land aircraft (with five type ratings), and commercial privileges for single engine land, helicopter; and instrument helicopter.

Then, for 16 years, Dudley worked for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as an aviation safety inspector and Boeing 727/737 aircrew program manager, providing oversight for Continental, American and American Eagle Airlines. Additionally, he helped develop the FAA’s Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS) and the Federal Aviation Safety Management System (SMS), which resulted in the FAA publishing Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 5; Advisory Circular 120-92; and FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 17.

Dudley has been involved with the Museum since 2015. He has donated Vietnam memorabilia to the Museum, now on display in the Vietnam display case (Jet & Space). During his docent training process, Dudley developed a visual study tool, using information from the Museum’s official guide book and other docent training materials to help him easily learn the necessary information. His visual study tool, which he shared with others, provides information in an easy-to-understand way, using detailed photos of story boards, exhibit displays, artifacts, and aircraft. This provided a complementary resource for other docent trainees, a great tool for the visual learner. Now a graduate of the docent training program, Dudley has proven to be a valuable Museum asset as a tour guide and educator. He is well-liked and respected by Museum visitors, staff, and his peers.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts to the San Diego Air & Space Museum make it possible for many dedicated people to pursue important work and help the Museum remain California’s premier institution for preserving aviation history and technology. Some of the world’s most talented, caring, passionate, and involved individuals work and volunteer at the Museum. You will find our staff and volunteers:

• Caring for some of the world’s most important collections
• Creating memorable visitor experiences
• Teaching school groups and other local organizations
• Assisting researchers in the Library & Archives
• Producing informative publications about the collections
• Adding to the visitor experience through docent tours

If you are interested in joining our important team, please contact us at 619-234-8291 x123 or kpescador@sdasm.org.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE L&A

More than fifty percent of L&A funding is from private donors. Your tax-deductible contribution of $100, $250, $500 or $1,000 or more, or of any amount, will help accomplish our 2020 goals, which include renovation of our collection spaces and our on-going digitization efforts. Please feel free to contact me at 619-234-8291 x123. Thank you in advance for your continuing support.
OPEN FOR RESEARCH

The SDASM Library & Archives is open to the general public. Staff and/or volunteers are available for research assistance. Appointments should be made in advance by calling 619-234-8291 x125, or by emailing dseracini@sdasm.org, prior to your visit. Information can often be pulled in advance if we are aware of your research needs beforehand. We encourage researchers to search our collections online before coming onsite. Contact the L&A staff for research rules and regulations.

STAFF MEMBERS

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Alan Renga, Digital Archivist
Debbie Seracini, Archivist
Melissa Culbertson, Librarian
Becky Conrad, Assistant Registrar

HOURS OF OPERATION

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
(10:00 am - 4:00 pm)
(Closed on Mondays, weekends, federal holidays, and for some special Museum functions)