Message from the Head Archivist

I am delighted to report that we have had an incredible year filled with many achievements. First, I want to start by thanking our staff, volunteers, and donors for making this a successful year; we have so much to be proud of! Over the past 12 months we have published three books: Wheels to Wings: San Diego’s Ford Building, Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA), and Just Plane Delicious: Cooking with the San Diego Air & Space Museum. In addition, with the help of donations from our patrons, we have digitized 200 books and over 40,000 images, uploaded over 100,000 images to flickr.com, developed two online exhibitions, continued to add materials to our online catalog, and begun to digitize our valuable film collection.

As we push into 2011, there is plenty to look forward to. In January 2011, we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of U.S. Naval aviation with a new online exhibition. The exhibit will focus on San Diego’s role, beginning with information about the first flight school for military pilots at North Island. The Library & Archives will also be coming out with two new publications. The first is a Museum guide book describing our exhibits and collections and will be released in time for the Museum’s 50th anniversary in October 2011. The second publication, released through Arcadia Publishing, will focus on the San Diego International Airport at Lindbergh Field.

The Library & Archives will continue to make access to its collections a top priority, not just for today, but for years to come. The Museum’s collection has grown at a rapid rate over the past years, becoming one of the greatest aerospace collections in the world. As a result, materials are stored in numerous locations throughout the main Museum site, and at two off-site locations, posing a problem for maintaining an inventory, easy retrieval, collection care and overall security. To ensure preservation of these collections for future generations, it is necessary to improve existing storage areas with climate controls, proper lighting, protective barriers, and adequate shelving.

To address these issues, the Museum has developed a comprehensive plan to optimize its use of space with compact shelving and customized storage equipment. This will allow consolidation of similar materials from different locations and improve space efficiency by 216%. Once this is accomplished, materials can be more easily inventoried, cataloged, and retrieved.

To carry out this project, the Library & Archives staff have begun a fundraising campaign to raise $360,000. Last year, we successfully raised $90,000 for an HVAC system for installation in seven collection rooms. Although our goal for 2011 is four times higher than 2010, our staff remains positive. We have received a grant from Las Patronas, a local philanthropic organization, for $19,996, but we need your participation. Any help in this regard is highly appreciated, to help ensure the preservation of these priceless records. Additionally, we are pursuing several grant opportunities from local foundations and federal agencies.

Happy Holidays,
Katrina Pescador
Museum Receives Highest Honor

The San Diego Air & Space Museum is pleased to announce it has been awarded subsequent accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Accreditation is a widely recognized seal of approval that brings national recognition to museums for their commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. Of the nation’s estimated 17,500 museums, only 775 are currently accredited. California has only 59 accredited museums. SDASM was the first AAM accredited aero-themed museum, receiving our accreditation in 1986.

“The AAM’s accreditation announcement confirms the continued excellence of our Museum and the dedication of so many people: our staff, our hundreds of volunteers, and our many donors who invest in their community believing in the outstanding accomplishments and vision of their Air & Space Museum,” said Jim Kidrick, President & CEO of SDASM.

Accreditation is a rigorous process, examining every aspect of a museum’s operations. To earn accreditation, a museum must first conduct a year of self-study and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. The AAM’s Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, review and evaluate the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should be awarded this honor. Accredited institutions must repeat this process every 10 years.

“Accreditation assures the people of San Diego that their museum is among the finest in the nation,” said Ford W. Bell, president of AAM. “As a result, the citizens can take considerable pride in their homegrown institution, for its commitment to excellence and for the value it brings to the community.”

Just Plane Delicious

Just in time for the holidays, the San Diego Air & Space Museum is pleased to announce the publication of its new cookbook, *Just Plane Delicious*. Priced at $20, it makes a wonderful, affordable, holiday gift for the seasoned chef and the novice just finding their way around the kitchen.

Enjoy first class fare: soar to new heights with hundreds of delectably delicious dishes contributed by the Museum’s staff, volunteers, and friends. Celebrate the history of aviation through photos from the Museum’s extensive image archives.

From the pioneering days of Glenn Curtis, and naval aviation at North Island, the building of Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis by Ryan Airways, the journey to space with Convair’s Atlas rocket, to the present-day Predator and Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicles, San Diego has become known as the “Air Capital of the West.”

The San Diego Air & Space Museum has been the keeper of memorabilia related to this rich heritage for nearly 50 years. Through preservation of significant artifacts, presentation of dynamic exhibits, and extensive resources of its Library & Archives, the Museum commemorates the men and women who forged aerospace history. This cookbook will help us continue those daring and important achievements.

Order your copy today by calling 619-234-8291 ext 125, or online at sandiegoairandspace.org/research/publications.php. You can also email nchase@sdasm.org for more details.

Digitizing the Collection: An Update

The Library’s and Archive’s digitization project is moving ahead at a fevered pitch! The Museum houses almost two million images documenting aerospace history, including photographic prints, negatives, transparencies, and slides. For almost a decade, one of the top priorities of the Library & Archives has been the digitization of this massive collection. However, recently this process has been significantly sped up with help from the Balboa Park Online Collaborative (BPOC), which has purchased a rapid capture system which can digitize up to 600 images per day! To date, just over 100,000 images have been digitized, all of which can be viewed via the Museum’s Flickr site: http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/. The SDASM archives Flickr site has received well over one million views to date!

With the photo digitization process running efficiently, the second phase of the task has commenced: cataloging and converting hundreds of rare films and videos to digital files. We have recently purchased a machine which will transfer 16mm films to computer servers. The purchase of this equipment was made possible by generous contributions from library patrons and the BPOC. The subject matter of
the films to be digitized spans the whole spectrum of aerospace history, with a focus on San Diego, including Ryan, Consolidated/Convair and Naval Aviation. The public will be able to view these rare gems at: http://www.youtube.com/user/sdasmarchives.

Lastly, we have begun the process of digitizing and putting online many of our rare books, including important publications from Consolidated/Convair Aircraft and Ryan Aeronautical, San Diego’s two most important aerospace companies. These books are searchable and can be found at: http://www.archive.org/details/sandiegoairspacemuseum.

To learn more about how you can help in this preservation effort, or to order high resolution copies of our digitized material, contact the Library & Archives staff at 619-234-8291 x125.

Volunteer Spotlight

The Library & Archives is lucky to have many longtime volunteers. Of great service to the Library & Archives is Dennis Stewart. Dennis has been volunteering at the Museum since 1997; first as a docent and then in the Library. Dennis has been instrumental in the organization and cataloging of the Library’s Film Archives.

Dennis was born and raised in the Los Angeles suburb of Bell, California. After two years of studies at Compton Junior College, he enlisted in the USAF as an aviation cadet. Trained in a T-6 Texans and B-25 Mitchells in flight school, Lt. Stewart was assigned to Military Air Transport Command as a C-124 Globemaster pilot. He flew cargo all over the pacific.

After completing his service in the Air Force, Dennis completed college earning a BA in History from San Francisco State University. In 1960, he took a job with the Federal Aviation Agency as an Air Traffic Controller in Los Angeles. In 1962, Dennis transferred to the Anchorage office and in 1964 went into personnel management. Dennis switched from the FAA to the Department of the Navy in 1967, and retired from Federal Service in San Diego. Dennis is a licensed commercial pilot and has over 2,000 flight hours in his log book. At the age of 60, Dennis flew around the world with Robert Weiss in an A36 Beechcraft Bonanza. His story is told in the book, Bonanza Around the World, published by Wind Canyon Publishing, Inc. in 1998.

Stewart’s skills have been invaluable in the preservation of the Library & Archives Film collection. This collection contains films, negatives, and other digital media that spans the whole history of aviation. He helped process, number, and catalog the collection. His knowledge of the film collection is expansive and he is always available to assist researchers and volunteers with questions relating to the collection. Dennis can often be seen watching films on the Library’s film projector with pencil and paper in hand taking notes to add to the catalog. Volunteers like Dennis contribute to the friendly and professional atmosphere of the Library & Archives.

The Bogan Collection

The Library & Archives at the San Diego Air & Space Museum has acquired an important collection of early naval aviator and World War II carrier commander, Vice Admiral Gerald F. Bogan. Admiral Bogan’s collection was donated to the Museum by his stepson Harold A. Fisher of San Diego, California, as part of his estate.

Gerald F. Bogan, Vice Admiral, USN, was a distinguished veteran of 38 years of naval service. In 1950, at the time of his retirement, Admiral Bogan was Commander, First Fleet. Before his final assignment, he had served as Commander, First Task Fleet, Pacific, as Commander, Air Force, Atlantic, as Commander, Fleet Air, Alameda, and as Commanding Officer, USS Saratoga.

Admiral Bogan was born July 27th 1894, Mackinac Island, Michigan. He was a 1916 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, and, among his many decorations, was awarded the Navy Cross for heroic action during World War II. He was elected to the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor in 1992, at the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

One of the earliest naval aviators, Admiral Bogan earned his wings at Pensacola in 1924. In 1925, he was assigned to VF Squadron One in San Diego, California, serving on board the carrier Langley, first as executive officer, then, in 1926, as commanding officer. Later, Admiral Bogan served as the first commanding officer of the Miami, Florida, Naval Air station.

He commanded air squadrons on the carriers Langley, Lexington, and Saratoga, commanding the Saratoga at the outbreak of World War II. As a task force commander in the Pacific, he was awarded two
Legions of Merit, as well as the Navy Cross for “extraordinary heroism and distinguished service” during an engagement in Philippine waters on November 25th, 1944, in which all carriers in his force had been damaged by heavy enemy aerial attacks. In 1945, he commanded Carrier Division 4 and Task Group 39.2. Admiral Bogan passed away in La Jolla, California on June 3rd, 1973.

The collection donated to the museum is made up of material related to Bogan’s military and personal papers, starting with his graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1916, through his retirement from the Navy. Included are official and personal correspondence, military orders, rare historical books, and a large number of original photographs.

Pacific Southwest Airlines

The Museum is proud to announce a new book, Pacific Southwest Airlines, by Alan Renga and Mark E. Mentges, through Arcadia Publishing. The book features unique photos highlighting the story of this historic airline. With its low fares and friendly service, Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) was one of the most successful regional airlines in American history. Its distinctive orange, red, and white planes, complete with a beaming smile, were immediately recognizable to those living on the West Coast. The airline was also known for employing beautiful and sociable flight attendants. Kenny Friedkin, who founded PSA in 1949, started with one leased DC-3 and expanded his fleet to serve millions of passengers each year. Although PSA is no longer in operation, its successful business model of low-priced, efficient service has been copied by other airlines and today is considered the norm. Future plans call for the construction of permanent walls to replace the current chain-linked fencing, enclosing the Archival Collection Room. This will allow the installation of climate controls and will protect the collections from fumes and particles present in the neighboring Restoration Department area.

The Film Archives area stores valuable films documenting the history of aviation from before the Wright Brothers to modern aviation. Thanks in part to a grant from Las Patronas, new custom-made archival storage units will be installed to properly shelf this important collection.

The staff of the Library & Archives is excited about the upcoming construction projects which will allow us to better preserve the collections entrusted to our care. Due to the large scope of these projects, normal research inquiries may be delayed as the collection is stored and packed during construction. We will still be able to assist patrons but we ask for patience as it is a very large renovation project. Stay tuned for more information on the construction and reorganization of the Library & Archives. This is just the start and we look forward to future projects to make the Museum’s Library & Archives better and more accessible to staff, volunteers, researchers, and patrons.
Stay Connected

Are you following us on Facebook? We are posting regularly with news, photos of the week, and special articles. Facebook is just one way the Library & Archives is sharing its collections with the community.

By becoming a fan and following our blog, you can stay up to date with the latest news, volunteer information, publications, and photos of the Library & Archives. Join us and stay connected at facebook.com/SDASMLA.

Recommend us to all your family and friends, and help spread the word about our mission to “Collect...Preserve...and Make Available” aerospace history.

Open for Research

The SDASM Library & Archives collection is accessible for research. Staff and/or volunteers are available for assistance. Appointments should be made in advance by calling 619-234-8291, x125, or emailing nchase@sdasm.org, prior to your visit. Information can often be pulled prior to your visit if we are aware of your research request. Contact the Library & Archives staff for research rules and regulations.

SDASM Library & Archives
Hours of Operation

Tuesday to Friday, 10:00am – 4:00p.m.
(Closed on Mondays, weekends, federal holidays, and for some special Museum functions)