I would like to personally thank all of our friends, volunteers, staff, and supporters. I am delighted to report that we had an incredible year filled with many achievements. Because of the generous support of our donors, and with almost 5,000 hours of invaluable assistance from our dedicated volunteers, we have made dramatic progress in preserving our growing collection, and in providing greater online access for researchers, scholars, educators and students around the world.

In 2012 we continued digitization of our photographic and video collection, with over 149,000 of our images now uploaded to Flickr.com, and over 700 of our rare films uploaded to YouTube, dramatically increasing public access to our collection. To date, there have been over 13 million views, with thousands of useful comments received from aviation enthusiasts. The collection now provided online is the largest of its type in the world. We have also digitized and uploaded over 100 newsletters from our rare Convair and Ryan collections.

This past year we also published two books, San Diego International Airport: Lindbergh Field and a museum guidebook, Celebrating: A History of the Museum and its Collections. We are now focusing on our newest book project, Wings of the Dragon, China’s Air Force, 1923-1942, by the late Ray Wagner. Ray, recently elected to our Hall of Fame, a dear friend, a former SDASM archivist, and a well-known aviation historian, entrusted the Library & Archives with the manuscript he dedicated twenty years of his life to. We have edited the text, matched up photographs with captions, and have begun design layout. We hope to have it available by Summer 2013.

These dramatic results have also been supported by our active, ongoing fundraising efforts. As a result of the past year’s proposal activities we received $124,500 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), $25,000 from Goodrich Aerostructures, and $119,700 CLIR Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. These grants will enable us to continue our digitization efforts and enhance online access to our collection.

As we move forward in 2013, we will be focusing our fundraising efforts on improving the library’s collection storage spaces. Our collection has dramatically increased in size and scope over the years, and has far outgrown available storage space. We have developed a plan which will optimize our space usage by installing compact shelving and customized storage equipment. This will ensure the long-term preservation of our collection, mitigate deterioration, and improve efficiency in preservation and security.

For our members, readers or anyone with a computer internet access, SDASM publishes on to Youtube, numerous videos of interest to aviators, historians, researchers and the general public.

Included among the hundreds of aviation videos are personal oral history interviews. The video interviews are generally related to aviation and feature people telling their own stories. Typically the individuals interviewed are pilots, aircrew members, engineers or anyone with related to aviation.

To access any of these videos you log onto “YOUTUBE.com” site and type in the address “sdasm/archives”. After this you can search by various methods but usually typing the last name of the person will take you to the interview.

Sampling of newly added to the Youtube/SDASM/Archives site:

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Coleman (Baseball player/announcer and WWII/Korea Pilot), Video Oral History Interview with Charles “Ev” Southwick (Navy Fighter Pilot and Viet Nam POW), Video Oral History Interview with Rex Warden (WWII/Korea Pilot and Convair Test Pilot), Video Oral History Interview with Carl Silber, Jr. (son of a pilot lost as a passenger aboard a Liberator — the Texas Terror — in the South Pacific during 1942. Mr. Silber, through his research, learned the truth about his father and visited the crash site on a remote island).
The Library and Archives houses a vast amount of information pertaining to just about everything related to aviation and space. Many of the items were donated as individual pieces, while others arrive as part of an entire collection. One enormous collection the library is proud to have is the Convair collection which consists of about 25 file cabinets full of photos and documents. And where did this come from? Library volunteer, Bob Bradley, can tell the story – he was part of the team, under former SDASM Archivist Ray Wagner, that was invited by Convair to pick and choose items from their archives, during their shutdown in 1995-96.

Bob was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1927, and raised around aviation. His father, Cedric Bradley, first worked for the Ford Motor Company, and then after the birth of his son, went to Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT), which merged in 1930 to form TWA. TAT enlisted the help of Charles Lindbergh to design transcontinental mail routes, and Cedric Bradley, who was familiar with the Ford Trimotor, worked as Lindbergh’s mechanic. Later, Cedric managed the TAT airports in Winslow, AZ, and Clovis, NM. During Bob’s elementary and high school years, the entire family lived on his grandparents’ farm, and in between his chores, enjoyed reading books and magazines on aviation, and building model airplanes.

After Bob graduated from high school in 1945, he enlisted into the US Army Air Force and served in the Communication Service as a control tower operator at Randolph Field and a communication specialist at Carswell AFB. After leaving the Air Force he attended the University of Southern California where he graduated in 1953 with a B.S. in Physics. He then went to work for North American Aviation in El Segundo in the Systems and Tactics Group. But Bob had developed a special interest in missiles, space, and rocket propulsion, and after four years at NAA, he moved to San Diego and went to work for Convair Astronautics (later General Dynamics Space Systems Division) in 1957 when the Atlas ICBM program was just beginning. Bob remained there for 35 years until his retirement in 1993.

At Convair, Bob worked in Advanced Engineering, initially in Operations Analysis, then in the Technical Information Center. Later, he moved to the Economic Analysis Group, which was responsible for conducting cost studies and analyses for advanced design studies and proposals. Bob had led or conducted space and missile cost analyses on many projects, including the Atlas and Centaur variants, many newly advanced launch vehicles, XMOD, RAM, Spacelab experiments, Geostationary Platform, the Small ICBM, and the ALS launch vehicle. His group eventually moved into the Contracts and Estimating Department, where Bob became the Manager of Economic Analysis. One of the highlights of his career occurred during the Spacelab competition wherein NASA agreed with Europe for their participation in the program. Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB), an aerospace company in Munich, Germany, and a participant in the new completion, teamed up with Convair, and since Bob and many of his co-workers already had experience in the Spacelab prep work, they were “put on loan” to help the German company. The crew was required to relocate to Munich for several months – which Bob has fondly returned to on a few family vacations.

Bob had always been a collector of technical data and images, and was intrigued by all the “neat stuff” he had seen at SDASM. After his retirement, Bob decided to join the ranks of the library volunteers and concentrated on the Museum’s space and missile collection, as well as the acquisition of the Convair archives. Although Bob’s interest had always been on rockets, he enjoyed discovering “new” airplane images and data that were rare and unique. Bob has published several articles and a book concerning Convair’s programs and advanced designs, and also has a second book in preparation.

The Library and Archives consistently receives requests for information about space exploration and airplanes produced by Convair, and with Bob’s encyclopedic knowledge of what encompasses the collection, he has been invaluable and instrumental in fulfilling those requests. Thank you, Bob, for being a part of the team! It’s fun having you onboard!
The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) announced that the San Diego Air & Space Museum is a recipient of the Mellon Foundation’s 2012 Hidden Collections award for Increasing Access to our Aerospace Heritage. This two year project will enable us to catalog 186 personal and corporate papers (2,000 linear feet) which will be uploaded to our website so that researchers will be able to search names or subjects across all of our individual guides, again enhancing digital access to our collection. This information will also be available online in collaboration with the Online Archive of California (OAC). The OAC provides free public access to detailed descriptions of primary resource collections, which are housed at more than 200 contributing institutions throughout California.

The Museum’s library houses the third largest collection of aviation-related research materials in the United States. The Museum’s archival collection include one-of-a-kind corporate records of significant San Diego-based aerospace companies, such as Pacific Southwest Airlines, Ryan Aeronautical, and Consolidated Aircraft Corporation; personal records from a number of important aerospace pioneers including T. Claude Ryan and Reuben H. Fleet; and records from famous aviators such as Jacqueline Cochran, Charles Lindbergh, and Richard E. Byrd. Increasing access to Our Aerospace Heritage will elevate public awareness of these historically important yet currently underexposed collections by cataloging, indexing, carefully describing, and preparing them for future digitization. Work on the CLIR-funded project will be completed by January 2015.

The Council on Library and Information Resources, based in Washington D.C. is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning. The Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant program is made possible by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more information on the program, visit clir.org/biddencollections.

**META Data UPDATE**

For the past three years, the San Diego Air & Space Museum has been working hard to digitize and place online our films and images. Thus far, we have placed over 149,000 images and 700 films and videos on the web. Through this process we have gotten thousands of comments, corrections and elaborations from those in “cyberspace” who have additional information on these online collections. This information is very important and has enriched the historical value and accuracy of our images and films immensely. However, it is very time consuming to verify and then record all of this information so that it is with our master “Metadata,” which is “techie” speak for information associated with a digital image or film. Currently, this metadata is stored in multiple places, so if someone identifies an image of a B-17E correctly as a B-17F, the E will have to be changed to an F many times by hand.

However, recently, the Library and Archives has received a IMLS Museums of America grant to automate this process. This grant will connect the social media sites we use, primarily Flickr.com and Youtube to our metadata. So, in the future, when the public makes a comment about an image online, it will automatical-

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*We have placed over 149,000 images and 700 films and videos on the web*
ly be delivered to the other places where information about that image is stored. This will save the SDASM staff an immense amount of time, while ensuring that the public’s vast knowledge about our collections will stay connected with them for generations to come!

**ROHR COLLECTION**

Recently, the Library and Archives at the San Diego Air and Space Museum acquired a very significant collection: a large portion of the image archive from the Rohr/Goodrich Corporation (now United Technologies Corporation). The company’s San Diego roots go back to its namesake, Fred Rohr, who helped build Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis in 1927. In 1928, Rohr developed a revolutionary drop hammer, for use in the aircraft manufacturing process. Afterwards, Rohr worked various jobs in aerospace until founding the Rohr Corporation in 1940 with four other entrepreneurs. During the Second World War, Rohr Inc. built components for aircraft and employed over 10,000 people in its Chula Vista plant. During the postwar period, Rohr Inc. focused on building nacelles for aircraft, but also manufactured diverse products such as radios, antennas and even the cars for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system. Rohr was sold to BF Goodrich in 1997, which was acquired by United Technologies Corporation last year, and is currently manufacturing nacelles for the Boeing 787. The collection includes several thousand photos and slides that document the rich history of this company, with many never before seen images which show how vital Rohr was to the growth of the South Bay region. The collection will be inventoried by the Library and Archives staff, and a finding guide will be written for it. Eventually, the collection will be digitized and shared on the Museum’s Flickr.com site!

**CELEBRATING: A HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM AND ITS COLLECTIONS**

The San Diego Air & Space Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary of opening to the public on February 15, 2013. In honor of 50 years of excellence, the Museum released its long-awaited guidebook, *Celebrating: a History of the Museum and its Collections*. This illustrated guidebook shares not just the history of the institution, but brings to life the stories of its remarkable, one-of-a-kind collections. Organized into six major sections – Dawn of Flight, World War I, Golden Era, World War II, Jet Age, and Space Exploration – each section spotlights the Museum’s collections and their significance, using unique images from the archives to help tell their stories, as well as exploring important San Diego area contributions to the history of aerospace. From Da Vinci’s flying machines to the Apollo 9 Command Module, *Celebrating* is a guide, a colorful and informative reminder for those who visit the Museum, and documentation for those who could not visit. Retails for $17.49 (plus tax).

To order your copy go to sandiegoairandspace.org/research/publications.php.
Now formally known as San Diego International Airport, Lindbergh Field was named in honor of Charles Lindbergh and has been a center of aeronautic activity since its dedication in 1928. Many famous personalities and events have been associated with the airstrip, which quickly grew to include a Coast Guard Air Station, three airlines, two flying schools, and Ryan Aeronautical. In 1935, Consolidated Aircraft relocated to Lindbergh Field, transforming it into an aviation manufacturing center. Situated just three miles north of downtown San Diego, Lindbergh Field serves more than 50,000 travelers a day, making San Diego International Airport the busiest single-runway commercial airport today in the United States.

The new publication was on display for the 47th Annual Local Author Exhibit for the month of February 2013 in the lobby of the Central Library, located downtown at 820 E Street, San Diego, CA 92101. The library staff attended a special exhibition preview and author’s reception prior to the public unveiling. An Online Gallery which lasts the whole year accompanies the Exhibit and includes book information, cover images, author photos, and publishing and contact information.

We have an addition to the Library & Archives staff. Please join me in welcoming Stephania Villar as our new Assistant Archivist for Special Collections. Stephania will be responsible for cataloging the Museum’s extensive archival collection. She will be creating descriptive finding aids for 2,000 linear feet of special collections and preparing them for future digitization.

Stephania has a long history of volunteer work and has been with the Museum’s library since December 2009. Her past projects with us included caring for, describing, and digitizing the Museum’s 35mm slide collections. She also assisted with the Museum’s cookbook and Ford Building publication. Recently, she has been working with processing donations and extending the Library and Archives’ social media outreach.

Stephania graduated with her Master’s in Public History from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst – where she worked on various archival, research, curatorial, and interpretive projects. She has worked and interned in the archives of organizations like the Coronado Historical Association and the Museo Casa Carlos Gardel in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Prior to these experiences, she received her BA in History from Pitzer College, CA. Stephania is also a fluent Spanish speaker and will be more than happy to practice the language with anyone coming by the Library and Archives.
TRIBUTE TO BOB CHERRY

In 1988 Bob Cherry, who was newly retired, was introduced to volunteering opportunities at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. He decided to be a docent and even though he was nervous during his first guided tour and made a few minor mistakes, the group he was speaking to gave him a round of applause. He “was hooked!” After several fulfilling years as a docent, Bob moved to the Library and Archives, where his efforts were much appreciated for well over ten years. He tracked and cataloged magazines and periodicals, but the projects he worked on are innumerable. He was also a wonderful artist, doing pen and ink drawings of mostly aircraft and cheetahs. One of his works, shown here, is featured in the Museum’s Wheels to Wings publication.

We were saddened to hear that Bob passed away this past year. He touched the lives of many while at the museum - staff, volunteers, and visitors alike. His smiling face and quick wit made him a pleasure to be around. I cannot even begin to express how much he will be missed. He was loved by so many. To me, he was more than a volunteer; he was a friend, a neighbor, a family member. My heart is saddened to see him go, but I am grateful I had the time that I did.

Bob Cherry was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, where his father helped build the nearby Bagnell Dam, a 1931 “stimulus package.” He was raised in Rising Sun, a small town in Maryland. During WWII, at age 13, Bob volunteered with the Aircraft Warning Service as a plane spotter. He began flying at 14, soloing on his 16th birthday. Bob served with the Army during the Korean War and, upon returning, completed his BSEE at the University of Delaware under the G.I. Bill. Bob came to California to work at Convair on the Atlas Missile. After a year at Convair, Bob joined Scripps Institution of Oceanography for a year to record the effects of nuclear “water shots” at Eniwetok Atoll. Bob said he probably saw a dozen atomic bombs go off, a very rare and unforgettable experience! He also said he worked cheap but had a great time. When that year was up, he joined Scripps Marine Physical Laboratory as a research engineer, located on the naval base in Point Loma, where he worked for 25 years.

Katrina Pescador
HEAD ARCHIVIST

Here are some memories of Bob:

Bob Cherry was a Gentleman and a great Shipmate. His sense of humor, easy going nature, and sincere manner made him a pleasure to be around. Everyone in the Graphics shop enjoyed his visits and his good natured ribbing. His talent as an artist was tremendous and I enjoyed talking with him about his craft and his life experiences. His dedication to his art has inspired me to create some of my own work for entry into the annual Del Mar Fair art contest - something he did religiously. He will be sorely missed. Wherever your journey takes you Bob, may you always have Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Terry Leeds

Bob and I would run into each other in the Library and occasionally we’d spend a few minutes together. It was then I’d be treated to a sample of his wry wit, a characteristic I much admire and attempt to emulate, with little success, I’m afraid. I miss him.

Dick Scheid
Conversations with Bob were always wonderful and rich with wisdom and wit. I was a lost little intern when I first met him and he made me laugh and made me think… more often laugh as he reminded me about the joy to be found in a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. He always made coming to the museum feel like coming home.

Stephania Villar

When I first met Bob Cherry about 5 years ago at the Archives in the Air and Space Museum, I was reminded of what my relatives used to ask me when I was young, “what do you want to be when you grow up?” At my age of 62, Bob was what I wanted to be when I grew up to be 80. Bob was “mean and lean” and could shelve books and climb a ladder better than may 18 year old kids, and was sharp and up to date on current events. I didn’t realize the extent of his artist talents, until he gifted me a hand-drawn image of a Lockheed Super G Constellation, a drawing I still treasure. We already miss Bob, and I know all of us at Air and Space have a lot to live up to.

Mark Mentges

We’ve lost a man who possesses the uncanny ability to brighten any room he entered, merely with his presence. For Bob, the joy of life was a story written on his sleeve for all to read and enjoy. The museum staff and volunteer corps will miss him deeply.

Terry Brennan

Bob was one of those people who genuinely brightened my work day. And it wasn’t by being sunny, warm, or any of the things that people usually say. It was by being mercilessly, wittily sarcastic, keeping me on my toes and putting me firmly and correctly in my place. I loved it, and I miss it. I’ll miss that humor, that personality, and we’re a less interesting place now because he is not here.

Francis French

Bob was always smiling and joking. I knew he was in the library because he made a funny noise with his coffee cup… a thupt! When I heard thupt thupt I knew Bob was here and I would soon be met with a big smile and a laugh!

Alan Renga

Bob was someone that I looked forward to seeing at work. He always had a smile to share and I would leave him feeling better in spirit. I would often walk by him as he hate his simple lunch of sandwich and fruit and wish I could eat more like him. I already miss seeing him and will remember him always with fondness in my heart.

Shalene Baxter

It was my pleasure to have known Bob for just a year or two. But, knowing Bob at all was like knowing Bob for a lifetime. He was special - his just being Bob Cherry made life more pleasant for all who knew him.

Bob Johnston
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 collection 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.

Twitter.com/@SDASM_archives
flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/
youtube.com/user/sdasmarchives

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 (x 125), or by emailing dseracini@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
(10:00 am - 4:00 pm)
(Closed on Mondays, weekends, federal holidays, and for some special Museum functions)