In March 2020 the world changed as non-essential businesses closed to the public to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Overnight, the Museum converted its daily activities into a variety of online and remote activities as staff began working from home. Since the temporary closure, the Museum launched SDASM TV. This new online channel uses videos and films from the Museum’s archival collections. This would not have been possible without all the work the L&A staff and volunteers accomplished over the years to digitize the Museum’s vast collections. The Museum President and CEO, Jim Kidrick, stated:

“SDASM TV revolutionizes how viewers can easily access the incredible and rare stories behind the greatest achievements and personal daring, which defines innovation in aviation and space technologies; and that golden age continues even now as you’ll view it. Nowhere else in the world will you find a better and more comprehensive resource revealing the truly remarkable story of flight and space travel. It’s our way of ensuring during a time of great challenge for many, we visually remind Americans what made us a great nation and continues to do so… the innovative minds, which walked America on the Moon first!”

SDASM TV can be viewed online at: http://sandiegoairandspace.org/museum/sdasmtv
CALIFORNIA REVEALED PROJECT

The San Diego Air & Space Museum recently received a generous award from the California State Library for their “California Revealed” project. This project will enable the Museum’s Library & Archives to digitize 50 items containing thousands of pages of content. The materials selected for digitizing include board minutes from the Consolidated/Convair Aircraft Corporation from 1924 to 1954, which give an important insight into the major decisions that made the company one of the most important aerospace manufacturers in America.

Also selected for digitization are the Northrop Grumman company newspapers ranging from the 1940s to the 1980s. Northrop was another major aerospace corporation in California, which employed several thousand people during the 1950s. The company is known for manufacturing the futuristic “Flying Wing” aircraft and several other important designs, such as the F-5.

As many remain confined to their homes, the L&A staff are exploring other online platforms and virtual experiences to further engage the public. Starting in May, we’re initiating a bi-monthly series of website exhibits to feature portions of our collections on significant aerospace topics. We will also be spotlighting rarely seen artifacts.

For those people who miss being able to physically tour the Museum, or for ones that have never been here before, we are developing a virtual tour to enable a safe visit during our temporary closure. The virtual tour is also intended to incentivize physical visits in the future. The staff will continue to explore other ways to stay connected with our audience while we work from our homes. Reading on, you’ll discover we are not letting this virus get us down. Instead we’re pleased to share our future plans and past accomplishments, as we weather through these challenging times.
The Northrop Grumman company newspapers will provide valuable insight into the California aerospace industry during the Cold War and includes stories of human interest such as employee spotlights, company sports teams, social clubs and special events. These newspapers will be available in late 2020 to search and read online at: www.Archive.org.

This project is a continuation of the Museum’s partnership with the California State Library, who has generously digitized many of our oral histories, including rare interviews with T. Claude Ryan, founders of Ryan Aeronautic Corp. plus three over-sized scrapbooks belonging to Reuben H. Fleet, the founder of Consolidated Aircraft covering the 1930s and 1940s.

Another related project was the digitization of the Convairity and General Dynamics News newsletters, which were published bi-weekly by Consolidated-Vultee, Convair and General Dynamics, from 1948 to 1993. These newsletters are an outstanding resource for information about the company, its products and its people. Over 1,170 issues were digitized and can be viewed online at: https://archive.org/details/@sdasm_archives.

**CURATORIAL COLLECTIONS ONLINE**

The collection staff have been working under a three-year grant provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to help strengthen and optimize the Museum’s collection care and management systems, and in turn, continue to increase public access to the Museum’s collections online. Under this grant, each object in the collection is inspected to ensure that all records are up to date, and each item is photographed to document its current condition. The photographs are then uploaded to the Museum’s Flickr website, making them available for public viewing at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/album.

While the history of these objects is often well documented, the personal story of the associated pilot, soldier, engineer, or donor can be easily overlooked, unless that person had experienced a specific achievement. Assistant Registrar, Becky Conrad, has shared how she is intrigued by the incredibly personal nature of many of the artifacts, especially when they are on display inside a glass case or on a wall; but where the personal connection to the donor, can often be lost. For example, there is an incredible number of Purple Hearts in the collection, but just consider how each one can represent one of the proudest days of a service members career or even a lifetime. Another example are the World War II uniforms, many of which are faded and too fragile for display but could possibly be the only item left by an individual. Each one can represent the stories never heard by family members because many of those soldiers did not care to talk about the war.

Another interesting item are the dog tags that belonged to Robert Came, which of course are inherently personal, but upon seeing the small hand-carved snake attached to them, one cannot help but
wonder about its origin. Was it a good luck charm found on the ground, or something made by a comrade, a brother, or a son? The true story will likely never be known, but seeing it attached to his dog tags and knowing it was worn around his neck during wartime, it is easy to assume that the little charm possibly meant a great deal to this man.

Another insignificant appearing item are these World War I playing cards donated in the late 1970's with a note attached saying the donor had been a Prisoner-of-War at Villingen, Baden and used during his captivity. This simple deck of cards was likely a great source of entertainment, and even sanity, for this man imprisoned in a POW camp and knowing that fact, gives one a valuable connection to him and the terrible time during his life when he used them.

Another item is this ticket stub from the 1948 Cleveland National Air Races, which could easily be glanced over in a Museum case. But unknown to the viewer is that it was kept with other small papers and ribbons in a small box simply marked “Daddy’s Things.” The small box was among several boxes donated by a daughter of her father’s belongings, and when looking through the items, one cannot help but wonder if the ticket stub represents an exciting day in this man’s life. Was it a special treat? Did he go with his own father, or friends, or perhaps with one of his children? What well-known aviators did he see or meet that day? Many secrets and stories could come from one little ticket stub.

The Museum houses a large number, and a great variety of historical artifacts. But it is those found with a small personal note stuffed inside a pocket or taped to the outside of a box that can make one aware of the item’s unique personal history — which unfortunately can be easily overlooked in a display case. Each artifact with its many stories has diverse meanings for different people, past and present, and each viewer will interpret these stories in their own special way.
One of the most important functions of a museum is caring for its collections. Proper collection care begins with proper storage which includes adequate space, use of appropriate storage techniques, consolidation by material types, established environmental controls, and an inventory/catalog of all items for easy retrieval. It is difficult to apply proper storage techniques and have well-organized collection storage areas, when there is not enough available space to store them or enough workspace to perform the other necessary activities required for collection care. To address these issues, the Museum has developed a renovation plan for several of its collection storage areas.

The Library & Archives identified two spaces as a priority for improvements: Tank Room and Library Annex. In the past, the Tank Room has been used to store surplus books, with much of the space being occupied by two truck-sized water tanks from an antiquated solar heating system which is no longer operational. This area has a 16-foot ceiling and measures 1575 square feet, with the tanks taking up 852 square feet of space. To date, the surplus books have been transferred offsite, tanks removed, new lighting installed, and walls freshly painted.

Renovation plans have begun to install compact shelving in this area and relocate books from the Library Annex room into this area, allowing for a 40% growth. The Library Annex currently contains approximately 12,000 books and 605 periodical titles, measuring 625 square feet. Once this collection is transferred to the newly renovated Tank Room, all the shelves in the former Library Annex will be removed and new shelves installed to house the Museum’s uniform/textile collection.

Once the renovation is complete, the Tank Room will become a state-of-the-art collection storage room that checks off all the boxes for proper collection care. Another space that is in the process of renovation, and has been an ongoing project for years, is the Archival Storage Area.
ARCHIVE RENOVATION

The main storage area for the Library & Archives has recently undergone a major renovation – and not without the help of some very dedicated volunteers and fellow staff members!

Long known as “The Cage” – because the storage area was once enclosed by a chain-link fence – the archive storage area is now walled-in, complete with double-doors and emergency exit. Brand new floor-to-ceiling shelving is now installed along two long walls, and houses nearly 3000 airplane-drawing boxes.

A central area also has newly installed (repurposed) shelving that has become the permanent home for 200 boxes of the Consolidated/Convair collection.

Other rooms of archive and curatorial storage are next on the schedule for renovation. But launching the whole operation has been like a game of musical chairs. Only one area at a time can be completed after collections have been removed (or “staged”) to another area, then moved back to their new home to free up the staging area.

Meanwhile, shelving is dismantled and moved out to make way for new shelving, then brought back and reassembled. It takes a lot of manpower for this kind of moving, and our hats go off to a crew made up of folks from the Admissions desk, Facilities, Exhibits, and L&A volunteers and interns! Becky and Carlos got the ball rolling with the initial dismantling of shelves. Then we were fortunate to make tremendous headway when the Museum was closed for one week in January and staff from the Admissions desk volunteered to help us out. A big shout-out goes to Pipa, Markus, Jonathan, and Dominique! They were the true workhorses in getting the job done.

Once the shelving was installed and the collections were put in place, then a two-person team completed a thorough inventory and cleaning of the remaining collections. The archive storage area is in the basement of the Museum where construction activity takes place on a continuing basis by the Restoration volunteers and Exhibits staff. Consequently, over the years a lot of dust has made it past the chain link surrounding the storage area, and quite an effort has been made to remove it from every single shelf, nook, corner, and cranny.

We are not quite done yet with the renovation of the archives, but we sure are over the hump! Next up will be the boxing up of material currently housed in a series of file cabinets. Then the cabinets will be removed and replaced with shelving to house the newly boxed material.

It is a great feeling of accomplishment to see the archive area now, and we sincerely thank EVERY-ONE who helped make it possible!
ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Last summer, the Library & Archives received a very special donation of approximately 300 photographs, mostly of Rockwell Field dating back to 1918. The original owner was Walter Havekorst who was assigned to Rockwell Field for his primary flight training. The photographs were obviously well taken care of as they were in near perfect condition and highlight the typical day-to-day activities of a young aviator in flight training.

Walter Benedict Havekorst II was born in Hanover, Kansas on June 4, 1893. He attended college at the University of Kansas and was elected president of the Student Council during his last year at school. As an undergraduate, he was a member of Phi Alpha Tau. After graduation he was admitted to the Kansas State bar and became a member of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

On June 5, 1917, Havekorst registered for the draft and enlisted in the Army Air Service. He applied for pilot training and attended ground school at the University of California, Berkeley, and was then assigned to Rockwell Field at North Island for primary flight training. Upon completion, he was assigned to Imperial Beach for Advanced Aerial Gunnery School. His roommate during part of this training was none other than Jimmy Doolittle, who later became General James Doolittle.

In 1919, Havekorst was released from the Army and moved to Imperial, California, where he became very successful in the dairy business and served as a director for the Imperial Valley Milk Producers Association and a director at large with the Farm Bureau. He also began a long and distinguished career in the banking industry and moved up in rank to Vice President and Manager of the Bank of America in Long Beach, California.

Walter Havekorst was also the President of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce and Director of the Armed Forces YMCA Committee. He passed away in Long Beach on June 2, 1963 just two days shy of his 70th birthday. We are very fortunate to have received such a special collection of photographs that belonged to such a distinguished and accomplished gentleman. This collection is available for viewing online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/albums/72157713532485727.

In January of this year, the Library & Archives received another donation from a fellow staff member. It was a seemingly insignificant diary/logbook that belonged to our co-worker’s father during his WWII service. When thumbing through it, one can see that the little diary contained daily written accounts but was only half-filled up to May. After taking a closer look, it is apparent that the diary is the personal account of a young Coast Guard gunner guarding the transport ship, USS Arthur Middleton (AP-55), which

Rescue boats move in to remove crew from the USS Worden (DD-352). USS Dewey (DD-349) is standing by in the foreground; USS Arthur Middleton (AP-55) is at upper right. Official U.S. Navy Photograph.
ran aground at Constantine Harbor, Amchitka Island, Alaska, on January 12, 1943 while rescuing 175 survivors of the wrecked USS Worden (DD-352).

On that fateful day, the Worden was guarding the Middleton as security units of Army personnel were put onshore at Amchitka. But as the Worden prepared to leave the harbor, a strong current swept the ship onto a rocky outcrop that tore into the hull beneath the engine room, causing a complete loss of power.

Sister ship USS Dewey (DD-349) passed a towline but the cable broke and the heavy seas moved the Worden further onto the rocks, causing the ship to break up in the surf. The crew was ordered to abandon ship; fourteen were drowned and the Worden itself was a total loss.

Coast Guard gunner George Brown, aboard the USS Arthur Middleton, wrote in his diary that day:

January 12, 1943
10AM - Got to our place Constantine Harbor. Everything clear. Sending troops ashore.
Noon – Our escort the Worden Destroyer is on the rocks and baring down fast. I’m on watch and watch through glasses or Binoculars. What a sight. Our boats are getting the crew off and bringing the men on board. They are hysterical and covered with oil but sure are getting along. Lot of men went down.
Night – We went on the rocks and are getting packed to abandon ship. It's a new experience but I don’t want to go through it again.

January 13, 1943
Still on rocks but OK. She's not rocking so much and is settling so I guess we'll have a lot to do.

As the Middleton attempted to assist, it ran aground after dragging anchor and remained on the rocks for 84 days. Salvage operations involved the unloading, blasting and removal of rocks from under the ship’s port side, and patching holes in the hull. While this was being done, Arthur Middleton’s boats operated in Amchitka Harbor unloading supply ships and moving Army barges. George Brown was about 21-years-old at the time, and during those days he writes about the bitter cold, the boredom, and how he longs for Dorothy, his girl back home (and wonders if she is still waiting for him!). He also writes about seeing American bombers – P38s, P-40s, and B-24s – heading over to Kiska Island, fifty miles away, where the Japanese had built an airfield. On eight different occasions, the grounded ship fought off enemy float-plane attacks and bombings by Mitsubishi Zeros. Being a gunner, Brown seemed to enjoy those days the best.

After several attempts, the ship was finally refloated on April 9, 1943 and towed to Dutch Harbor for repairs. The crew hitched a ride to San Francisco on another transport. After that, George Brown did not make another entry in his diary. And Dorothy? She didn't wait for him.
NEW STAFF MEMBER

The Library & Archives has recently hired a new Library Assistant, Tatiana Zhdanova-Anderson, who began volunteering in the Library in July 2019. She grew up in Russia, enjoys research, and speaks five languages! She has been busy cataloging books, conducting inventories, and updating collection data on films, periodicals and newspapers.

Tatiana is a fun and enthusiastic person, and certainly excited about working in the Library, but what is most impressive is her personal story. Here, she shares it in her own words.

My parents separated when I was 2 and divorced when I was 3. My father was a soviet military pilot. After graduation from Chernigov Higher Military Command Flight School he was serving in Republic of Georgia, in Vladivostok as a test pilot, in Egypt during the War of Attrition in 1967-1970. My father graduated from Air Force Academy named after Zhukovskiy and served as Air Force base Commander in Eastern Germany. Before his retirement he was teaching at Chernigov Military Flight School.

My mother remarried and I was legally adopted by my stepfather. Growing up at AF base in Star City, I had a secondary connection to Gagarin Space Training Center. There were two categories of residents - candidates to become cosmonauts along with established cosmonauts, and all support branches. My stepfather graduated from Military Medical Academy named after Kirov, in then Leningrad, in rank of Medical Corps Lieutenant with degree of a Military Psychiatrist. He was training cosmonauts and astronauts and was the most feared man during the vigorous selection process.

You are wondering why I am writing about both my fathers in such details. I grew up as an Air and Space kid. I was sent to the Air Force Pioneer summer camps, was growing up among test pilots, cosmonauts and astronauts. My stepfather tested a lot of selection surveys on me and who knows what my contribution were to the soviet space program? LOL. I would never know. My stepfather retired after 25 years of service in the Soviet/Russian Air Force in rank of Medical Corps Colonel. He went on to teach at the Russian Academy of State Service in his capacity of Professor of Psychology.

My husband started his military career as an Airborne Army Ranger, graduated from Kings Aviation School in San Diego and became a commercial pilot. For four years, he was flying for the Coast Guard Auxiliary in San Diego, became a Merchant Mariner, and served as an officer aboard several NCL cruise ships in Hawaii. Upon return to California, he joined the Army branch of the California State Military Reserve and served on active duty as a cadre at the Sunburst Youth Academy at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Base.

My husband received orders to prepare manuals, uniforms and ranks codes for the California Naval Militia which existed from 1891 until 1945, was reactivated in 1976, and most recently in 2017. After completion, he was offered to join the California State Navy Guard where he is now serving in the rank of Command Senior Chief.

As you see, three of the most important men in my life had direct connection with Aviation and/or Space.

Tatiana received her BA in Business Administration from Moscow Humanitarian Ecological Institute. She moved to the U.S. in March 2005 on a J1 Student Exchange visa and has worked in a series of customer service positions before discovering her passion for museums and libraries. She currently works at the San Diego History Center, along with her part-time position at our Museum. Please join us in welcoming her to the Library & Archives staff. She has proven to be a true asset to our team.
PAMELA SUE GAY – FORMER LIBRARIAN

During the closure of the Museum, staff and volunteers learned of the passing of former librarian, Pamela Gay. Pam was an important member of our SDASM family and will be greatly missed.

Pam’s main duties as the Museum Librarian were cataloging books, developing material for articles to add to collections, and working with volunteers and researchers in the Library. But her duties ranged much broader than this. When there was a need for someone to work check-in tables at off-hour events, Pam would be there. She kept the Library staff and volunteers stocked with cookies and other goodies. And, she would entertain staff and volunteers with stories of her past experiences and vast knowledge of aviation topics.

Pam grew up in Michigan and received her education there. She gained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan’s Flint College. She then went on to complete her Master of Arts in Library Science degree also from the University of Michigan. Before coming to the SDASM Library, she was an elementary teacher and librarian for the Carman School District; librarian and publicity director for the Public Library of Coronado; and a media specialist and librarian for the San Ysidro School District. She received life credentials for librarianship and multiple subjects teaching.

COMING SOON – AUDIO TOUR

The Museum is currently working on a new audio tour to enhance the visitor’s experience during their museum tour. While working from home, staff are busy writing scripts that will be voice recorded and delivered on either a personally owned Apple phone or through a museum provided hand-held device. The planned release date is August 2020.

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 at [www.sandiegoairandspace.org](http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org) under the “Learn” tab. **Flickr:** View our vast collection of digitized images at [www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/](http://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 enhance the catalog record for better retrievval. **YouTube:** We have digitized thousands of films and videos that are available for viewing at: [www.youtube.com/user/sdasmarchives](http://www.youtube.com/user/sdasmarchives).

During the national COVID-19 quarantine, the Museum is regularly adding more materials to its website to engage our community from the comfort of their own home. Please visit us at [www.sandiegoairandspace.org](http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org) regularly to learn what’s new at the Museum.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts to the San Diego Air & Space Museum of aerospace related materials 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. These materials are preserved for future generations and made available to the general public for research purposes.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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 Katrina Pescador, Director of the Library & Archives, at kpescador@sdasm.org. The Museum accepts monetary donations online or by mail to San Diego Air & Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101. Please specify how you want your donation designated, whether it be to help fund our general operations or for a special project. Thank you in advance for your continuing support.
REMOTE RESEARCH REQUESTS

The SDASM Library & Archives is closed to the general public during the COVID-19 quarantine and temporary closure of the Museum. Staff are responding to remote research requests and will assist researchers to the best of their ability. Please email your inquiries to dseracini@sdasm.org.

STAFF MEMBERS

Katrina Pescador, Library & Archives Director
Alan Renga, Digital Archivist
Debbie Seracini, Archivist
Melissa Culbertson, Librarian
Tatiana Anderson, Library Assistant
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)