As we all know, dealing with the unforeseen challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on everyone, across the world. The pandemic has changed how we work, learn and interact, as closures and social distancing guidelines have led to a more virtual existence. This has certainly been true at the San Diego Air & Space Museum, which closed in March, and particularly, the Library & Archives (L&A).

As stay-at-home orders went into effect, the L&A staff quickly switched from general onsite operations to working from home full-time. We began exploring ways to remain connected with our community through the creation of monthly online exhibits, bi-weekly artifact spotlights, and adding new content to the Museum’s website and social media sites to engage with the public during the quarantine period. I could not be prouder than to be part of such a strong and talented team.

They exhibited adaptability, resilience, creativity, and a sense of duty in carrying out the Museum’s mission in a changing world. They all stepped up to explore ways to engage with our public virtually, to improve remote access to the collections, and quickly adapted to the new work environment. Each offered unique expertise that enabled us to be successful during this period of uncertainty. This issue of Researcher News provides a summary of our team’s accomplishments for the fiscal year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). It has been a very difficult year, but much has been accomplished.
When the Museum closed in March, Alan Renga, our digital archivist, assisted all Museum departments with digital and written content for the website, social media sites, and educational programming. Our archivist, Debbie Seracini, provided research, content development, and responded to outside requests for information and access to collections. Our librarian, Melissa Culbertson, also assisted with public requests, conducted research, cataloged backlogged books and sold surplus books online to raise much-needed funds. The staff also provided help with articles and content development to spotlight collections and educate a remote audience on significant aviation topics. These are just a few examples of how each staff member was able to coordinate their work between office and home, remaining relevant to our overall organization and the public.

On August 31, the Museum reopened its doors to the public under the strict guideline that we could only serve at 25% capacity. Our Museum was the first museum to open in Balboa Park, due to our organization’s advanced planning to establish safety protocols for staff and visitors’ return. The L&A staff immediately returned to limited onsite work, splitting their time between the office and home. We normally rely heavily on over 20 volunteers to accomplish many of our goals to process and digitize collections. From July 2019 to the closure in March 2020 our volunteers contributed 3110 hours. It is our hope to bring them back in Spring 2021 or when the stay-at-home order is lifted, and it is safe to do so. A few volunteers were able to assist with subject expertise and editing work after our doors closed to the public: Mark Aldrich, Tatiana Zhdanova-Anderson, Linda Bradley, Bob Johnston, and Kathy Wright.

Even though the Museum is now open to the public, the Library & Archives remains closed to the physical visitor. The staff will accommodate remote requests for information and collection access through emails, postal service, and phone calls. Currently, we are not accepting material donations to protect the health and safety of our staff. Only significant, rare, one-of-a-kind items will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.
ONLINE EXHIBITS

As noted, the L&A staff have been busy during the shutdown creating online exhibits. Since April, eight online exhibits have been posted on the Museum’s website. These include exhibits featuring collection images, presented in a way that connects online visitors with the Museum’s resources.

2. “Before They Soared,” featuring aviation heroes during their childhood and young adult years.
3. “Women Factory Workers of WWII,” using photographs from the Convair collection to tell the story.
7. “Industrial Artists, Illustrators, and Photographers,” featuring futuristic, colorful and modern paintings and photographs by aviation technical artists and photographers: Roy Gjertson, Mark Irwin, and Robert Kemp, all of whom worked at Convair.

The staff also created “Artifact Spotlights,” featuring unique items from the Museum’s collection. These include presentations about the Standard J-1 on display in the Museum’s Barnstormer exhibit and the Bonanza Beechcraft model hanging in the Museum’s library. Two other artifacts spotlights feature very rare documents from the collections, a manuscript by Arthur Dunning Spearman about John J. Montgomery; and a pair of 1918-19 logbooks from the 103rd Aero Squadron. The 103rd was the first American combat squadron to see action in World War I, initially comprised of 17 pilots from the famed Lafayette Escadrille, the French squadron made up of mostly American volunteers.

Additional online exhibits are currently in work, and will be available online in the near future. These include:

1. “Charles Faust: Local Aviation Artist,” featuring rare, never-seen before aviation drawings and paintings of WWI.
2. Norm Casson: NASA Leader and Manager, responsible for the test and checkout of every manned spacecraft during the Apollo program.
RESEARCH REQUESTS

During FY2020, the L&A staff responded to a growing number of inquiries worldwide, answering nearly 12,500 telephone and email requests for information. There were 23 researchers who visited onsite, and the global audience increased significantly through improved access and visibility of the L&A’s records on the Internet.

We received inquiries from 23 states, as well as from countries from around the world, including Australia, Japan, Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Many well-known organizations also requested assistance, including CNN, CBS News, Smithsonian Channel, National Geographic Channel, Atlas Obscura, Pan Am Historical Society, Folio Society, Environmental Design Archives, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, U.S. Naval Institute, National Museum of Military Vehicles, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, New York Historical Society, California Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, California State University at Fullerton, Oxford University Press, and the University of Cambridge.

We assisted more than 50 authors and producers in their research and preparation of books, films, newspapers, magazine articles, and online magazines, multi-media displays and exhibits, promotional catalogs, marketing advertisements, and commercial websites. Topics included PanAm Clippers, PSA, the Steinway Collection, Bob Hoover, Wally Schirra, Oscar Perdomo, Marvel Crosson, Norm Casson, Helen Richey, World War I, the Lafayette Escadrille, Consolidated-Vultee factory, Ryan Flight School, USS Arizona, NASA, Mercury Atlas 8, Mariner II, Intel Sat V, Minuteman 7, and the Capistrano Test Site.

Requests for drawings, photographs, and basic information about different aircraft occur with great frequency. Subject information requests included the Ryan ST, various home-built aircraft including the PT-22, Stits Flut-R-Bug, Douglas SBD Dauntless, North American P-51 Mustang, De Havilland DH-4, Douglas C-47, Consolidated PBY, Consolidated Commodore, Keystone Pathfinder, and Bell X-1.

Due to the pandemic, the Library & Archives is temporarily closed to physical visitors. The staff is responding to remote research requests and will assist researchers to the best of their ability. Please allow extra time to process your request as staff split their time working from home and in the office. For questions, please contact the archivist at dseracini@sdasm.org or 619-234-8291 x 125.
NEW DONATIONS

We processed more than 55 donations during FY2020. Along with many books and photographs, there were several special donations, including the Walter Havekorst collection consisting of about 300 black and white photographs of aircraft and personnel taken at Rockwell Field, circa 1919.

Another important photo collection contained about 100 WWI images taken in France by French aviators and given to Arthur W. Henthorne, a railroad engineer sent to France to help run supplies. Two boxes of personal papers that belonged to Mary Ford were also donated, including her logbooks and scrapbooks of her WWII days as a pilot ferrying fighter planes. To learn more about the Ford collection, please see https://sandiegoairandspace.org/blog/article/mary-ford-personal-papers.

There were also 15 boxes of research material donated that had belonged to local historian and former museum curator Ed Leiser, who chronicled virtually everything aviation-related to San Diego from 1883 to 1980.
Pedro Padilla Photo Album

In January 2020, the Library & Archives received a special collection photo album of about 130 images taken by Pedro “Pete” Padilla during his World War II military service. Padilla was a professional photographer in Calexico, California, where he practiced his craft for more than forty years.

He opened his portrait studio in 1934 and documented families and celebrations in the Imperial Valley. Weddings, graduations, high school bonfires, homecoming games, parades led by Hollywood stars “Hopalong” Cassidy and Leo Carrillo, as well as everyday life in Calexico, were all captured on film by Pete Padilla.

On September 13, 1915, Padilla was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, to Dario and Concepcion Padilla and was their third oldest of seven children. By 1930, the family had settled in Calexico, California, where Pete grew up. He loved photography and taught himself the art by asking questions and reading Popular Photography magazine. He eventually opened his own studio and became known as the city’s “Dean of Photography.”

Padilla also loved his adopted country. He registered for the draft during World War II. After the war, during Japan’s occupation, he served three years as a counterintelligence officer under General Douglas MacArthur.

Most of the Padilla photo album images were taken during this time, offering an intimate glimpse into Japan and its people immediately following World War II. This remarkable collection can be viewed at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/albums/72157715551554986

Detailed finding aids for all special collections can be found online at: http://sandiegoairandspace.org/collection/special-collections
CHILDREN’S AVIATION BOOKS

Another noteworthy collection is the Museum’s children’s aviation chapter books. With over 450 uncataloged volumes, the librarian is currently processing its inventory, adding protective covers, and housing in archival boxes for long term preservation.

Most of these books were published in the 1920s and 1930s, but a handful extends into the 1940s. They tell thrilling tales of adventure, war, and aviation achievements. Many of the stories feature young men embarking on dangerous and challenging missions, whether crossing the Pacific, racing biplanes or defeating the enemy in Europe.

Young readers were inspired by these very books to become aviators. The Museum’s collection includes, among others:

- Renfrew of the Royal Mounted
- Ted Scott Flying Stories
- The Bird Boys/The Aeroplane Boys
- The Bill Bruce Series
- Dave Dawson/The War Adventure Series

The twenty books that make up the Ted Scott Flying Stories were published by Grosset & Dunlap, a publishing conglomerate responsible for Nancy Drew, Tom Swift, and other juvenile adventure series. The Ted Scott Flying Stories were written under the name of Franklin W. Dixon: a pen name used by a group of authors who also wrote the Hardy Boys series.

The Bill Bruce Series was written by General Henry H. “Hap” Arnold when he determined the books his son was assigned for summer reading after second grade were unsatisfactory. The series hero, Bill Bruce, was named after his son, William Bruce Arnold. Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, eventually a five-star general, headed the Army Air Corps, later the Air Force, during and just after World War II.

In general, the books are in acceptable condition. Most of the bindings are intact. Some have wear to their cloth covers, some have light exposure damage, but all of them show evidence they were well-loved. With funding, the Library would like to preserve these cherished volumes in archival phase boxes. Contact us if you are interested in helping with this project.
ADOPT-A-BOOK PROGRAM

The Library is excited to announce the Adopt-a-Book program for our rare book collection. This program has been created to increase awareness of the Library’s rare materials and encourage support for preservation efforts.

The Library’s rare book collection holds publications on aeronautics ranging from early nineteenth century ballooning and aerostats to twenty-first century space age material. Many of these items are in need of conservation attention, such as archival enclosure replacement, cleaning, repair, and preventative measures.

Book adoptions are a wonderful way to honor a loved one or commemorate a special occasion. By adopting a book, you are conserving aerospace history for future generations.

When you adopt a book, you will receive:
• A letter acknowledging your adoption & tax-deductible donation
• An adoption certificate
• An information sheet about your book

Your adoption will be acknowledged with:
• A physical bookplate in your selected item
• An acknowledgement in the item’s online catalog record and virtual bookplate

For information on our Adopt-a-Book program, please see the Museum’s website or contact the Library & Archives.
DIGITIZATION PROJECT: NOT JUST PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Over the past decade, the L&A has undertaken an enormous digitization initiative, scanning over 300,000 images and 7,000 films and videos, most of which can be found online on the Museum’s Flickr or YouTube sites. This past fiscal year the Museum received 45 million views of its digital images and films, a total of 315 million views since the images went online in 2010. Our YouTube account has received 2.5 million views this year, up 40% from last year, putting us just under 9 million views since our films went online in 2015. During the year, the L&A staff and volunteers digitized and cataloged 21,370 images and 895 films. We received viewers from around the world, the second most popular country to view our films was the United Kingdom, following after the U.S.

In addition to our Flickr and YouTube sites, we have also added many of these assets to Calisphere, the University of California’s online archive, highlighting historical material from California’s universities, museums, and other cultural institutions. We are working hard to digitize other formats and make them available online at the Internet Archive. Here you will find a wide variety of formats, including newspapers, company newsletters, documents, books, and oral histories.

This effort goes back to 2010 when the Internet Archive, along with the Balboa Park Online Collaborative, first digitized several corporate newsletters from Ryan Aeronautical and Consolidated Aircraft. More materials were digitized under the California Revealed project, which is an initiative by the State Library to digitize items from cultural institutions across California. They have digitized rare format items, such as large scrapbooks and reel to reel audiotapes. Interviews include those from T. Claude Ryan, Waldo Waterman, Ed Morrow, and Lilian Boyer. Lastly, there are hundreds of newsletters from Consolidated/Convair/General Dynamics that have information on the company’s products and news about its employees. The digitization of these newsletters was paid for in part from generous donations from past Convair employees.

What makes the collection on the Internet Archive so special is that each document’s contents can be word searched. For example, if you know your grandfather worked at Convair, you could search for his name across all of the Convair newspapers, and all results will be shown.

Please explore this incredible resource and try out the search function. You might be amazed by what you find! The following 3 pages give you step by step instructions to help guide you.
Directions for searching San Diego & Space Museum Collections on Archive.org

1. Go to https://archive.org/details/sandiegoairspacemuseum

2. Enter the search term/name/subject you are looking for in the box that says “Search this Collection” then tick the Text contents circle. Hit return.

3. The items that have that search term will then appear:
4. If you want to search in just one subject/newspaper, select it under “Topics & Subjects,” and the results will be filtered.
5. Click on the item you want to inspect, and the page that that text is on will automatically open. If there are more than one entries in that item, you can click on the blue bubble to advance to the next entry:

6. The text will be highlighted in purple, but you might need to use the zoom-in function to get a better look at it:
BALBOA PARK INSPIRATION AWARD RECIPIENT
ROBERT E. “BOB” JOHNSTON

The prominent Friends of Balboa Park organization established Inspiration Awards several years ago to recognize individual volunteers who have demonstrated significant and long-term service to one or more Balboa Park organizations. This year four outstanding Park volunteers were selected to receive the award, one from the San Diego Air & Space Museum: Robert E. “Bob” Johnston.

Bob Johnston began his volunteer service at the Museum more than ten years ago, devoting 12-20 hours per week to various museum projects. Initially, his volunteer work consisted of serving on the Museum’s Scholarship Board, as a Director, then Secretary and Vice-chairman, and currently as Treasurer. Shortly after joining the Scholarship Board, Bob began volunteering in the Library & Archives. His knowledge and experience proved to be a real asset to the department and the Museum as a whole. With over 50 years of related experience, Bob spent over 40 years of that with Convair/General Dynamics in San Diego. He shares a true passion for the Museum’s mission to preserve and make available aerospace history, particularly in the San Diego area. During his time with the Museum, he has played an essential role in preparing grant proposals, museum publications, newsletter articles, and website content.

Bob is always willing to help wherever he is needed, whether it be within the library, with special events escorting high profile VIP guests, to processing complex archival collections, and selecting scholarship award winners. He is diverse in his skill set and willing to take on any project assigned to him, always producing high quality and professional work. Bob is not self-serving. Everything he does is to assist in the overall success of the Museum. He has a genuine love for aerospace history and understands the importance of preserving it, as well as providing public access and awareness.

As a person, Bob is incredibly giving. He takes a personal interest in others and enjoys helping whenever he can. He is always available to listen and has assisted several of our college interns with engineering careers, helps students with scholarship applications, and is always willing to offer thoughtful advice to others.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts to the San Diego Air & Space Museum make it possible for many dedicated people to pursue meaningful 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

At this time, we are not accepting new volunteer applications, likely until Spring 2021. There are other ways you can help. With your financial support, the Museum and the Library & Archives are able to carry out its mission to care for, preserve, and provide access to significant aerospace history.
MONETARY DONATIONS NEEDED

As we navigate our way through this challenging time, COVID19, we've been pleasantly surprised to be offered a significant opportunity to help our severely impacted balance sheet, the financial position of the Museum...but we need your help to pull it off! From now until the end of the year, donations (up to $500,000) will be matched by a long-time supporter of the Museum. That means your donation goes twice as far to support our 75 employees, the priceless collection, educational programs, virtual events and more! Bottom line, you give one dollar, and they match it...a two for one double your investment partnership. Wow! Help us succeed...

We are proud to announce we reopened to the public on August 31st but being closed to visitors for almost six months resulted in a major loss in revenue. Your donation means we can continue to serve our community and remain a place of discovery and exploration for all ages and backgrounds. The Museum welcomed nearly 300,000 guests last year and provided free admission to approximately 74,000 guests, including students from Title One schools and active military members. Thank you for your support. Without you, we can't make great things happen...with you, we will!

Donate online at https://sandiegoairandspace.org/donate or mail a check to: San Diego Air & Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101. The CARES Act legislation that was enacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic means your charitable deduction is unlimited for your 2020 tax return if you itemize. There's no better time to give! Direct questions to Monica Hall, Development Assistant, at mhall@sdasm.org or (619) 234-8291 ext. 111.

STAY CONNECTED

The Library & Archives is continually active on the Internet, offering many ways you can stay connected to our collections and activities.

Facebook: We are regularly posting news, photos, and articles. Join us and stay connected at www.facebook.com/SDASMLA

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 to help researchers locate images.

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

SDASM’s Blog: Important updates about the Museum and the Library & Archives are regularly posted to: http://sandiegoairandspace.org/blog

Aerocat Online Catalog: You can browse our immense collection of books and archives from the comfort of your own home by using our online catalog: http://s92006.eos-intl.net/S92006/OPAC/Index.aspx
STAFF MEMBERS
Katrina Pescador, L&A Director
Alan Renga, Digital Archivist
Debbie Seracini, Archivist
Melissa Culbertson, Librarian
Becky Conrad, 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)