

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

P.O. Box 188

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

VOL. 1 NO. 10

OCTOBER, 1994

### GIMBEL CATALOGUE PROJECT

As reported in our previous NEWSLETTER, the Director of Academy Libraries established a primary goal for The Friends, of producing a book describing selected holdings of the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection. Over the past three years, General Clark, along with other members of the Executive Committee and key members of the Library staff, have been working on this formidable task. Our ultimate goal is to produce a 300-page annotated, illustrated catalogue of selected portions of the nearly 25,000 items in the Gimbel Collection. The purpose of the catalogue will be to acquaint a world-wide audience with this national treasure which is housed at the Academy Library. Its value as a source of information on the growth and development of flight is unequaled in the world. The publication of such a catalogue will greatly enhance the prestige of the Academy as an educational institution as well.

To date, we have produced two fundamental documents associated with this project – The PROSPECTUS and the PROTOTYPE. The PROSPECTUS sets forth in great detail the policies and procedures to be followed in producing a manuscript of the catalogue ready to be delivered to a publisher.

The PROTOTYPE consists of three large volumes of selections we believe ought to be included in the finished



Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Shiela W. Widnall, meets with The Friends Executive Committee on October 5, 1994.

catalogue. One volume contains illustrations from books along with descriptions and bibliographic data. Producing this selection was a challenging task since Colonel Gimbel had collected over 6000 books, all dealing with some aspect of the development of flight.

The second volume consists of aeronautical prints. Mythology and projections of man's endeavors to fly and attempts to reach the moon make this a fascinating portion of the Collection. The ascent of the Montgolfier balloon in 1783 opened up a whole new era of flight. Balloon prints depict all sorts of activities including military episodes during the French Revolution, the American Civil War and the Siege of Paris in 1870. Again, the selection process posed

*continued on page 4*

### NEW BOARD MEMBER

Lt General Bradley C. Hosmer, who retired on July 1, 1994 as the 12th Superintendent of the Academy, has graciously accepted our invitation to join the Board of Directors. General Hosmer will become the fifth former superintendent to serve on the Board of The Friends. General Hosmer was the top cadet in order of merit for the Class of 1959 and was the Academy's first Rhodes Scholar. A fighter pilot, he logged over 4000 flying hours including 160 combat missions in Vietnam. Over the past 35 years, General Hosmer served in a wide variety of operational and command positions. As Superintendent, General Hosmer was faced with formidable problems associated with the downsizing of the Air Force, shrinking personnel authorization, reduced budgets and uncertain missions in the future – all of which are having a profound impact on the Academy. Before retiring General Hosmer donated many of his books and career memorabilia to the Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library.

**Annual Meeting of the Board  
of Directors will be held at  
9:30 A.M. on Friday, Dec. 9,  
1994 in the Falcon Room of the  
Academy Officers Club.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On October 5, 1994, Dr. Sheila Widnall, Secretary of the Air Force, visited the Academy Library. As part of her orientation, she met with the Executive Board of The Friends. Earlier in the summer, on August 11, the members of the Executive Committee met with Lt General Paul E. Stein, the newly assigned Academy Superintendent. We briefed General Stein on the purpose of The Friends and gave him a status report on our various projects. The Superintendent was very positive about the work of The Friends and expressed his support. He particularly noted that he would encourage more staff and faculty membership. General Stein expressed keen interest in our plans to produce an illustrated catalogue of the Gimbel Collection. He said he was looking forward to the completion of the video presentation of the Gimbel Collection.

I note with pride and pleasure the continued growth of The Friends membership and the increased ability to assist the Academy Library. We are embarking on several challenging projects and look forward to your interest and support.



### CD-ROM DEMONSTRATION

Members of the Executive Board and Library Staff watch a demonstration of the Academy's new CD-ROM player by Douglas Johnson. The Pioneer DRM-1840x unit was purchased by The Friends. Pictured left to right are, Brig General Fagan, Mr Duane Reed, Lt Col Ward, Lt Gen Clark, Mr Barrett, Brig Gen Caine, Col Kortemeyer, Lt Col Hopkins and Mrs. Fogler.

## NEW ADVISOR

The Vice Dean of the Faculty also serves as an Advisor to the Board of The Friends. Colonel James H. Head was appointed Vice Dean on June 1, 1994. Prior to this date he was Permanent Professor and Head of the Department of Physics, a position he held since June, 1987. Colonel Head replaces Colonel Daniel W. Litwhiler who served The Friends with distinction during his tenure as Vice Dean. Colonel Litwhiler has resumed his position as Permanent Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics.

## ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Three articles in library publications have highlighted the Special Collections Branch and the work of The Friends.

**Colorado Libraries**, Summer 1993 published "Teaching Historical Methods Through the Archives" by Lt Col James W. Hopkins and Mr. Duane Reed.

**Colorado Libraries**, Spring 1994 published "The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library: Friends In Deed!" by Lt Col James W. Hopkins and Mr. Duane Reed.

**Colorado Libraries**, Spring 1994 also published "Our Past and Future: The USAF Academy Library" by Donald J. Barrett and Lt Col James W. Hopkins.

## DISBURSEMENTS TO THE LIBRARY

(Jan. 1 to Sep. 30, 1994)

General Book Fund . . . \$	1,500.00
Memorial Funds . . . . \$	3,000.00
Other Projects . . . . . \$	5,920.00
<b>Total . . . . . \$</b>	<b>10,420.00</b>

---

## MEMORIAL PROGRAM

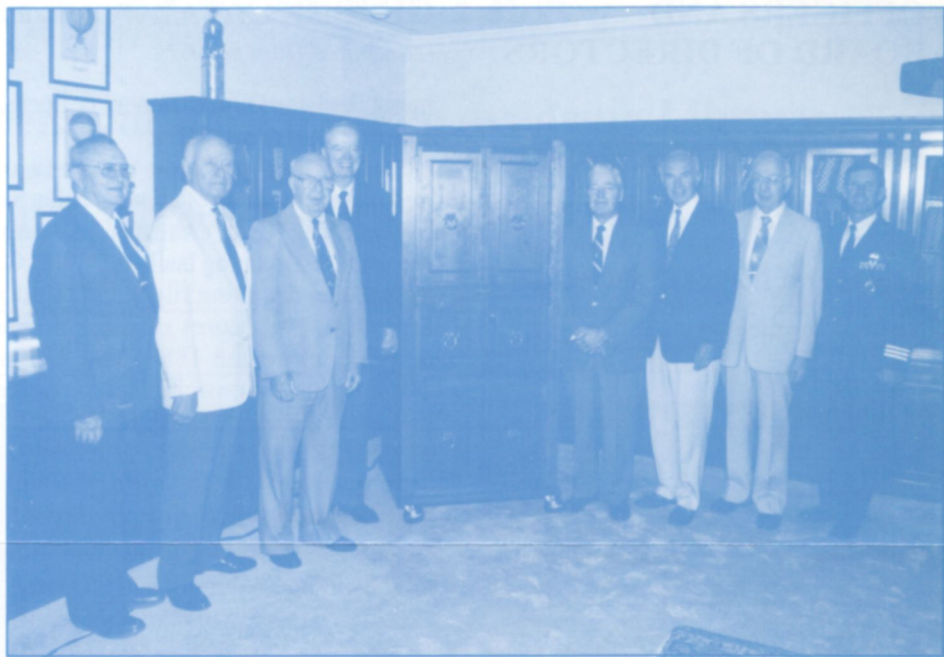
The Memorial Program was inaugurated in 1993. It offers a unique way to honor individuals, groups such as air crews and combat units as well as other military organizations. Memorials start with a contribution of \$50. All memorials are recorded in the Honor Book with a beautiful certificate containing the name and brief statement about the honorees.

At the present time, two volumes of the Honor Book contain over 130 certificates. In addition to deceased military personnel, many certificates honor mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, and friends and associates. The Honor Book is on display in the Special Collections Branch on the sixth floor of the Library.

Recently, a major memorial fund was established to honor the senior American officers in South Camp of Stalag Luft III. These officers were Colonel Charles G. Goodrich (1907-1987), Major General Robert M. Stillman (1911-1981) and Major General Melvin F. McNickle (1914-1986). Several years ago another fund honored General Delmar Spivey who also served as a senior officer in Stalag Luft III.

Two other major memorial funds were created to honor individuals who died this year. One was for Lt. Col. Arthur J. Larsen, who was the first Director of the Academy Library and served from 1954 to 1956. The other was for Harry Dolph, a director of the Air Force Escape and Evasion Society and the author of the book "The Evader."

Other long established funds honor Colonel John M. Bennett, a POW and one of the founders of The Friends, and Major General Robert Smith who had a distinguished military career as well as a career in commercial aviation and was a great Academy supporter. If interested, please request our Memorial brochure or contact our Memorials Officer, Lt Colonel John Ward, USAF (Ret) at The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, P.O. Box 188, USAF Academy, CO 80840-0188.



### INSPECTION OF TV-VCR

This beautiful cherry wood TV and VCR cabinet was designed and constructed by Colonel Thomas Personett. It will be used in the Gimbel Room by library staff for cadet class presentations and for briefing the many visitors to the Special Collections area. Pictured left to right: Lt Col Ward, Col Kortemeyer, Brig Gen Fagan, Lt Gen Clark, Col Personett, Brig Gen Caine, Mr Barrett and Lt Col Hopkins.

---

## USERS OF THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Many scholars continue to use the research materials in the Special Collections Branch. Among the researchers were: historian Philip Kaplan researching the Stalag Luft III collection in support of a documentary history of the Allied prisoner of war experience in Europe during World War II; historian David Williams using the papers of Haywood Hansell, Laurence S. Kuter, and the "Hap" Arnold-Murray Green collection in support of his research on the evolution of strategic bombing doctrine during World War II; and Al Zimmerman, historian Eighth Air Force Association, writing and producing a film documentary on the history of the Allied prisoner of war experience during World War II.

Research support continued to be provided to five architectural historians commissioned by the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and the Academy to produce an architectural history of the Academy.

Authors acknowledgments of assistance by the Special Collections staff were published in Winged Victory: The Army Air Force in World War II by Geoffrey Perret, and in Round The Clock: The Experience of the Allied Bomber Crews Who Flew By Day and By Night From England in the Second World War by Philip Kaplan.

---

---

## OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lt Gen T.S. Moorman, USAF (Ret)\*,  
Pres; General T.R. Milton, USAF (Ret),  
1st Vice Pres; Lt Col G.P. Culver, USAF  
(Ret), 2nd Vice Pres; Lt Gen A.P. Clark,  
USAF (Ret)\*, Secretary; Brig Gen G.V.  
Fagan, USAF (Ret), Treasurer; Mrs  
J.M. Bennett; Brig Gen P.D. Caine,  
USAF (Ret); Lt Gen C.F. Hamm, USAF  
(Ret)\*; Lt Gen B.C. Hosmer, USAF  
(Ret)\*; Brig Gen M.E. Kinevan, USAF  
(Ret); Col H.A. Kortemeyer, USAF  
(Ret); Gen R.M. Lee, USAF (Ret); Mr  
H.U. Littrell; Col W.J. Mahon, USAF  
(Ret); Lt Col N. McCracken, USAF  
(Ret); Lt Col R.H. Schaeffer, USAF  
(Ret); Lt Gen W.W. Scott, Jr., USAF  
(Ret)\*; Lt Col J.J. Ward, USAF (Ret).  
Advisors: Lt Col J.W. Hopkins, USAF;  
Col Jock C.H. Schwank, USAF (Ret);  
Col J.H. Head, USAF. Executive  
Committee Members: Moorman, Clark,  
Fagan, Caine, Kortemeyer, Ward,  
McCracken.

\*Former Superintendents of the Academy

## GIMBEL CATALOGUE PROJECT

*(continued from page 1)*

many decisions since Gimbel collected nearly 3,000 prints.

The third volume consists of miscellaneous items of all sorts collected by Gimbel. For example, ancient Assyrian seals dating back to 2700 B.C., medallions depicting flight and famous aeronauts, and scores of dime novels dating back to the 1880s and 1890s. The imaginary air machines depicted on the covers undoubtedly inspired designers of actual aircraft. Also included in this volume are letters, manuscripts, handbills, aviation postage stamps, sheet music pertaining to flight, post cards, ceramic objects and related objects.

The labor involved in selecting, reproducing and collecting these three volumes was done by a group of volunteers over a six-month period. General Clark supervised and directed

the task, assisted by Library Volunteers Peggy Litwhiler, Thelma Hostetter and Lt Colonel David Hollenbaugh, USAF (Ret). Executive Board members also assisted in various aspects of the work.

The PROTOTYPE has now been placed in the hands of several nationally recognized experts on the history of flight. They will further refine and define the contents of the final manuscript. When this task is completed we will seek a publisher and, if necessary, obtain grants from national foundations to fund the publication.

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee proposes that, if possible, all of the expenses of bringing the manuscript up to the publication-ready stage be underwritten from The Friends' resources. Future mailings will keep the membership abreast of events as they unfold.

### ***A Friendly Reminder***

**Please consider participating in our new Memorial Program. Check the attached for details.**

**We need your continued gifts of rare books, books dealing with military aviation and unit histories as well as documentary materials and collections of personal papers dealing with airpower themes and air leaders.**

**We also need your assistance in expanding the Academy Library's holdings on the American prisoners of war experience in all wars.**

**Please search your personal libraries and papers and notify us of materials you may wish to donate.**

**Most of all, we need your continued financial support. If you have already made a contribution in 1994, we sincerely thank you. If you have not made a 1994 contribution, please fill out the attached form and send your check today in the self-addressed envelope.**