



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library
P.O. Box 188
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

VOL. 1 NO. 5

August, 1991

ANNUAL MEETING

The 1991 Annual Luncheon Meeting will be held on Friday, August 16 at 12:15 P.M. at the Academy Officer's Club. The social hour will begin at 11:30 A.M. The cost will be \$6.55 per person payable at the door. For your convenience, a reservation card is enclosed with this mailing. Because of space limitation, members are urged to make reservations as soon as possible in order for the card to be received not later than August 10. Please return the card today.



Lt. General Bradley C. Hosmer

OUR SPEAKER—LT GENERAL BRADLEY C. HOSMER SUPERINTENDENT, USAFA

The appointment of General Hosmer as the 12th Superintendent of the Academy marks the capstone in a long and distinguished military career. He was the top graduate in order of merit in the historic first Class of 1959. He became the Academy's first Rhodes scholar. After returning from Oxford, he received his wings as a fighter pilot. Over the next three decades, he served in a wide variety of operational and command positions in the Air Force. He logged 4,000 flight hours including 160 combat missions during the Vietnam War. He graduated from the Naval War College and the National War College.

General Hosmer served as President of the National Defense University. Prior to his assignment to the Academy, General Hosmer served as the Inspector General of the Air Force.

General Hosmer assumes his challenging responsibilities at a time when the world situation is in a state of flux and the future of the Armed Forces is murky. Unlike all previous Superintendents, General Hosmer must train cadets for leadership in an Air Force experiencing severe reduced budgets, shrinking personnel and materiel and an uncertain mission in the coming decades.

FUNDS GIVEN TO THE LIBRARY JANUARY - JULY 1991

General Book Fund	.\$ 1,250.00
El Pomar Grant 840.00
Boettcher Grant 12,443.00
Total \$14,533.00

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MOORMAN

The war in the Persian Gulf demonstrated conclusively the part that air power will play in meeting future military challenges to our Nation. The Academy and its graduates are playing an increasingly important role in providing the leadership in our Air Force.

Our fine Academy Library is an important element in providing the knowledge and the educational excellence needed to meet the future. The Government funds the basics for the educational program at the Academy and the Friends are striving to provide that extra margin to help turn this fine Library into a great one.

EL POMAR GRANT PROJECT

The \$25,000 grant project started in 1990 is nearing completion. The first two phases of the conservation and preservation project were explained in detail in the November 1990 *Newsletter*. These phases involved encapsulation of delicate paper items in non-acidic Mylar envelopes as well as micro-filming 1,000 selected aeronautical prints and reproducing the prints on microfiche so that these rare items will be available for study and research by cadets and other users. As a result of these two phases, some significant statistics emerged that illustrate the comprehensiveness and variety of materials contained in the Gimbel Aeronautical Collection. A survey was made of the card catalogue showing Gimbel book holdings by year of publication. There are 550 titles printed between 1489 and 1799. The Collection contains 417 titles published between 1800 and 1850. (American librarians use these dates to distinguish rare books.) While most books were printed in English, many other languages are represented. Among these are: French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Dutch, Danish and Portuguese. The non-book items in the Collection also

provide interesting data. The numbers are based on actual count when the items were encapsulated.

Dime novels	649	Letters	324
Sheet music	125	Medallions	209
Clippings	353	Newspapers	335
Periodicals	477	Articles	1873
Leaflets	68	Pamphlets	32
Photographs	71	Cartoons	52
Tickets	91	Philatelic	576
Handbills	291	Programs	297
Lindbergh	129		

The Library staff is now engaged in the final phase of the El Pomar Project. This involves placing selected rare books in special, custom-built acid neutral pressure boxes. These containers known as Solander boxes are being produced by a national firm which specializes in archival materials. The Gimbel Collection has 70 vellum-covered books produced during early centuries of printing and many rare aeronautical books printed prior to 1850. The Solander boxes will protect the books from all environmental effects such as dust, light and humidity. As a result of the El Pomar grant, the Academy Library's Gimbel Collection will be an outstanding example of the use of the latest technology in conservation and preservation in the United States.

SUPPORT FROM BOETTCHER FOUNDATION

In our last newsletter, we reported that the Friends had received a grant of \$23,000 from the Boettcher Foundation. The money is being used to remat and encase in neutral Ph material 1000 rare, antique prints in the Gimbel Collection. The work is being accomplished by Novis Frame Art Gallery of Colorado Springs at a cost of \$23.00 per print. Novis agreed to absorb the cost of the required insurance and to make arrangements for transporting the prints. As of July 15, 1991, \$12,443.00 has been expended on this critical conservation and preservation project. The assistance of the Boettcher Foundation in this very important project is greatly appreciated.

WANTED: FREE OFFICE SPACE

Because of adverse economic conditions in Colorado Springs, Mr. Patrick N. Nesbitt, USAFA Class of 1967 had to terminate the free office space he provided the Friends for the past three years. The Friends had to store their office furniture and equipment. The Academy Library is providing temporary office space for the members of the Executive Committee and our part-time Secretary. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to offer us about 400 square feet of free office space in the Colorado Springs area. Please call General Clark at (719) 488-3240.

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GIFT OF RARE PRINTS

Dr. Donald D. Braden of Sedalia, Colorado recently donated two rare balloon prints to the Library. One print shows the departure of Blanchard and Jeffries from Dover Castle on January 7, 1785. The other print is of Carmine's balloon ascent in Florence, Italy in 1788. Both are fine tinted prints and were never collected by Colonel Gimbel. Dr. Braden is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and served in the History Department at the Academy as one of the original faculty members.

MEMORIALIZATIONS

The Friends have designed special book plates to be inserted in all books donated as a memorialization to the Academy Library. The donation of a book is a living memorial perpetuating the continuance of life with dignity and purpose. Members are urged to consider memorialization as an appropriate means of honoring deceased family members, relatives and friends as well as military associates.

Picture of bookplate.



in memory of

NEWEST FRIENDS

Last Spring Mrs. Ellen Gimbel, a member of the Colonel Richard Gimbel family, visited the Academy Library and was briefed on the Gimbel Collection by General Clark, Donald Barrett and Duane Reed. Mrs. Gimbel was deeply impressed by seeing the Collection for the first time and said she planned to urge other family members and friends to come to see the Collection. She also became an official member of the Friends.

Recently, the Friends received a substantial check from Jimmy Stewart, famous actor and retired Reserve Air Force General.

EAGLE SQUADRON UPDATE

In September 1989, following a briefing by the Library Staff and solicitation by the Friends, the Library was designated as the official repository for the records and personal papers of members of the Eagle Squadrons of World War II. On 1 March 1991, in conjunction with the Eagles, the Friends coordinated the development of a biographical questionnaire which was sent to each member of the Eagle Squadron Association. The questionnaire will provide a data base of historical information regarding the social backgrounds, training, and combat experiences of individual Eagles. The material will then be made available for cadet and scholarly research on the history of this unique group of American airmen.

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NEW BOARD MEMBER

Academy Superintendent Charles R. Hamm, recently retired, has agreed to serve on our Board of Directors. General Hamm will join three other former Superintendents — Generals Moorman, Clark and Scott.

The Friends need your continued annual support in order to carry out our goals and objectives. Please send your 1991 contribution along with the completed back page of this Newsletter.

Please send your contribution today and urge your family and friends to join. The classes of non-voting annual memberships shall be determined by the following schedule of contributions of cash or accepted gifts or bequests:

Cadet Membership	\$ 5.00
Contributing Member	\$ 10.00
Associated Member	\$ 25.00
Supporting Member	\$ 50.00
Sponsoring Member	\$ 100.00
Sustaining Member	\$ 250.00
Patron	\$ 500.00
Corporate Membership	\$1000.00

Individual donors of \$1,000.00 or more will be given a Life Membership.

New members donating \$50 or more will receive a Limited Edition Reproduction of the 1783 Montgolfier Balloon Print from the Gimbel Collection.

Enclosed you will find my tax-deductible donation of \$_____.

Make checks payable to: The Friends of the AFA Library

Please charge my tax-deductible contribution to my: Visa Master Card

Card No. _____

Expiration Date: ____/____

New Membership

Renewal

I want you to contact me concerning the possible donation of rare books, films, electronic media as well as documents and personal papers relating to aeronautical and air power themes.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Please print)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No.: _____
(Please include area code)

Please return this form along with your contribution to:
The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library
P.O. Box 188
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

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