



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

P.O. Box 188

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CATALOGUE PROJECT PROGRESS

For years members of The Friends' Board of Directors have been engaged in studying the formidable task of producing a selected, annotated catalogue of the prestigious and unique Gimbel Collection. Its holdings span the period from antiquity to the beginnings of powered flight. Many of the 25,000 items can be found nowhere else in the world. The catalogue project is conceived as a non-profit service to scholars, researchers and institutions as well as for faculty and Academy cadets.

During 1993 and early 1994 important progress has been achieved toward the fulfillment of our primary goal of attracting a world-wide audience for this national treasure. We have produced a detailed document called "A PROSPECTUS for the Publication of a Catalogue of the . . . Gimbel Collection." It sets forth the modus operandi and includes a model of what we call a "straw man" to give a general idea of what we want the completed catalogue to look like. Copies of "The PROSPECTUS" have been circulated to a number of experts in the field of aviation history. The reviews have been favorable and The Friends have been encouraged to proceed. Our strongest reaction came from the top officials of

the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum staff.

Much work still has to be done before the final publication stage is reached. The assistance of bibliographers and subject specialists will be needed. More volunteers will be needed as the work expands. The guidance of a book designer will have to be found. A publisher will be needed to provide cost estimates. We will need experienced grant writers to assist us in applying for funding from national, state and local foundations. Perhaps some of our members will come forth to assist us in this project with their expertise and experience. Call or write to General Clark if you can help or would like to have a copy of the PROSPECTUS. ☺

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 13, 1994 at the Academy Officers' Club. The social hour (cash bar) will begin at 1130 hours and the luncheon will be served at 1215 hours. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. Since space is limited, reservations should be received not later than May 6. Please complete the enclosed sheet, make checks payable to THE FRIENDS OF THE AFA LIBRARY and send in the addressed envelope.



COMMANDANT TO SPEAK

Brigadier General Patrick K. Gamble, USAF Academy's Commandant of Cadets, will be the principal speaker at the 1994 Annual Meeting of The Friends on Friday, May 13. General Gamble commands and administers the 4,000 member Cadet Wing and supporting Air Force staff functions. His responsibilities include cadet military training and airmanship education, supervision of cadet life activities, facilities and logistics support.

General Gamble (Major General selectee) entered the Air Force in 1967 through the Reserve Officer Training Program at Texas A&M. He flew 394 combat missions as a forward air controller in the O-1 Bird Dog in Vietnam. He has commanded a fighter squadron and three wings. He was granted an MBA by Auburn University and in 1984 was a distinguished graduate of the Air War College. In June 1993, General Gamble joined the Academy as Commandant.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the December 2, 1993 meeting of the Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, I proposed the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

On behalf of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, the Board of Directors extend our sincere appreciation to Lt. General A. P. Clark, USAF (Ret); Brig. General George V. Fagan, USAF (Ret); Colonels William J. Mahon, Henry A. Kortemeyer, USAF (Ret); and Lt. Colonel John J. Ward, USAF (Ret), the Executive Committee, for their tireless work and dedication. Over the past years, the Committee, which meets twice a week under General Clark's leadership, has been responsible for putting The Friends on a sound financial footing, overseeing the distribution of resources to support various cadet academic needs and enabling the Academy Library to better fulfill its broad and demanding mission. Most recently, the Committee has laid the foundation for the preparation and publication of an illustrated catalogue of selected items in the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection. Publication of this catalogue will markedly increase public awareness of one of the premier collections on the history of flight in the entire world. Without the dedication of the Executive Committee, few of the many accomplishments of The Friends would have been possible. For their faithful service, The Friends of the Academy Library thank the Executive Committee for a job well done in making dreams come true for the Academy Library.

SPEEDIER HIGH-TECH

Like most American academic libraries, the Academy Library is getting deeply involved in high-technology. Recently, the Library acquired CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) Systems. The discs consist of data bases which can be searched by machine for reference purposes. At the present time, the Library has more than 50 of these data bases. Since time is of the essence for cadets, Lt Col Hopkins, Director of Libraries, wants to acquire equipment which will speed up the use of CD-ROM materials and, at the same time, expand its use by more cadets. In order to accomplish these goals, The Friends have purchased some brand new equipment for the Library. It is Pioneer DRM-1804X which just appeared on the market. The unit houses three six-pack cartridges of discs and switches between discs in seconds. Once a disc is mounted, the drive pumps data into the PC at an unheard speed for a CD-ROM drive up to 2100 revolutions per minute. This piece of equipment will greatly facilitate cadet access to information resources.

DISBURSEMENTS TO THE LIBRARY

(OCTOBER 1, 1993 TO APRIL 1, 1994)

General Book Fund	\$ 1,000
Memorial Funds	\$ 2,000
Other Projects	\$ 4,158
TOTAL.....	\$ 7,158



MAHON RETIRES

Colonel William J. Mahon, USAF (Ret) completed four years as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board and as Assistant Treasurer. He intends to devote most of his time to completing his book on the Academy.

A native of St. Louis, MO area, Bill flew two combat tours as a rated navigator during WWII. His long Air Force career included such assignments as Chief of Military Training at the Academy, Chief of the Academy Activities Group at Headquarters USAF and as Deputy Commander of the School of Applied Sciences, Lowry AFB, CO.

In April 1973, after retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Mahon established the Colorado Springs Office of USAA (United Services Automobile Association). During the next 16 years, Bill achieved Regional Home Office status for Colorado Springs, built a staff of 250 employees and supervised the construction of a \$20 million building.

In addition to being a graduate of the Air War College, Bill was granted a Bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, a Masters degree in Educational Administration from Columbia University and a Masters degree in Aerospace Operations from the University of Southern California.

Currently, Colonel Mahon serves on the Board of Trustees of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Steering Committee of the Military Affairs Council of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce as well as the Chamber's Defense Mission Task Force.

The Friends will miss Bill's expertise and affability.

MEMORIAL PROGRAM

In our October 1993 Newsletter The Friends announced our Memorial Program. It enables persons to honor individuals, groups (such as air crews and other combat units) or organizations through their contributions.

Memorials start with a contribution of \$50. All memorials are recorded in the Honor Book with a beautiful certificate containing the name and a brief statement concerning the honorees. If requested, books will also be purchased by the Library and inscribed to the memory of the honoree; otherwise donations will be used to meet the priority needs of the Library.

Donations continue to come in and both types of memorializations continue to grow. Certificates placed in the Honor Book have just passed the 100 mark.

JOINS BOARD

Lt Col Naomi M. McCracken, USAF (Ret) recently joined the Board of Directors. In 1957 she was the first woman officer assigned to the Academy staff. She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and was trained as a professional registrar. She was a pioneer in computerizing and automating student records. Colonel McCracken left the Academy in 1963 and was assigned as the Registrar of the USAF Institute of Technology. She returned to the Academy in 1966 as Associate Registrar and Director of Cadet Records. She retired from the Air Force in 1973 and made her home in Colorado Springs.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

The Friends are assisting the Library in development of a 20-minute, high-quality video presentation which will depict the scope and rich content of the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautics History Collection. When produced, the video will be used by the Library staff in support of cadet orientations and for briefings to the many groups that visit the Library each year. At the request of The Friends, the script for the video has been written by Joseph E. Consolmagno of Florida and a Stalag Luft III POW. Before his retirement, Mr. Consolmagno served for many years as the Director of Public Relations for the Chrysler Corporation. The Library Staff is coordinating the project with the Directorate of Audio Visual Services at the Academy and the video is scheduled for completion in June 1994.

CUSTOM-MADE TV STAND

As members may recall, Colonel Thomas Personett previously designed and constructed for The Friends two beautiful pieces of furniture (the medallion cabinet and the book stand for our Memorials Honor Book). He is now completing a matching cabinet for the television and video cassette recorder for use in the Gimbel Room. The cabinet is of cherry wood. The design and decor of the cabinet will match that of the other custom-made book cases installed in 1971 in this unique room. TV-VCR equipment is used extensively by the Library staff for class presentations and in briefing the many visitors to the Gimbel Collection. The fabrication of this elegant cabinet was a high priority request to The Friends by the Director of Libraries.

NOTICE

As of April 1, 1994, The Friends will be unable to process credit cards such as Mastercard and Visa. Since our credit card transactions are low, we are unable to meet Rocky Mountain Bankcard's requirements that all future transactions be handled electronically.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Manuscript material, printed matter, photographs and artifacts accessioned by the Special Collections Branch through The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library from October-December 1993 include the following:

- Printed matter, memoranda, correspondence and reports related to the history of Stalag Luft III. Donors: Arnold Wright, Robert Weinberg, A.P. Clark, Dudley Davis
 - Printed matter, memoranda, correspondence, photographs and reports reflecting the history of the Eagle Squadrons of World War II. Donors: Reade Tilley, The Eagle Squadron Assoc., Philip Caine, Wilson Edwards.
 - Correspondence, official reports, photographs and printed matter which reflect the military career and personal activities of General Edwin W. Rawlings. Donor: Charles Rawlings.
 - Correspondence, official records, photographs, printed matter and artifacts which reflect the military career of Colonel Geraldine May. Colonel May was the first Director of the WAF (Women of the Air Force).
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Members of the Board of Directors and Advisors who attended the December 2, 1993 meeting. The meeting was held in the Board Room of the Association of Graduates' new home in Doolittle Hall. The photo above shows the excellent attendance. Ten members and all three Advisors were present and six members sent their proxies out of the total membership of sixteen! Back row: Kinevan, Schwank, Littrell, Reed, Caine, Litwhiler. Middle row: Mahon, Ward, Hopkins, Kortemeyer, Clark. Seated: Mrs. Bennet, Fagan, Moorman.

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.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lt Gen T.S. Moorman, USAF (Ret)*, Pres; Gen 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.R. Hamm, USAF (Ret)*; Brig Gen M.E. Kinevan, USAF (Ret); Col H.A. Kortemeyer, USAF (Ret); Gen R.M. Lee, USAF (Ret); H.U. Littrell; Lt Col R.H. Schaeffer, USAF (Ret); Lt Gen W.W. Scott, Jr., USAF (Ret)*; Lt Col J.J. Ward, USAF (Ret). Executive Committee Members: Moorman, Clark, Fagan, Kortemeyer, Ward. Advisors: Lt Col J.W. Hopkins, USAF; Col Jock C.H. Schwank, USAF (Ret); Col D.W. Litwhiler, USAF.

*Former Superintendents of the Academy