

Man's Flight

Through Life Is

Sustained By The

Power Of His

Knowledge

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

P.O. Box 188

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2000 INPUT

Since 1991, members of the Executive Committee have been engaged in the preparation of a catalogue of the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical Collection. Their work is soon coming to fruition. The University of Washington Press plans to include The Genesis of Flight among its Spring 2000 publications. The 385 page book with its beautiful color illustrations will be a major addition to the dramatic and exciting history of flight. Included in the book will be a compact CD-Rom disk which will enable users to view the illustrations, text and to hear sound for each of the selected items in the book. Arrangement of items on the disk follows the major sections which appear in the catalogue. Each section and item has a brief voice introduction and a textual presentation of the scholarship associated with it. As soon as more specific merchandising data becomes available about The Genesis of Flight, we will notify the membership.



Dr. Fred Kiley (left) with Secretary of Defense Cohen.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The annual luncheon will be held on May 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Academy Club. All members and their guests are invited to attend. The speaker will be Dr. Frederick T. Kiley, who is presently serving as a civilian professor in the Academy's Department of English. He is a retired Air Force Colonel who served in Vietnam as an advisor to the Vietnam Air Force. He earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Denver. From 1984 to 1997, Dr. Kiley served as the Director of the National Defense University Press and headed the NDU Research Fellows Program. He is a recognized leading authority on the American prisoner of war experience in Vietnam. With Dr. Stuart Rochester, Dr. Kiley is the co-author of Honor Bound: The History of American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia, 1961-1973. A recent edition of the book has been published by the Naval Institute Press of Annapolis, Maryland. The book has been nominated for many prestigious awards including the coveted Pulitzer Prize. Copies of the book will be available at the luncheon. Dr. Kiley will be pleased to autograph the copies for those people who are interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The annual luncheon of The Friends will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 11:30 a.m. in the Academy Club. Cost will be \$12.50 per person. Since space is limited, reservations must be received no later than May 10.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to add a word in addition to those elsewhere in this newsletter, to praise the massive support that The Friends have received from Dr. Elliott V. Converse and to express our regret on his departure. In his new important assignment in Washington, D.C., his talent and industry will be most welcome.

Ms. Rae Hellen has served as The Friends' loyal and faithful administrative assistant, as an independent contractor, for the entire thirteen years of our existence. She has made great lasting contributions to the success of our work. We are pleased to have recently been able to replace our antiquated computer system with one that is abreast of the state of the art. It will greatly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Ms. Hellen's work.

We are delighted with the continuing flow of historically valuable material enhancing the Academy Library holdings. In the past few weeks, for example, we have acquired flight logbooks for the three squadrons of the 4th Fighter Group in World War II, and a file of rich historical documents from General Bradley C. Hosmer, Class of 1959 and former superintendent. I urge all of our members to continue to be alert to opportunities to enrich the library's holdings with such papers and documentary materials which are used by cadets in their historical research in military history. In closing let me say how rewarding it is to serve a part of such an interesting activity and in association with such fine and supportive people.

A.P. Clark

A MAJOR FALCONRY COLLECTION

Selected holdings from the personal library of Mr. Tony Huston have been offered to The Friends for acquisition by the Academy Library. At the urging of his father, legendary film director John Huston, Mr. Huston amassed one of the most significant collections of falconry materials in private holdings. Mr. Huston recently contacted The Friends regarding the purchase of the manuscripts and publications from his collection. Negotiations are presently underway to acquire those materials which will augment the library's existing holdings on the art of falconry. A published bibliography lists over 700 falconry items presently in the Academy Library's holdings. Many of the Academy's falconry books were published several hundred years ago and were acquired over forty years ago when the cadets selected the falcon as their mascot. Interest in falconry has increased in recent years and falconry books now command top prices. Below is an illustration of one of the rare books in the Academy collection.



39TH FIGHTER GROUP ARCHIVE

Colonel Frank Royal, USAF (Ret.) and members of the 39th Fighter Group Association have designated the Academy Library as the repository of the association's archival material. Series of official records, correspondence, memoirs, and publications record the group's wartime service. The material will be housed in the library's Special Collections Branch where it will be made available for cadet and scholarly research. Hopefully, members of other military units of World War II, Korea and Vietnam will also consider preserving their historical materials within the Library's Special Collections Branch. Inquiries should be sent to the President of The Friends, P.O. Box 188, USAF Academy, CO 80840-0188.

STALAG LUFT III COLLECTION CONSERVATION

Portions of the Stalag Luft III POW Historical Collection are suffering from wear and tear and acid deterioration. The collection is of remarkable daily interest to cadets and scholars and consequently needs periodic repair and preservation. An agreement has been signed with The Photo Safe Inc., of Monument, CO, to repair and replace, as needed, portions of the collection. Fascinating new technology is now available for this type of work and these new enhancements should protect and conserve the work for years to come. Completion of the project is expected before the end of this year.



STALAG LUFT III ON INTERNET

In coordination with the Academy's Department of English and the staff of the library's Special Collections Branch, selected portions of the holdings of the Stalag Luft III Former Prisoners of War Historical Collections have been placed on the Internet. The project was a follow-up of The Friends' 1997 spring exhibit on the history of Stalag Luft III. Professor William Newmiller of the Academy's Department of English and Archivist Duane Reed developed an independent study course during which cadets spent two semesters and countless hours in converting The Friends exhibit for presentation on the Internet. The presentation may be viewed at the Academy's website at the following address:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/dfsels13>

FALCONRY BOOK PROGRESS

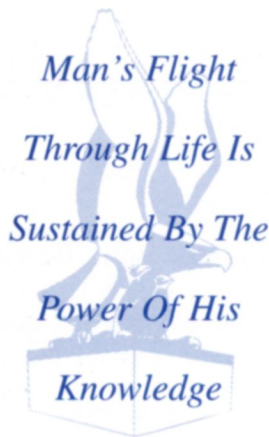
The book that The Friends are putting together to tell the fascinating story of the Academy's Falconry Program is progressing well. This book will serve to draw attention to the Academy Library's extensive collection of material on the art of falconry and will serve to provide cadets with an insight on falconry as a cadet activities program. The manuscript is in final editing and color photographs are being selected to illustrate the finished book. The Academy's Falconry Program is unique in its use of wild birds released over stadium crowds and trained to retrieve lures. We are, therefore, confident that the book will attract a wide variety of readers including falconers everywhere. We were honored to be able to include an introduction by Harold M. Webster, a nationally recognized falconer and author. He was instrumental in getting the Academy started with its falconry program in 1955 and donated the Academy's first falcon.

EXHIBIT AT RAMPART LODGE

In coordination with the staff of the library Special Collections Branch, The Friends have placed two historical exhibits on loan in the Academy's newly renovated Rampart Lodge, formerly known as the Visiting Officers Quarters. The displays were selected from The Friends' 1998 Spring Exhibit on the history of the Academy and adopted for exhibit by Innkeeper, Mrs. Donna DeLeon and her staff. The two exhibits depict the life and military career of General Hubert R. Harmon, the first superintendent of the Academy, and the graduation of the first class in June of 1959. This display, which will be viewed by countless distinguished visitors to the Academy, offers a very welcome sense of history to the Rampart Lodge.

DR. CONVERSE DEPARTS

The Friends recently honored Dr. Elliott V. Converse of the Academy's Department of History. During his tenure as a professor of history, Dr. Converse, a retired Air Force Colonel, assisted The Friends and the staff of the Library Special Collections Branch with a myriad of important projects. For two years Dr. Converse served as a principal editor of the forthcoming catalogue to the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection. He assisted in the creation of three of The Friends Spring exhibits. He also provided support and guidance in the preparation of the manuscript of the history of the Falconry Program at the Air Force Academy. Dr. Converse resigned his position with the Department of History to assume his new assignment as the Executive Director of the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute in Washington, D.C.



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*Front Row: LTC McCracken, Gen. Clark, Gen. Fagan, LTC Hildebrand
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THE 1999 BOARD MEETING

The annual board meeting of The Friends was held on December 3, 1999 in the Association of Graduates conference room. It was well attended and our activities and progress in the past year were briefly covered. The reelection of officers for the coming year is as follows: President, A.P. Clark, 1st Vice President, Henry Kortemeyer, 2nd Vice President, Willis Ketterson, Secretary, Philip Caine, Treasurer, George Fagan. The highlight of the meeting was the very interesting pre-

sentation by James Gaston, President of Word One Inc., of the CD-Rom that he has created for the catalogue of the Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection. His full-color presentation in effect provides a way to view our book, The Genesis of Flight on a computer system. A CD-Rom has been prepared to be included in each published volume of the Gimbel Catalogue and will also be available for sale.

A Friendly Reminder

Please consider participating in our 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 2000, we sincerely thank you. If you have not made a 2000 contribution, please fill out the attached form and send your check today in the self-addressed envelope.