

**BOOKS**

**GENERAL**


**AERODYNAMICS**


**AIR TRANSPORT**


**AVIONICS AND SYSTEMS**


**COMPUTING**


**HISTORICAL**


*The Lightning Boys: True tales from pilots of the English Electric Lightning*. R Pike. Grub Street, 4 Rainham Close, London SW11 6SS,


LIGHTER-THAN-AIR

Hot Air and Pipe Dreams: the tale of Britain’s last two great rigid airships. C Mowthorpe. The Hunmanby Press, 166 Thorpe Road, Peterborough PE1 6JJ, UK. 2010. 207pp. £15. Illustrated. Illustrated throughout by a number of contemporary photographs and colour reproductions of paintings by Geoff Pleasance, this is a detailed history of the R-100 and R-101 airship programmes.


PROPELLION


ROTORCRAFT

Fleet Air Arm Helicopters since 1943. L Howard et al. Air-Britain (Historians), 41 Penshurst Road, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8HL, UK. 2011. 376pp. Illustrated. £29.50 (Air-Britain members), £44.50 (non-members). ISBN 978-0-85130-304-8. Arranged by aircraft type (Sikorsky Hoverfly/S-55 Whirlwind; Bristol Sycamore; Westland Dragonfly/Wessex/Wasp/Sea King/Lynx; Westland/Aerospatiale Gazelle; Aerospatiale Dauphin; Hiller Model 12 and AgustaWestland Merlin) this reference volume records the individual aircraft histories of over 1,500 helicopters and autogiros which have been operated by the Fleet Air Arm over the years including details of markings, bases, display teams and aircraft operated by 847 Naval Squadron.

‘ADOPT’ A LIBRARY BOOK OR JOURNAL

Since its formation in 1866, the Royal Aeronautical Society has been acquiring aeronautical books, journals and other material which are now housed in its extensive library.

Owing to a combination of age and use, a number of the older volumes are in a worn condition and require rebinding. These date primarily from pre-1945 and form a major collection of the world’s aeronautical heritage which should be preserved for current and future generations of researchers.

The average cost of rebinding a worn volume is about £30, depending on its size and condition. Anyone who would like to contribute to rebinding costs will have their donation recorded on the bookplate inside the volume.

If you would like to ‘adopt’ a book or journal (possibly in memory of someone else) please contact Brian Riddle, National Aerospace Library, The Hub, Fowler Avenue, IQ Farnborough, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7JP, UK. T +44 (0)1252 701060, E brian.riddle@aerosociety.com

Including individual aircraft histories of every Sikorsky S-62/S-62A/S-62B/S-62J/HH-52A airframe produced, this is a detailed well-illustrated history of this multi-role helicopter and its numerous variants.

SAFETY


SERVICE AVIATION


Illustrated by numerous colour photographs throughout, this book provides an overview of the ongoing aircraft operations over Afghanistan, concluding with an appendix listing fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter losses incurred during the aerial campaign from October 2001 to April 2010.


SPACE


SYMPOSIA


Library’s photographic collections

On Saturday, 9 September 1911, Gustav W Hamel undertook the UK’s first air mail carrying 23lb of mail from Hendon to Windsor in a ten-minute flight in a 50hp Gnome Blériot. The pioneering air mail flights undertaken by Hamel, Clement Hugh Gresswell and E F Driver — which had been arranged through the Grahame-White Aviation Co by the Honorary Organising Committee in connection with King George V’s coronation festivities — concluded on 18 September 1911. Held in the National Aerospace Library’s extensive archives are the official Hendon postmaster’s hand-written records relating to the First UK Aerial Post for which special pictorial postcards and envelopes with corresponding post-boxes were arranged. A detailed philatelic history of the flights was published in: Field, Francis, J and Baldwin, N C The Coronation Aerial Post 1911. Aero Field Handbook No 3 (Sutton Coldfield: Francis J Field Ltd. 1934).

Bottom right: Lord and Lady Desborough at the London aerodrome dedicating a Blériot monoplane to the Australian commonwealth with Gustav Hamel, among others, at the naming ceremony of the Blériot monoplane named Britannia and used by Hamel in his cross-Channel flight. It was presented to the Government of New Zealand by agents for colonial corporations and The Standard newspaper.

The Royal Aeronautical Society’s Library holds a very extensive photographic/glass lantern slide/lithographic collection of aviation images (over 100,000) from the early days of ballooning through to current aircraft, missiles and rockets, including a number of portrait photographs of aviation personalities. Scanned images from the collection can be supplied to members and non-members on a fee basis for reproduction in books, journals, CD-ROMs, Internet sites, lecture slides or for use as presentation prints.

All enquiries regarding the Library should be addressed to: Brian Riddle, Chief Librarian, National Aerospace Library, The Hub, Fowler Avenue, IQ Farnborough, Hants GU14 7JP, UK. T +44 (0)1252 701060. F +44 (0)1252 894894. E brian.riddle@aerosociety.com.