One of the major aims of the National Aerospace Library at Farnborough is to act as an archive depository where aviation collections can be deposited for current and future generations of aviation historians to prevent them being broken up, dispersed or sold off. To this end the Society has been presented with material from various individuals and organisations, including, notably, the past Minutes of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors/Aerospace Companies [SBAC] Council and other committees and its Annual Reports dating from 1916-2001.

Originally incorporated as a trade association on 29 March 1916 — following George Holt Thomas’ suggestion that the British aircraft builders should speak to the Government and the Treasury with a united voice — in 1920 the Society of British Aircraft Constructors revived the pre-war aero exhibitions at Olympia formerly organised by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. However, the SBAC is probably best-known for its organisation of the air shows — originally held to demonstrate the products of its member companies — and which have been held at Farnborough since 1948.

The SBAC Minutes Volumes now in the care of the National Aerospace Library offer for aviation historians a potential wealth of original material which has not been available before, revealing the internal workings of the SBAC, the inter-relationships between different aircraft companies and how the Industry related to Government over the decades.

The details of the main committees represented are as follows:

- **Committee of Management/ Council**
  - October 1918 – December 1999

- **Associate Members’ Committee (Group A)**
  - July 1942 – December 1953;
  - February 1987 – December 1993

- **Associate Members’ Committee (Group B)/ Equipment Group Committee**
  - May 1942 – October 1990

- **China Committee**
  - June 1980 – July 1982

- **Contracts Committee/Contracts Advisory Committee**
  - October 1934 – December 1997

- **Education and Training Panel/ Committee**
  - February 1970 – October 1971,
  - October 1978 – July 1985,
  - January 1988 – October 1990

- **EEC/Europe Committee**
  - March 1955 – January 1964

- **Equipment Group Committee**
  - May 1955 – April 1971

- **Guided Weapons Committee**
  - November 1970 – October 1990

- **Guided Weapons Sectoral Group Committee**
  - January 1991 – December 2001

- **Guided Weapons and Space Policy/ Guided Weapons Policy Committee**
  - March 1995 – December 2001

- **Guided Weapons Technical Committee**
  - October 1943 – December 1957,
  - November 1960 – July 1967

- **Ground Environment Committee**

- **Planning Committee**
  - October 1918 – February 1920

- **Private Flying Loan Fund Committee**
  - November 1920 – November 1921

- **Product Support Group Committee**
  - June 1954 – October 1990

- **Products Liability Insurance Sub-Committee**

- **Research and Development Committee**
  - October 1920 – November 1921

- **Space Committee**
  - October 1934 – December 1997

- **Technical Board**
  - April 1961 – March 1965

- **Technical Committee**
  - October 1943 – December 1944 – 1995

- **Technical Committee and the Technical Representatives**
  - December 1920 – November 1935

- **United Kingdom Industrial Space Committee**

Enquiries concerning these minutes volumes should be directed to the National Aerospace Library at Farnborough (Tel: +44 (0)1252 701038/(0)1252 701039; e-mail: hubllibrary@raes.org.uk) which is open Tuesday to Friday 10 am-4 pm with additional staff support now being provided by Hampshire County Council’s Library and Information Service.