

From the President, Adam Aron...



I continue to be so impressed by the dedication, creativity and energy displayed by our Pan Am Historical Foundation members and partner organizations. As it turns out, there are so many of us who have an unshakeable lifelong passion for everything that once was Pan American World Airways.

We remember with respect, awe and affection the pioneering spirit of the men and women of Pan Am. Their bold dreams and trailblazing efforts ensured that for the three quarters of a century that Pan American's boats, planes and jets graced the skies, there was no other airline on the planet that accomplished anything close.

A big step forward this past year by "PAHF" is our brand-new Digital Library, conveniently findable on a computer screen near you. The intriguing and engaging first exhibits about Pan Am can be found at exhibits.panam.digital. More compelling exhibits will be unveiled in the months and years ahead. Our Digital Library has its

President *cont. p. 2*

From The Pan Am Digital Library Team:

Announcing a Brand-New Way of Exploring Pan Am History

Welcome to Clipper Hall: Our New Digital Library Platform!

Pan Am Historical Foundation's Digital Library was unveiled in August and creates an exciting new way to experience Pan Am history with interactive features and special effects.

Making its debut at exhibits.panam.digital, the new site features stories replete with historic video and images from our expanding media archive, as well as other authoritative sources.

At 'Clipper Hall' — a name inspired by Pan Am historian Althea Lister — visitors can scroll through presentations as if they were exploring separate galleries in an exhibition, taking their time, revisiting displays, and absorbing Pan Am's exciting and important stories.

"Great Expectations" is the theme of our first gallery in the digital library. It takes a deep dive into Pan Am's past in a mini-website format: exhibits.panam.digital/great-expectations.

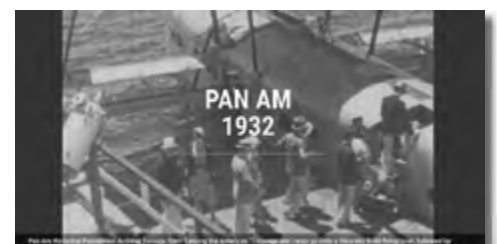
Clipper Hall will continue to present ongoing projects and individual stories about Pan Am history. Recurring elements include historic film and archival updates, along with a spotlight on those memorable Pan Am ads. These features help illuminate the company's dynamic stories from various perspectives, highlighting Pan Am's important endeavors and historic moments, as well as revealing long-lost history.

Since its beginnings in 1992, the Pan Am Historical Foundation has

Digital Library *cont. p. 2*

Video frames from PAHF film collection [Left to Right]:

Pan Am B-707 from Pan American World Airways footage; Pan Am Sikorsky S-42 from "Five Hours to Bermuda"; Pan Am B-747 from "The Eighth Continent"; passengers boarding a Sikorsky S-40 from "Linking the Americas"



President *from p. 1*

own dedicated website that will include historic videos, images, stories and educational materials from the earliest days of Pan Am to more modern times. Congratulations to Doug and Mimi Miller for their hard work on this real advance for our Foundation.

It is also gratifying to see ongoing Pan Am celebrations this autumn. Our Chairman Ed Trippe (Juan Trippe's son) will receive the prestigious Achievement in Aviation Award from the San Francisco Aeronautical Society. World Wings International gathers for its 54th annual convention in Scottsdale. The Pan Am Museum Foundation hosts its annual gala. And earlier in 2023, PAHF Board members Charlie Trippe (Juan Trippe's grandson) and Ron Marasco carried the Pan Am flag at the rollout of the last ever Boeing 747. Memorable events all.

Looking ahead, there are other important projects now underway at the Pan Am Historical Foundation. Most notable is our quest to preserve for posterity hundreds and hundreds of hours of truly rare and precious Pan Am footage on film and tape that dates back a century. More on that exciting project in future issues of Clipper. ✈

Digital Library *from p. 1*

advanced the history and knowledge of the company's six decades of influence. Along with our time-honored and beautifully crafted Clipper newsletter, our prized Pan Am annual calendar, an informative history website, panam.org, as well as social media, Clipper Hall adds a new interactive dimension to telling Pan Am's story.

We invite you to visit Clipper Hall as we continue to add new galleries for you to explore. ✈

Ed Trippe to Receive Achievement in Aviation Award from the San Francisco Aeronautical Society at Annual Gala



Edward S. Trippe, Chairman of the Pan Am Historical Foundation, will be the honoree at the San Francisco Aeronautical Society grand gala and recipient of the Achievement in Aviation Award. The annual fundraising event will be held on November 2, 2023.

“Over the years the Society has awarded its Achievement in Aviation Award to individuals who have demonstrated passion and commitment to our industry through extraordinary accomplishments,” said Eric Starks, board member of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society. “The impact on aviation through their dedicated efforts is everlasting and is what helps to shape the future of air travel whether it be through flight, engineering, design, entertainment, education, training or philanthropy. Pan Am truly believed in the power of aviation and how it gives new perspective and meaning to mankind.”

Past recipients of this prestigious award have included notables such as the Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, Zoe Dell Lantis Nutter,

John Travolta, Captain “Sully” Sullenberger, and William R. Hearst III.

“I am sincerely honored to receive this award on behalf of Juan T. Trippe and the Pan Am Historical Foundation,” said Ed Trippe.

The San Francisco Aeronautical Society is a not-for-profit organization established in 1997, whose mission is to support the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum by advancing the knowledge and appreciation of aviation history. As a collecting institution for research and exhibition programming, its purpose is to enrich the understanding of past, present, and future achievements in air transport. The Society does this by raising funds for acquisitions that are donated to the collection, and through programs such as educational lectures and seminars. The museum has become one of the premier aviation collections in the world made possible in part by the efforts of the San Francisco Aeronautical Society. ✈

Announcing 15th Annual Abrams/Banning Research Grant Competition

by Robin Nolasco
Special Collections Librarian
University of Miami Libraries

After a brief hiatus, the Dave Abrams and Gene Banning Awards research competition resumes for the 2023-24 season. Now in its fifteenth year, the Pan Am Historical Foundation awards grants to support scholarly research using the Pan American World Airways records held by the University of Miami Libraries Special Collections. This grant honors two of Pan Am's most avid historians, Dave Abrams and Gene Banning.

Since its first international flight in 1927, Pan Am has been a world leader in American commercial aviation. The Pan Am records date from 1927 to the 1990s and include administrative and financial files, technical and research reports, public relations and promotional materials, internal publications including newsletters, journals and press releases, and thousands of photographs.

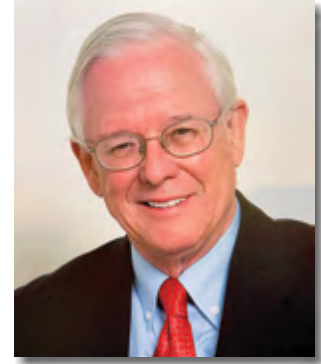
The grant is open to advanced graduate students, independent scholars, and faculty. Priority will be given to research proposals that will result in publication in any media. Applicants must submit a proposal of no more than two pages describing their research project, and must include a curriculum vitae or résumé.

Applicants for the grant will visit the Special Collections archives either remotely or in-person at the

Research Grant *cont. back cover*

IN MEMORIAM

Peter M. Leslie
1936-2023



Peter Leslie, long time PAHF board member, supporter of Pan Am's heritage, author, and even a one-time ground operations staffer on Canton Island, passed away in early February at his home in Maine.

Peter came to be closely associated with Pan American by the most natural of connections. His father was John C. Leslie, the man who helped the airline achieve transoceanic success, first in the Pacific as Division Engineer, and later as Manager of the Atlantic Division when the big Boeing Clippers first started across that ocean.

Peter chose another career path than aviation, but not before he had the chance during his student days to spend some time on far-off Canton Island in the era when Pan Am's big Stratocruisers stopped for fuel and a refresh on route to the Southwest Pacific. Peter made a film of his experience which is still one of our most treasured bits of visual history.

Back home, well on his way to a very successful career in the financial world, Peter once again stepped in to assist with important Pan Am business. This time it was to help his father, now retired from active service, with the critical job of collecting and collating the airline's historical resources for the first Pan Am Historical Foundation that was

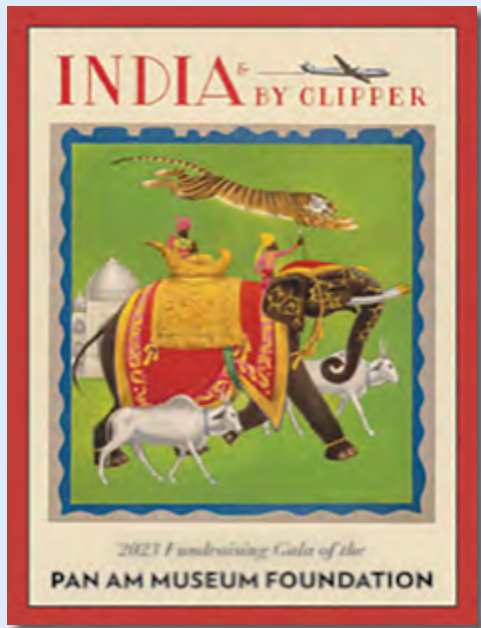
started while the company was still in operation.

It was this work that probably motivated Peter to stay involved. Between making sure his father's own valuable records were safeguarded, and pursuing his own historical interests, Peter stayed an active contributor and book reviewer. He also traveled and wrote about wide-ranging subjects such as the Flying Boat Museum at Foynes, Pan Am and the Azores, and Portugal's unique tile billboards that have maintained a colorful and enduring presence for Pan Am for decades.

But what we might thank Peter Leslie for most of all is the effort he put into his book about his father: "*John Leslie: Aviation's Quiet Pioneer.*" It was a loving and authoritative record of the work his father undertook over the many years he helped build the airline into the dominant aviation force it became.

And Peter was always ready to answer any call and take up any request that came his way. He was a natural diplomat and an irreplaceable pillar of the Pan Am community.

For more about Peter:
panam.org/community/872-peter-leslie-remembered



Celebrate the Splendor of India at the Pan Am Museum Gala October 14, 2023

**By Linda Freire
Chair, Pan Am Museum Foundation**

The Pan Am Museum Foundation will celebrate its sixth Clipper Gala on October 14, 2023, with “A Passage to India.” Whether you traveled the world on Pan Am, worked for this iconic airline, or are a Pan Am aficionado, we hope you will join us for a fun evening and virtual visit to one of the most fascinating travel destinations. The festivities will take place at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on Charles Lindbergh Blvd. in Garden City, NY and will begin at 6:30 pm with a cocktail reception, followed by a sit-down dinner, entertainment, and dancing. The Pan Am Museum is located on the 3rd Floor, so you can also tour the marvelous collection of historic memorabilia.

This year’s Gala will showcase the rich history of India and travel back to the days when Pan Am graced the skies over the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort of Delhi, and the bazaars of Bombay. Pan Am’s service to India began with

its historic Round-the-World Flights 1 and 2 in 1947. By transporting passengers to this exotic land, we introduced the world to India, which Mark Twain described as “an imaginary land — a fairy tale land, a land made of poetry and moonlight for the Arabian nights to do their gorgeous miracles in.”

The Pan Am Museum Foundation will also honor the crew members of Pan Am Flt. 73, the fateful flight from Bombay to New York, hijacked while on a stopover in Karachi, Pakistan on September 5, 1986. We’re looking forward to welcoming several members of the crew at the Gala, and their extraordinary heroism will be recognized, along with a tribute to the lead purser, Neerja Bhanot, who was killed saving passengers during the hijacking.

We will also welcome this year’s special guest speaker, Pan Am’s Vice President for Inflight Services, Hector Adler. We are excited to hear his talk

about the one-of-a-kind service we offered on board, which to this day, is the gold standard of the industry and synonymous with Pan Am’s famed world-class travel.

Come for a night of Pan Am nostalgia, dancing, and fun and be transported to India, the land of festivals. For those of you who have visited India, I’m sure you have stories to share; and if India is still on your bucket list, you can experience the vibrant colors, sounds, and soul of this magical country while celebrating with our Pan Am family, friends, and airline enthusiasts. Don’t miss this opportunity, and we hope to see you there!

The Long Island Marriott is offering a special rate for Pan Am Museum Foundation guests who make their reservations by September 23. For more information about this year’s Gala, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.thepanamuseum.org. ✈

We’re Following the Fun to Scottsdale – How About YOU?

By Nancy G. McAllister
President, World Wings International



Stunning sunsets. Desert stargazing. Sonoran Desert Saguaro. Dramatic mountains. Pan Am colleagues. Stimulating speakers. Convivial conversations. Delicious dining. We have it all.

World Wings is hosting our 54th convention from October 29 to November 1, 2023 in Scottsdale, Arizona and YOU are invited.

Our deeply discounted Pan Am rate at the beautiful Scottsdale Resort & Spa at McCormick Ranch includes perks and waives the daily resort fee. Renovations began months ago and will be completed for our arrival offering a fresh new look while maintaining distinctive Old Arizona mission-style architecture perfectly accented with brilliant landscaping. Fun, unique, and elegant evenings await with delectable dinners, engaging entertainment along with tours to fulfill sights and experiences on your bucket list.



*Imagine strolling along this
breathtaking walkway!*

PHOTOS BY NANCY MCALLISTER



If you just happen to be reading the June/July 2023 issue of AARP Magazine, you will see a familiar photo—the Rotunda at the Marine Air Terminal, LGA. In an article called “My Happy Place,” eight prominent people were asked to share an American destination that makes them feel happy and at peace. Former U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins said his happy place is the Marine Air Terminal.

“My father was a great believer in the salubrious benefits of walking,” Collins writes. “And so, on a Saturday afternoon or after Mass on Sunday, he and I would walk the mile from our house to LaGuardia Airport. To me, it was almost an extension of going to church. You knew you were in an important place. It still feels that way.” He goes on to describe the Rotunda and his visits to the terminal with his father. As Collins aptly noted, it remains an important place for us all.

— by Ruth Maron

REVIEWED BY ERIC H. HOBSON, Ph.D.

Two New Books Delve into the Flying Boat Era

Two new books provide a historic new perspective on the iconic ‘flying boats.’ For Pan Am Historical Foundation members needing new reading material (or gift ideas) consider Peter Pigott’s *The Golden Age of Flying Boats*, published in 2020. Philip Jett’s *Stranded in the Sky*, published in 2023, recounts the story of Pan Am luxury airliners trapped on December 7, 1941, the day of infamy at Pearl Harbor.

Peter Pigott presents a summary of flying boats in the interwar era that includes European designs as



well as the iconic Sikorsky, Martin, and Boeing “Clippers.” Learning about flying boats designed and built in Germany, France, Italy, and particularly the English company Short Brothers global leadership in this market is eye opening. These countries needed flying boats to connect their far-flung colonial vassal states in the same way that the United States needed flying boats for its economic imperialism. Pigott’s narrative is a readable introduction to the variety and reach of European and U.S. flying boat manufacturers and their customers. The book is nicely illustrated with dozens of period photographs, many from Pan Am Historical Foundation’s collection. As an aviation historian

with a particular interest in the pre-World War II era, this book is a nice addition to my library. The book is available in bookstores, public libraries, and at Amazon.

Philip Jett builds his narrative around December 7, 1941, and its effect on Pan Am at the moment that the Japanese Imperial Navy launched its attack on Pearl Harbor. Four Pacific-based Pan Am “Clippers” (Sikorsky S-42, *Hong Kong Clipper*; Martin M-130, *Philippine Clipper*; and Boeing 314 *Anzac Clipper* and *Pacific Clipper*) were in Hawaii, New Zealand and

Hong Kong. This book focuses on the month prior to the attack, the day’s events, and each crew’s action subsequent to learning of the event. Although each crew’s make-it-home story has been covered extensively, Jett blends them into a single story. Pan Am fans and commercial aviation buffs should say thank-you for his having done so. ✈

Peter Pigott. The Golden Age of Flying Boats. Burnt Ash Publishing, London. 2020. 352 pages. ISBN 978-1-9162161-8-1 (Hardcover, Paperback & Kindle)

Philip Jett. Stranded in the Sky. Turner Publishing Co., Nashville. 2023. 386 pages. ISBN 9781688449363 (Hardcover & Kindle)

Monument near SFO dedicated in honor of plane crash victims

by Pan Am Flight 7 Memorial Committee



Committee co-chairs Gregg Herken, left, and Ken Fortenberry unveil the monument

A monument honoring the forty-four passengers and crewmembers who perished on a Pan American airliner in November 1957 was dedicated in a ceremony April 4 at the Millbrae History Museum, near the San Francisco International Airport.

Pan American World Airways Boeing Stratocruiser N90944 “Clipper Romance of the Skies” crashed midway between San Francisco and Honolulu, its first intended stop on an around-the-world flight.

The Pan Am Flight 7 Committee, a nonprofit organized by family and friends of the victims, dedicated the monument in a well-attended ceremony that included a U.S. Navy honor guard, a bagpiper, local officials, family members from around the world, and numerous Pan Am retirees.

“The passengers on Pan Am Flight 7 that tragic day were a cross section of a rapidly shrinking world as propeller-driven planes were being replaced by jets at the dawning of a new era

Flight 7 cont. back cover

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Doug Miller

Ron Marasco

Charles W. Trippe, Jr.

WEBMASTER

Doug Miller
panamweb@gmail.com

CLIPPER EDITOR

Ruth Maron
ruth.maron@comcast.net

WEBSITE

www.panam.org

ARCHIVES

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For questions regarding
membership email
pahf@metrodisc.com

Research Grant *from p. 3*

University of Miami between September 2023 and May 24. They will present their work in the Spring of 2024.

Previous winners have included:

- 2019: Elizabeth Manley, “Imagining the Tropics: Women, the Professionalization of Caribbean Tourism, and the Conjuring of Island Fantasy, 1890 – 1980”
- 2018: Henry Knight Lozano, “The Flights That Bind: Pan Am’s California-to-Hawaii Route & Hawaiian Promotion and Statehood, 1936-1966”
- 2017: Bryce Evans, “Pan Am: A Gastronomic History”

For more information contact:
robinnolasco@miami.edu

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in aviation,” committee co-chair Ken H. Fortenberry told the audience.

“The crew was well trained, highly experienced and — like everyone with Pan Am — solid professionals who were proud of their airline and the work they did for the World’s Most Experienced Airline,” he stated.

He noted that only 19 bodies were recovered from the ocean crash site, and that he hoped the monument dedication might help bring closure to all of the families who lost loved ones, even after more than 65 years had passed since the plane went down in a crash that officially remains unsolved to this day.

The monument is engraved with the names of all aboard and features a color inset of a Boeing Stratocruiser. Fortenberry’s father, William, was second officer and navigator on “Romance of the Skies.” ✈