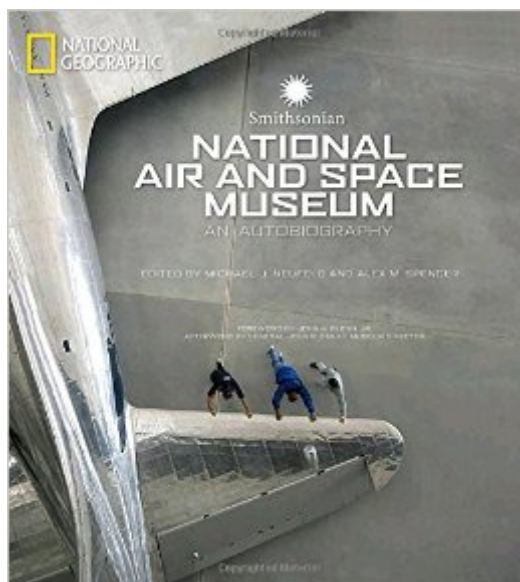


The book was found

Smithsonian National Air And Space Museum: An Autobiography



Synopsis

Designed to convey the awe of a visitor first walking into the world's largest showplace of aviation history, this Autobiography headlines the incredible collections, both on view and behind the scenes, of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The official story and insiders' tales of the museum are shared by its curators, the people who know it best. Spectacular photography and fascinating backstage glimpses show off the jaw-dropping collection, including well-known and beloved artifacts like Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis and the Apollo 11 command module, as well as rare treasures not displayed to the public. For aircraft and spaceflight enthusiasts, for readers interested in science and technology, and for all who admire the civil and military legacy of aviation, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum: An Autobiography will be a welcome adventure.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book is aptly titled 'An Autobiography'; it is the story of the Air and Space Museum from the beginnings of a balloon flight in 1861 on its present location to the goals and planning of today's museum. The photography contained therein is very good, both the new and the historical photos are well done. John Glenn gives his thoughts on the museum in a foreword. The volume contains the story of the beginnings of flight, how the collection was built and the present museum completed, as well as the Udvar-Hazy. The future of the museum is covered as well as the partnership with NASA. The controversies and problems of the museum are covered, including those of the directorship and even the dropping of a DC-3 as it was being hung. There are

illustrations of the collection of airplanes and pictures of the museum collection when it was housed in a tin shed behind the Castle. Those that remember the Spirit of St. Louis and the Wright Flyer crammed in amongst other exhibits such as the Star Spangled Banner and Freedom 7 with wood steps so children could peer into the capsule, all while leaning up against it; and the rockets mounted in the garden will appreciate these black and white photos from the past. There are many pictures of planes today and as they were being flown, which creates an interesting contrast. Sources and listings for further reading are included. If you love flight itself or the history surrounding it; if you are one of the 8 million visitors a year to the museum - those that have an infatuation with the museum and its contents this is a must have for you. Those who are interested in the history of American flight will find this a worthwhile book to add to their collection.

A very nice picture book updating the growth of the National Air and Space Museum. A great coffee table book, but you won't leave it there! It'll become part of your reference library if you are a historian or model builder. Beautifully done. You'll like it if you like aviation!

Great history of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. I have visited the Museum twice and just love everything about this amazing museum. This book tells the story of how the museum came to be - great photos that demand your attention, to study the detail. Informative text brings the story to life.

This book was a gift to our son, who is a pilot. He was absolutely thrilled with the book and read it from cover to cover on Christmas eve. He now intends to visit the museum.

The book is very well written and edited and in high standard. It has enormous page pic' that I love and it well light the flight history. I Recommended to buy or read it..

Wonderful pictures and easy to read history of one of America's best museums! A must own for anyone interested in airplanes, NASA, engineering, or Smithsonian history.

This book provides an "inside" look at the development of manned aircraft and the vehicles that followed. A very interesting read.

I grew up hearing stories about Paul Garber and the early days of the Air and Space museum, and

have spent many days wandering through the exhibits there. It's a truly remarkable place. This book is the next best thing to standing in front of the Spirit of St. Lewis or the early rockets. Perhaps the best part of this book is the personal twist it takes. This isn't just a textbook record of the history of aviation. There are first person interviews, quotes, and stories about the early days of flight and the struggles of the Air and Space Museum that feel almost like talking to an old friend. I can't recommend it enough.

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