Spring 2022



### SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting June 9, 2022 4:00 PM (U.S. Eastern Time)

The Pan Am Historical Foundation will hold its Annual General Meeting via Zoom, enabling our worldwide members to participate in this important session.

Members will meet the newly appointed president of PAHF, Adam Aron who will lead the meeting. The agenda will include the financial report, election of directors, and a review of activities. Leadership will also discuss our goals and strategies moving forward as we embark on our fourth decade of operations.

Members can submit questions in advance to <u>pahf@metrodisc.com</u>.

The Annual Meeting notice, proxy form, and the fiscal 2021 financial staatement was mailed to all current members. Prior to the meeting, the direct link to join the meeting will be emailed to members for whom we have an email address.



## From The Chairman, Ed Trippe...

## LOOKING BACK — LOOKING FORWARD

After 30 years, I am pleased that we can all proudly say that the Pan Am Historical Foundation is going strong and remains committed to preserving and promoting the legacy of that once great airline.

It is with renewed, unqualified confidence in our future that I announced in April that Adam Aron has joined PAHF as its new President. Pete Runnette, who has been President for the past 20+ years, has retired and will become "President Emeritus." Pete has overseen PAHF during its formative years and was a guiding force in the production of *"Across the Pacific,"* the historically acclaimed documentary that chronicled the story of four aviation pioneers; Juan Trippe, Charles Lindberg, Igor Sikorsky, and Hugo Leuteritz.

Sally Andersen, PAHF board member and Treasurer, is also stepping down this year. We thank Sally for her many years of service. The PAHF finances would not be in such sound order without her diligent oversight.

I am also pleased to announce that Marie Lindell will be taking over from Sally as Treasurer. Marie has an impressive background starting out as a Pan Am flight attendant, resigning to become a dentist and head up her own practice, and ultimately making a major career change, going to flight school and becoming a captain for United flying B787 aircraft.

I also wish to acknowledge William (Bill) Lange who is retiring from his position on the Board and thank him for his many contributions to PAHF.

Adam Aron is a Pan Am "lifer"! He joined the Company in his 20s, and was known as a "whiz kid" marketing innovator. He is remembered as having created Pan Am's WorldPass, which early on was among the most successful frequent flyer programs in the industry. Adam left Pan Am after Ed Acker sold the Pacific division, and went on with an incredibly successful career spanning travel, sports and entertainment industries. He currently is Chairman and CEO of AMC Entertainment, the world's largest movie theatre chain.

Adam has shared with me a particularly sentimental feature of his collection of Pan Am memorabilia — a copy of the telex news flash that was issued on April 3, 1981, the day Juan Trippe passed

#### PAN AM HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

#### **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2021-2022**

Edward S. Trippe Chairman

C.W. (Pete) Runnette President

> Sally Andersen Treasurer

Darlene Laster Secretary VP, Asia & Pacific

William Lange VP, Europe and Atlantic Chair, Memberhip & Marketing,

Lilian A. Walby VP, Latin America & Caribbean Chair, Archives & Memorabilia

John H. Hill Chair, Museums & Exhibits

Jeffrey Kriendler Chair, Communications

> Ruth Maron Clipper Editor

Doug Miller Webmaster

Peter M. Leslie Ron Marasco Charles W. Trippe, Jr.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Emilia De Geer pahf@metrodisc.com

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**CLIPPER EDITOR** Ruth Maron ruth.maron@comcast.net

> WEBSITE www.panam.org

#### ARCHIVES

www.library.miami.edu/ archives/panam/pan.html

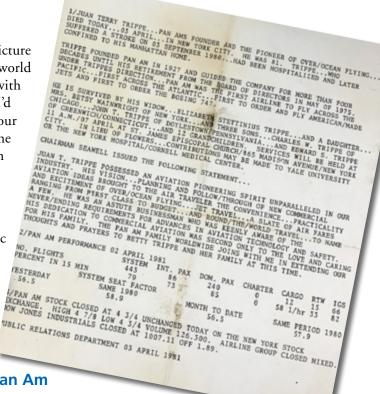
#### Chairman from p. 1

away. It's a unique picture of Pan Am and the world that morning, and with Adam's permission I'd like to share it with our membership. How the world has changed in 40 years!

I was particularly touched that Adam had saved this historic Panamac notice. It reflects his sincere affection and commitment to preserving the legacy of Pan Am.

#### Acquisition of Pan Am Film Archives

The years 2020 and 2021 will be memorable for us all. COVID altered all our lives and the impact of the virus on our future continues. For PAHF, the singularly most important development of the year was the acquisition of the Pan Am film archives in July 2021. These archives span the entire history of the Company, and include such iconic films as "The Long Way Home" and "Clippers at War." There is also an extensive collection of Pan Am travelogues that date to the 1930s. "Five Hours to Bermuda" chronicles the trip in a B-314 and portrays nostalgic images of Bermuda in the 1930s. Other films in the collection include extensive flight training films that span the history of successive generations of new aircraft and the flight crews that operated those aircraft. The films are presently being stored in the film vaults of Getty Images in Iron Mountain, WV. Because of security and Covid restrictions access to the films has been problematic. PAHF's ultimate goal is to digitize and create a film library of the historically most important films. In the end, PAHF plans to partner with an accredited museum or university for the long-term management of the film library. The film library will also be integral to PAHF's "Digital Museum."



#### Marine Air Terminal Commemorative Completed

The new Pan Am B-314 model and the plaques in the Marine Air Terminal are now permanent fixtures in the Terminal building. The entrance plaque recognizes the architects, Delano and Aldrich, and celebrates the opening of the terminal with Mayor LaGuardia and Juan Trippe presiding. The plaque also records that the MAT was Pan Am's Operations Headquarters from 1940 to 1948. The plaques at the entrance to the rotunda recognize the artist James Brooks and his massive mural "Flight" which spans the rotunda. The third plaque celebrates the B-314 and its history. The new B314 is a 1/10 scale model of the original aircraft and commands a significant presence in the rotunda. Conversations are ongoing with the Port Authority of NY & NJ regarding a reception, probably in the Fall of 2022, to honor Pan Am and its historic association with the MAT.

As we begin our fourth decade of operation, the Foundation is strongly positioned to move forward with a dedicated team, a sound financial position, and the enthusiastic support of our worldwide membership.  $\rightarrow$ 

# Into the Digital Realm with Pan Am by The Digital Team

his year marks the convergence of two important projects for the Pan Am Historical Foundation.

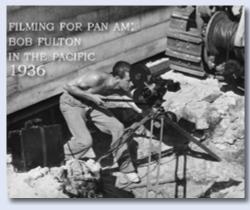
### **The PAHF Film Collection**

The Pan Am Historical Foundation recently assumed title to the Pan American World Airways film collection. This substantial archive of moving images — many hundreds of films — has been hidden away in a climate-controlled underground vault for years, well protected from the ravages of time.

The films are safe, but until the recent transfer of ownership to PAHF, their future accessibility was uncertain. Now, new developments are moving to unlock their historic content as they become available to digitize and contribute to Pan Am's legacy.

These materials are pristine master copies, and as historical images they offer a "gold standard." The difference in image quality between a brand new high-resolution digital file derived from a film print using current imaging technology, and that of an old consumer-grade videotape transfer, is astounding. Modern TV and computer screens typically offer resolutions more than twice those of the old standards used back in the days of VHS tapes and analog TVs.

From the outset, Pan Am spread the news about aviation's powerful new opportunities for international trade and travel. When Pan Am's first aircraft took to the skies, motion picture technology was already well established and popular, making it a natural choice for communicating with the public. This approach worked well and Pan Am never stopped making good use of the medium. From Pan Am's earliest days until the company's final years, producers and crews were hired by Pan Am to go out and "get the shot." After over six decades of operations, the company had a massive collection of moving images. The materials range from technical and training films to travelogues, to productions meant solely for historical documentation. Pan Am also



PAN AM CAMERAMAN BOB FULTON

#### THE PAN AM DIGITAL MUSEUM



CROSS PLATFORM ACCESS: THE PAN AM DIGITAL MUSEUM WILL BE AVAILABLE ON VARIOUS DEVICES

archived film elements that had never been included in finished productions, as well as items such as newsreels.

Our film archive also includes donated material as well. Examples include rare personal films from two CNAC pilots, and films from American Overseas Airlines, to name a few. The combined moving image archive is incomparable, and as digitized video, the potential for telling Pan Am's story is unlimited. We've received two grants from the National Film Preservation Foundation since 2020, and are working on a third.

The PAHF Digital Museum: The timing of our Film Collection acquisition is opportune because as it dovetails with our forthcoming launch of our Digital Museum. We are on the road to fully empower the PAHF's online offerings as a world-class resource for Pan Am history — a powerful and accessible web-based venue for narrative presentations, resource identification, and public history.

#### The Pan Am Digital Museum

Launching soon, the Pan Am Digital Museum offers an exciting evolution of our successful panam.org website — presenting Pan Am's rich historical narrative in new ways, with multi-dimensional and interactive exhibits. We'll be reaching out to new audiences, and intend to engage other Pan Am stakeholders who have important assets to "bring to the party."

One thing that won't be changing is our commitment to authoritative, journalistic, and high quality content. Over time, visitors will be able to browse through stories of Pan Am's six decades by key time periods and locations, and by the accomplishments of significant people, like Pan Am's founder Juan T. Trippe.

Without a doubt, given the ever-increasing use of the Internet, the public expects more from cultural organizations like the PAHF in the form of multi-faceted online experiences. With a substantial effort soon to begin to digitize and interpret more and more Pan Am content, we plan to deliver.

### **2021-22 REPORTS**

#### PanAm.org & Social Media

We couldn't be happier at PanAm.org. Our legacy website might be getting on in years but it still ranks in the top search results for "Pan Am", often displayed right below Wikipedia. In the past year, top 10 countries for visitors to our site were from US, India, UK, Germany, Indonesia, Canada, China, Australia, Japan and Italy. Now 54% of all our visitors reach us on mobile devices and 46% use desktops.

#### **Social Media**

@panamhistory, we're steadily posting, resulting in an uptick in followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Recent posts by our early Pan Am history expert Eric Hobson, and our Jet Age expert Shea Oakley, have added a fresh perspective on Pan Am's evolving history, sparking comments, and lots of shares. Also at the start of 2022, we created @panamhistory on TikTok to highlight newly digitized video. We'll begin populating it more frequently, along with YouTube, as new material is completed. Don't forget to follow us!

#### **Facebook followers**

79.4% Male / 20.6% Female with over 1/4 of our followers, Ages 18-34. Top countries: US, Brazil, India, UK, Venezuela, Mexico, Germany, Italy, Australia, Canada. Instagram followers: 82.9% Male / 17% Female with nearly 1/3 of our followers, Ages 13-34. Top Cities: São Paulo, New York City, Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, Mexico City. (Stats: 03/09/22)

#### **Eugene Banning Collection**

Supported by a PAHF grant, Dr. Eric Hobson, along with his Belmont University student assistant Mara Hilwa, continues progress toward full curation of the Captain Eugene Banning Collection.

- Materials including books, manuals, navigation tools, flight gear, uniforms, and other ephemera have been catalogued and await a permanent home once a best-fit destination is determined. These items will not be digitized in high resolution.
- Materials that will be digitized in high resolution include visual media, letters,

## Cleared for Takeoff — A New, Powerful Pan Am Research Tool by Eric H. Hobson, Ph.D.

*Cleared for Takeoff*, (scan QR code below or type: <u>https://aviation.dp.la</u> in your browser), a University of Miami Library, HistoryMiami Museum, Duke University Library, and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) collaboration, is a game-changer for anyone using the Internet to find information about Pan American World Airways — its history, employees, aircraft, procedures and photos.

Supported by a Council on Library and Information Resources grant, the team spent years digitizing and coding items in their aviation collections to make it much easier for anyone, not just experienced researchers, to access these materials. The difference is crystal clear: Pan Am materials that once required digging through the Richter Library at the University of Miami

reports, articles, brochures, tags/labels, and other items. These materials have been sorted for scanning and indexing.

Work initially focused on correspondence related to the Pan Am 2001 Reunion which captures dozens of Pan Am veterans corresponding with Captain Banning and Reunion Chairman, Captain George Price.

Visual media including film, slides and photographs were segregated and five canisters of film stock were sent for professional curatorial assessment. The project's next goal is to finish scanning and indexing all photographs. This process requires more time and care than working with much of the collection's paper materials.

#### Clipper

In Winter 1994, the first issue of *Clipper* was published for the membership of the Pan Am Historical Foundation. The editor was Mary Ann Trainor, previously a member of the Pan Am Public Relations department. The front-page article reported on the gathering of former Pan Am digital collection from inside the library's website, can now be found on a general Google search. Offering more precise and broader search capabilities, *Cleared for Takeoff* website and the Richter Library's original search system combine to provide powerful research capabilities.

This important development helps the Pan Am community to preserve and share the company's rich story with its many audiences — former employees, family members, researchers and aviation buffs.  $\rightarrow$ 





employees for the dedication of a plaque honoring the 67th anniversary of Pan Am's founding.

Following in big footsteps, *Clipper* continues to publish three issues per year celebrating our milestones, telling our stories, and helping to preserve Pan Am's legacy.

## Museum Acquires Pan Am Trimotor Aircraft by Ken Sanford

The Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) in Hood River, Oregon recently acquired a vintage Pan Am Ford trimotor aircraft. It is NC414H, which was delivered to Pan Am in November 1932. It is still in flyable condition, and was actually flown to the Museum from its previous owner in California. The aircraft was used by Pan Am in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

After it left service with Grand Canyon Airways in recent years, the aircraft faded from public life. Eventually it wound up in the hands of Walter Bowe. Under Bowe's care, the aircraft was returned to its Pan Am livery and enjoyed personal flights around California. Then in mid-2021 word got around to WAAAM that Bowe might be looking for a change in ownership. Pilots are a tight knit community — especially those who fly the old aeroplanes — so the museum reached out to see if the rumors held merit. After some intense negotiations, WAAAM's Board of Directors emerged triumphant — the Ford was coming to the Museum. After waiting for a gap in the weather, NC414H flew into the adjacent airport in early February 2022 and is now on display at the Museum. An unusual feature of this tri-motor is that baggage and mail compartments are located in the wings.

The Museum has one of the largest collections of still-flying antique aeroplanes and still-driving antique automobiles in the country. You can visit the Museum at 1600 Air Museum Road, Hood River, Oregon, scan the QR code below, or type <u>waaamuseum.org</u> into your browser.  $\rightarrow$ 



#### Digital Realm from p. 3

As we "up our game" regarding online engagement, new tools and techniques will empower a full range of features including dynamic, interactive presentations and a lot more high-quality moving images, available through the Pan Am Film Collection.

### Down the "digital road"

Along with our growing digital archive, we're looking ahead to enhanced accessibility for our digital assets. Just as history books require indexes, identifying and locating particular material from myriad items in a digital archive requires cataloging them and creating a database. That's a big job, necessitating a process of review and identification of material for recording in a sharable and searchable format so others will know what is there and where to look.

We want to encourage and engage historians, authors, students, teachers, documentarians, and the public at large to use PAHF's resources via an easily accessible catalog to pursue their own projects and curiosity. Pan Am's legacy can and should stay relevant on into the future, which is bound to be increasingly digital.  $\rightarrow$ 

## **Preserving Our History in Film**

### by Doug Miller

The Pan Am Historical Foundation has completed work on our first project in cooperation with the National Film Preservation Foundation, which largely funded the effort with a \$20,000 grant. The film collection of CNAC pilot Ernest "Allie" Allison is now preserved with new print elements on archival stock, as well as very high-resolution digital video. We are developing plans in cooperation with Stanford University's Hoover Institution to provide a permanent home for this important historical record and will soon make reference copies of the video available online. →

# **PAHF Previews 2023 Calendar**

Back by popular demand, the 2023 Calendar will feature a unique series of paintings by renowned artist, Thor Johnson. Entitled Pan Am at War, each month depicts aircraft that flew primarily during World War II, as well as the Korean conflict. Detailed captions explain the historic significance of each image. The 2023 Calendar is a follow-up to the current calendar, *"When Travel* 

*Was an Adventure*" with its series of iconic paintings.

In his 28-year career with Pan Am, Johnson held a variety of senior-level positions including Vice President of Cargo. He is currently President of his own company, AeroArt International, Inc.

We asked the artist for a 'sneak peek' at the 2023 PAHF Calendar.



## Martin PBM-3R "Mariner"

The aircraft illustrated in its take-off run leaving its base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, carries critical supplies to the South Pacific War Zone during World War II.

The plane with Pan Am logos embossed on its fuselage is being flown by Pan Am Captain William Moss along with his Pan Am crew — all part of a contract between the U.S. Navy and Pan American Airways.

Captain Moss and his crew on this mission were about to be called upon to perform heroic tasks in addition to their normal duties. They were made aware of the sinking of an Army transport ship, the SS Cape San Juan, which was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. Moss and crew took their flying boat into the stormy weather with 12-15' seas, rain, lightning and seriously hazardous conditions. Despite difficulty managing their flying boat in these treacherous seas, they rescued many men. They received several commendations from the Navy for their courage and resourcefulness.  $\Rightarrow$