



# NEWSLETTER

**The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library**  
**P.O. Box 188**  
**U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188**

**VOL 1 NO 1**

**October 1988**

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library were chartered in Colorado on February 10, 1987 and approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) corporation on June 2, 1987. To our many charter members the organization owes a progress report covering its first full year of operation.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In its initial year, The Friends achieved tax-exempt status from the IRS, developed By-Laws, elected officers and expanded its Board of Directors. The President signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Superintendent of the Academy. With the support and assistance of the Falcon Foundation, the Air Force Academy Foundation and the Association of Graduates, The Friends were able to become established, to print stationery and brochures, and to undertake mass mailing solicitation drives.

Mr. Patrick M. Nesbitt, USAFA Class of 1967, generously provided free office space in his building. Mr. Robert Loudon of Colorado Springs provided office furniture at a 50% discount. Zenith Data Systems donated a Model 248 computer and printer. Xerox Corporation donated a 645S Memorywriter typewriter. The only paid employee is a part-time secretary.

Files of prospective members were compiled and programmed into the computer. A Post Office box was rented and a bulk mailing permit was purchased. Several thousand solicitation letters were mailed. Plans are now being formulated to solicit 10,000 graduates and their parents during the Fall of 1988.

A fine reproduction of the 1783 Montgolfier Balloon print from the Col. Richard Gimbel Aeronautical Collection was sent to all Charter Members who contributed \$50.00 or more.

The Friends established an open-ended Book Fund with the Academy Library. The Friends also accepted a number of gifts of books, photographs and historical documents from members and other donors. Those items were then proffered to the Academy Library for inclusion in the Collections.

For the guidance of The Friends, the Director of the Academy Library submitted a list of priority projects compiled with the assistance of key library staff members. All of the projects can be accomplished only by the use of private funds provided by members and foundations.

## **GOALS**

Our Master Plan guiding The Friends in the near term sets four main goals: first, to seek funding for conservation, preservation and expansion of the world famous Colonel Richard Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection; second, to produce a printed, illustrated, bibliographic catalogue of the holdings of the Gimbel Collection to aid scholarly research; third, to expand the scope of the Prisoner of War historical material to include the Japanese, Korean and Southeast Asia POW experience; and fourth, to obtain collections or copies of important papers of distinguished Air Force leaders in order to further the Academy's mission of inspiring, teaching and researching by precept and example.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR  
NOVEMBER 11, 1988**

Charter Members, their spouses and guests are cordially invited to attend our First Annual Meeting on Friday, November 11 at 12 Noon at the Air Force Academy Officers' Club. The cost will be \$6.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity) and a cash bar will be available.

A reservation card is enclosed for your convenience. Please submit by November 1, 1988.

At noon on Saturday, the 12th, Air Force plays BYU at the Academy. An application for tickets is enclosed.

A block of rooms at a special rate has been reserved at The Embassy Suites Hotel. Please contact the Embassy Suites directly and inform the hotel that you are a Charter Member of The Friends. The address is: 7290 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919, (719) 599-9100.

We have been very fortunate to obtain Mr. Henry Soderberg of Stockholm, Sweden as our speaker. Mr. Soderberg retired as Vice President of SAS (Scandinavian Airlines). He is an author and a notable lecturer. During World War II, Mr. Soderberg was with the International YMCA in Germany servicing allied prisoner of war camps in Eastern Europe. Mr. Soderberg is a recognized authority on Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772), the famous Swedish scientist, inventor, philosopher and theologian. Swedenborg, like Leonardo da Vinci, was a pioneer in the field of mechanics and anticipated many later discoveries. Among other things, Swedenborg drew up plans for a tractor-type flying machine, a submarine and a machine gun. Mr. Soderberg's topic will be "Aviation from Swedenborg to SAS."

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## 1989 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Your initial generous contributions have enabled The Friends to get launched. To continue our important work, we need sustaining support and financial assistance and we invite all our members to renew their memberships.

Please fill out the back page as soon as possible. All checks should be made out to: The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library and sent to P.O. Box 188, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188.

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