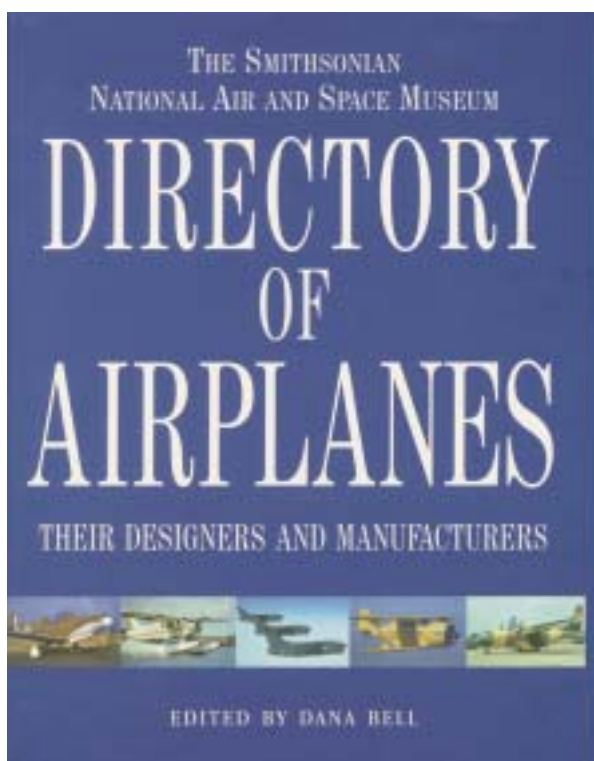


# book reviews

## The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Directory of Airplanes Their Designers and Manufactures

edited by Dana Bell

Price: 25.00  
ISBN: 0 85367 490 7  
Publisher: Greenhill Books



This valuable directory contains a wealth of data on the history of aviation and attempts, for the first time, to identify every active aircraft manufacture and the aircraft they produced. The directory serves as a unique guide to the sheer number and variety of air craft produced in the last hundred years and more than 25,000 different aircraft are included. Naturally these vary from the famous - such as the Supermarine Spitfire family - to the less well-known, such as the Weltensegler Feldberg manufactured in Germany in 1921, the Fawkes Centrifugal Aeroplane of 1909 or the Czech Smolik SM 1.

The directory has thousands of entries with, for each manufacturer or designer, the names of all the classes of aircraft produced. Types of aircraft include airplanes (powered fixed wing); unpowered fixed wing such as gliders; powered-rotor rotorcraft such as helicopters; and unpowered-rotor rotorcraft such as autogyros. entries are cross-referenced and brief histories of important companies have been added to enable the researcher to chart mergers, closures and name changes.

# notices/reunions

## MILITARY AIRSHOW TO STAGE 2003 NATIONAL DEFENCE EVENT

The Royal Air Force has nominated The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), to host a three-day *Defence 2003* event from 18th — 20th July 2003, when the RAF will take the tri-service lead in 'Taking Defence to the Nation'. The Defence 2000 series of events replaces the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court, following a Ministry of Defence decision that called for a more extensive public forum to display the complexity and capability of the UK's modern Armed Forces.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, Chief of The Air Staff, says "The *Defence 2000* series is an exciting development in the presentation of Britain's Armed Services to the nation, and in 2003 the RAF will be proud to act as host for this high-profile occasion. I am also delighted that The Royal International Air Tattoo, for three decades the world's largest and most prestigious military airshow, will provide the venue for *Defence 2003*."

2003 also marks 100 years of powered flight and this momentous anniversary will be celebrated alongside British Forces demonstrating their main role today, expeditionary operations. A fictional trouble spot somewhere in the world will be created on the airfield at RAF Fairford. Spectators will see the planning, equipment and mission expertise of all three Services in a realistic environment, enhanced by big screen coverage of all the action as it unfolds. A century of aviation, and the achievements of aircraft designers and test pilots, will see a living history of period set pieces highlighting aircraft that have pushed back the frontiers of flight.

RIAT Director Paul Bowen says "Most breakthroughs in aeronautical technology can be traced to defence needs, and it could not be more appropriate to link 100 Years of Aviation with *Defence 2003*. We are working closely with the RAF and a special tri-service team to stage next year's most spectacular national event."

Around RIAT and *Defence 2003*, the RAF will be hosting the bi-annual Armed Forces Careers Convention and the Chief of The Air Staff will head a conference of Air Force Commanders from round the world. Finally, it is intended that up to 20,000 young people will attend the RIAT/Defence 2003 preview day on Friday 18th July 2003.

For more information contact:  
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Patti Heady (RIAT PRO) 01285 713300 (x5341)

## ROYAL AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Formed in July 1986, to study the history of Air Power and examine the creation of Military Air Power and studies of various topics including: The strategic bomber offensive, Berlin Airlift, The V Force, The RAF in the Far Eastern War, Falklands and Contemporary Air Power. Lectures, Seminars and Discussions and Journal are held. Self Financing, £15 membership per annum. For more information and an Application Form contact: Dr Jack Dunham, Silverhill House, Coombe, Wotton-u-Edge, Glos, GL12 7ND, Tel: 01453 843362. The central objective of the Society is to bring together those involved in Royal Air Force activities in the past and those concerned today so that we can learn more about its history.

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