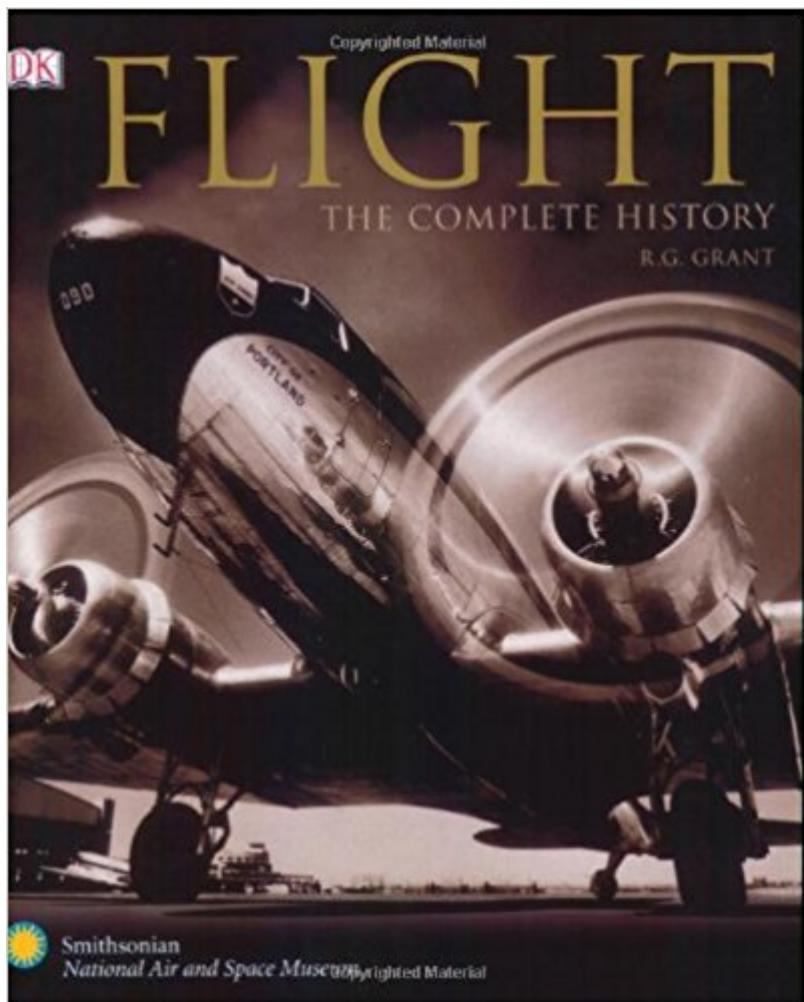


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# Flight: The Complete History



## Synopsis

From the early pioneers to the latest spaceflight technology, this groundbreaking book charts the inspirational story behind humankind's conquest of the skies. In the 100 years since the Wright brothers' first powered flight, aviation has witnessed many memorable events. From record-breaking flights and aerial warfare, to advances in aircraft design and the race for space, Flight covers the most memorable moments in the history of aviation. Describing the feats of the brave men and women who piloted the early flying machines, to the pioneers of long-distance flight and the test pilots who ushered in the jet age, Flight is a gripping narrative of humankind's quest to conquer the skies and explore space. Loaded with spectacular full-color photographs, dramatic first-hand accounts, and fact-filled profiles on a huge range of aircraft, this is an enthralling account of a century of innovation and adventure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Produced in association with the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, this volume of capsule histories and archival images traces the history of flight with all the sepia-toned authority of a public broadcasting documentary. Offering thumbnail profiles of aviation heroes and inventors and a plethora of diagrams and photos, the oversized tome straddles the line between something to put on a coffee table and something to give to a panting, preteen armchair pilot. Sections on space travel, commercial flight and early daredevilry fascinate, but take second stage to the story of flight as it interweaves with a century-long history of war-conflict being the catalyst for much of aviation's greatest innovations and adventures. Most of the book's pages recount bombing

raids and dogfights through the decades, but others showcase popular, pioneering or just plain weird designs (the part-plane, part-car Aerocar, the minuscule Sky Louse, the capsule-shaped Gee Bee Super Sportster and the Caproni Ca 60 Transaero, an eight-engine triplane). This hefty volume is a flight museum sandwiched between two covers: careful, informative and educational-and a bit overwhelming. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This sweeping compendium of milestones in 20th-century aviation history is published in association with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, which may account for its rigorous attention to detail. Grant (The Berlin Wall) offers a wealth of supportive information to complement his engagingly written text. Succinct offset biographies sketch the lives and contributions of aviation's pioneers (both men and women), scientists, promoters, businessmen, barnstormers, racers, designers and manufacturers, aces (from World War I to Vietnam), and astronauts and cosmonauts. Fascinating sidebars also treat early flight, assorted inventions, famous air races (1910-39), the gradual transformation of the role of the fighter pilot, the evolution of aerial weaponry, training programs, navigational technology, aerial exploration, landmark altitude and long-distance flights, Zeppelin travel, power plants, Hitler's jet and rocket programs, the breaking of the sound barrier, the Cold War space race, and America's current shuttle program. The impressive illustrations include over 300 gorgeous, full-color profiles of the world's major military and civilian aircraft and space vehicles. The result is a work of greater overall scope and depth than Bill Gunston's *Aviation: The First 100 Years*. Highly recommended for all military, aviation, and transportation collections and public libraries. John Carver Edwards, Univ. of Georgia Libs., Cleveland Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book is organized as bits and pieces of information and anecdotes sprinkled over the pages. Sounding to be exhaustive but missing some notable information, including- XB-70: One of the most beautiful planes, successful and supersonic, now at the Air Museum in Dayton Ohio.- Civilian passenger planes like the Lockheed Tristar and others- Hezafen Ahmet Celebi: The first man said to have flown with wings from atop Galata tower in Istanbul across the Bosphorus.- Legari Hasan Celebi: Said to have tied up pipes filled with black powder to his body and shot up like a rocket, up to about 30ft and falling into the Marmara Sea, Both events reportedly took place around 1690 at royal circumcision festivities of the children of the Ottoman Sultan. On the positive side the

book contains a lot of interesting information and informative facts. It is a useful book, not meant to read straight through like a novel, but consult now and then, or maybe skip pages and read here and there like a magazine.

I'm an artist and I was looking for an inexpensive book with good reference airplanes pictures. My choice was between this one and DK Smithsonian "Aircraft:the definitive visual history". After reading reviews I bought this one. It was mistake! I am absolutely unhappy with quality of images. I mean they don't have enough contrast in them and to small in size (2 inches long)to see details. Sure, it's a good read, lots of text, paper is good, but images are not so great for what I needed. Also, size of this book is 10"\*8.5" is smaller vs DK Smithsonian "Aircraft" 10"\*12" (I already bought it and it works perfectly for what I needed)

I bought this for my husband. He wasn't into planes until about 3 months ago, so along with all the documentaries he's been watching, this book fits right in and ties the plane technology together with all he's watched in the past few months. My daughter also is in love with the book. She's 2 and considers it bed time, afternoon, and morning reading- move over Good Night Moon. The book is comprehensive and makes planes interesting for even the person not interested (me). I am impressed with the documentation, historical accuracy and pictures. I'm also impressed with the ease of reading. This book is meant for anyone who wants to learn about planes, not just the folks who know all the lingo already. The only thing I was hoping to see more of were pictures of inside the cockpit and all the gadgets, how the cockpit has changed throughout history and what the gadgets do. I have yet to find an all inclusive book that combines this history with a pictorial comparison from the first flight to today of what the pilot and copilot sees from their seat while flying the plane. Aside from this, I couldn't ask for a more comprehensive compilation of material on flight. Kudos to the publisher and authors for continuing to release updated volumes with more current material.

My husband and I fell in love with DK (especially the Smithsonian line) during a trip to the Smithsonian museums. The books are filled with an immense amount of information which is presented in a fascinating, readable way. Of course the author couldn't include absolutely every single detail about the subject at hand, but they still did a wonderful job. The photos are gorgeous and a perfect complement to the information being presented. The books themselves have sturdy binding and stout construction.

I wanted a book about aviation history for my nephew's seventeenth birthday, since he plans to become an aerospace engineer. We have had other books from Dorling Kindersley, so I thought it would be good, but it was even better than I had hoped, filled with an extraordinary wealth of information and pictures. Since it was published several years ago there are a few recent developments that are not included, but I encourage anyone else that has a family member with a desire to know more about aviation history to consider this book for a birthday or Christmas present.

Very nice pictures and drawings. Good historical support.

This is an amazing great big book. There are hundreds of big glossy books of planes and aviation history in bookstores, and with the 100 years of powered controlled flight anniversary, there will no doubt be a few more bowing the shelves. But if you want to buy just one, say for a present, then this is the one to buy. It is balanced, it is complete, it has pictures and text in harmony -- and it is not slapped together like some other slightly embarrassing flying tomes. Over 400 pages perfect for a youngster, yet written well enough for any adult. Is it perfect? No. But 400 pages of perfection would be hard. I would have put in RJ's rather than the F-28 in the current small airliner section, but complaining about a couple of details should not hide the fact that this is one big cool book. Whatever more detailed specialized books about flying you get later, you will not need to get a great big glossy exciting celebration of flight book again. You'll already have one of the best.

Large thick picture book with full story text. Plenty of specs and stats for the aficionado too. Both commercial and military planes on display and discussed. If you've got an interest in aircraft, this is not going to disappoint.

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