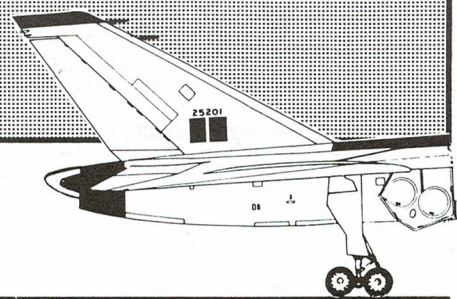


Pre-Flight

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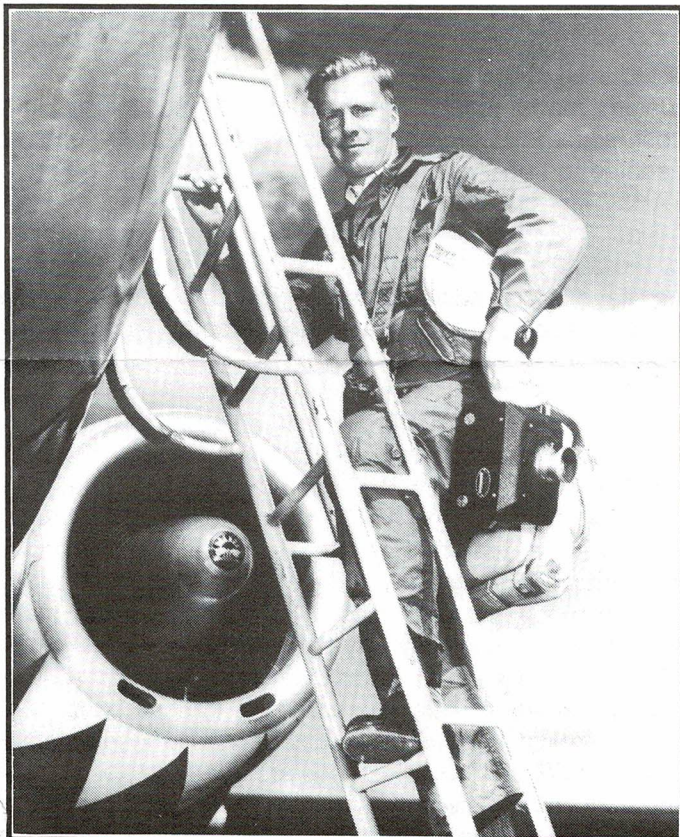
Vol. 9, No. 1

January – February 1998

MacKecknie AVRO Photo Collection Donated to the AHFC

by W. L. Turner, AHFC Director

Hugh MacKecknie (1925 – 1996) was a celebrated Avro Aircraft company photographer of the CF 100 "Canuck", "C 102 "Jetliner and CF 105 "Arrow. Although Verne Morse, official Avro Public Relations photographer and George



Laidlaw, official Avro cine or movie film photographer, contributed greatly to Avro product promotion, it was Hugh's work as official Avro aerial and aviation photographer that actually contributed most Avro news to the public.

At a very special reunion luncheon on March 31, 1997, convened by the original Avro Chief of photography Lou Wise, all the available surviving members of the Photo Department (18 members, 15 spouses and 8 associated guests – including the author) met in one unforgettable session of "Remember When". This was an afternoon commemorating our heritage in the most excellent technological contribution ever achieved in Canada's aerospace history.

It was here, among all the rhetoric, that the germ of the Hugh MacKecknie donation was born. I was seated beside David MacKecknie, Hugh's eldest son. After much discussion of my association with Hugh and the "Arrow" and my promotion of the AHFC, David asked if the AHFC would have an interest in Hugh's collection.

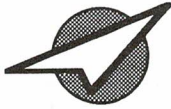
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The Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Canada (AHFC) is a federally-chartered not-for-profit organization. The current emphasis is on Avro and Orenda and the Foundation is actively trying to locate former employees of these companies.

✓ **Western Canada** – please contact:

Michael L. Bullis, 164 Berkshire Close NW,
Calgary AB T3K 1Z4. Phone (403) 274-7497.

Cash donations over \$25.00 and "gifts-in-kind" will be acknowledged by a receipt for income tax purposes. For more information on the AHFC and how to support its activities, please write to:

**The Aerospace Heritage Foundation
of Canada,**

P.O. Box 246, Etobicoke "D"
Etobicoke ON M9A 4X2

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish to thank the many members who have renewed their membership and have generously donated to the Foundation and its activities.

We are fast approaching the 40th Anniversary of the first flight of the Avro Arrow, when we will once again have the opportunity to meet and greet friends and acquaintances. Some will be travelling many miles, from countries like the Netherlands, the USA and of course, from all parts of Canada.

At present, the Toronto Aerospace Museum is increasing its activities and soon will be soliciting for volunteers for its many projects. AHFC will have office space, display area and a small theatre on the second floor. Watch for more information in our next newsletter.

I hope to see many of you at the 40th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, March 21st!

NICHOLAS DORAN

Mackecknie collection, continued:

Through subsequent meetings and phone calls with the luncheon attendees and David, I learned the MacKecknie family desired to perpetuate the memory of Hugh by having his large collection of Avro memorabilia. They also wanted the memorabilia professionally displayed by a reputable aerospace historical organization and the selected agency to provide an exhibit directly acknowledging Hugh's accomplishments in photo recording Canada's most notable aviation era. The AHFC is honoured to be the chosen organization.

Two other events occurred at the luncheon.

1. The special custom-made aerial camera, designed and used by Hugh and considered lost, somehow came out of the woodwork after some 40 years. It was presented to Lou Wise for safekeeping. Perhaps one day it may come to the AHFC?
2. Also present was another well-known aerospace photographer and longtime friend of the author, who promised his large photo collection of early Avro, De Havilland and associated companies aerospace products to me (AHFC), when appropriate storage and display facilities are available.

The Hugh MacKecknie collection includes negatives, prints, large framed photos, slides, commemorative letters and official documentation, aircraft models, newspaper clips and photo awards: an impressive original material collection. The MacKecknie family donation is representative of the types of historical records that the AHFC has endeavoured to locate and promote over the past years. They are glimpses of our aviation heritage – the greatness we once enjoyed before political patronage destroyed Toronto's aerospace pre-eminence forever. There are many similar collections out there, especially physical artifacts that the AHFC hopes will be made available via the AHFC to the public.

It is unfortunate that many archival materials are trashed by families who do not appreciate their members, especially deceased, contributions to Canada's aviation excellence. Such situations are often the result of a lack of knowledge of the historical significance of the member's material, or the inability of surviving family to find the name of a reputable

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MacKecknie collection, continued:

source for material value assessment, like the AHFC. But most often, it is misunderstanding the now defunct "secret" security classification that once surrounded "Arrow things" that intimidates holders of Avro memorabilia.

Regardless of how Avro materials marked "secret" or otherwise were obtained: *the Canadian Government Department of National Defense and the Public Archives "Access to Information" Departments long ago (about mid-1980's) determined that all Avro materials, especially associated with the CF 105 Arrow, that are paper or hardware, were "OPEN" - declassified - to the public. Prior to the now open status, all Avro materials were to be presented to the above federal offices in Ottawa for review and permission to use in the public domain.*

The 40 year old technologies associated with the Avro programs have been completely superseded by modern superior science. The US paranoia of Soviet spies no longer exacerbates Canadian business, and especially since uninhabited combat vehicles (guided surveillance satellites and unmanned rockets) will soon be replacing present manned military vehicles of the future. The expertise of the 1950s is no longer an international threat nor is proprietary now or in the Third Millennium. Even the names "Avro Canada" and "Avro Aircraft" have been sold by owner Magellan Aerospace Corporation to public businesses for commercial exploitation.

Hence, let it again be known that all Avro archival documentation, drawings, artifacts ... are security declassified and considered to be open in the public domain. There will be more information about the MacKecknie Memorabilia donation after the collection has been received and inventoried.

On October 27, 1997 Nick Doran and I travelled to London to finalize negotiations and delivery of the collection being donated to AHFC. It is now in Toronto and is being sorted out, preparatory to professional value assessment.

The evaluations are necessary for two purposes:

1. To complete appropriate income tax rebate documents for presentation to the MacKecknie family.
2. To establish a fair market value for AHFC insurance requirements.

Look for more information about the MacKecknie Memorabilia Collection: content, storage and display in future issues of *Pre-Flight*.



AVRO CANADA – News, November 1950

Men of the Iron Ring



Across the world today, there are about 25,000 Canadians who wear on the little finger of their working hand a wrought iron ring. They belong to a group bound together in a secret ceremony to carry out the highest traditions of the engineering profession. A considerable number of men of the iron ring work at Avro Canada, and typical of their class, they occupy key positions in Canada's new jet aircraft and engine industry. There is no other similar group of men in the world in the engineering profession, although the solemn oath they take before admittance to the group is comparable to the Hippocratic oath of the medical profession. The group is extremely publicity-shy because they fear that their high ideals might suffer in the white glare of publicity. Idea for the group probably originally belongs to Professor-Emeritus H. E. T. Haultain of the Faculty of Applied Science of the University of Toronto, whose friend the writer, Rudyard Kipling, wrote the words of the oath and suggested the form the ceremony was to take. Professor Haultain still takes a very active interest in the group, forging by hand the wrought iron rings which are worn by the members.

Each spring before final examinations, the graduating class of engineers in various Canadian universities undergo the ritual of the calling of an engineer. From time to time, there are other rituals for older engineers. The initiates gather around an anvil, clasing an incomplete wrought iron chain. With appropriate ceremony, the chain is linked, signifying that they are joined together in the oath which they pronounce in unison. They are then given their iron rings. The oath reads as follows:

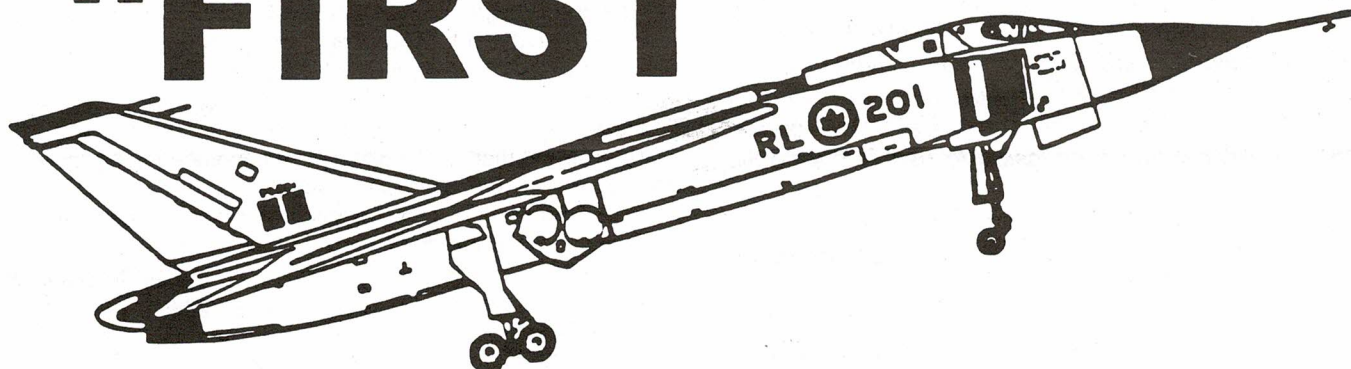
"I ... in the presence of these my betters and my equals in my Calling, bind myself upon my Honour and Cold Iron, that to the best of my knowledge and power, I will not henceforward suffer or pass, or be privy to the passing of Bad Workmanship or Faulty Material in aught that concerns my works before men as an Engineer, or in my dealings with my own Soul before my Maker. My time I will not refuse; my Thought I will not grudge; my Care I will not deny towards the honour, use, stability and perfection of any works to which I may be called to set my hand. My Fair Wages for that work I will openly take. My Reputation in my Calling I will honourably guard; but I will in no way go about to compass or wrest judgment or gratification from anyone with whom I may deal. And further, I will early and warily strive my uttermost against professional jealousy or the belittling of my working brothers in any field of their labour. For my assured failures and derelictions, I ask pardon beforehand of my betters and my equals in my Calling here assembled; praying that in the hour of my weariness, the memory of this my Obligation and of the company before whom it was entered into, may return to me to aid, comfort and restrain."

Thus does our engineering profession get its high ideals.

THE AEROSPACE HERITAGE FOUNDATION
of CANADA

is pleased to present:

"FIRST



FLIGHT"

**For Dinner Guests, ...a chance to win
Two AIR CANADA tickets to anywhere
in North America.**

***Please note that the "Cut-off" date for
reservations has now been extended to
March 19, 1998.***

**If you require a Hotel room, please contact the Holiday Inn
directly at: (416) 674-4340, and mention that your attending
the Aerospace Heritage Foundation "FIRST FLIGHT" Dinner
to get a preferred room rate.**

Do not call the "phonebook" phone number.