

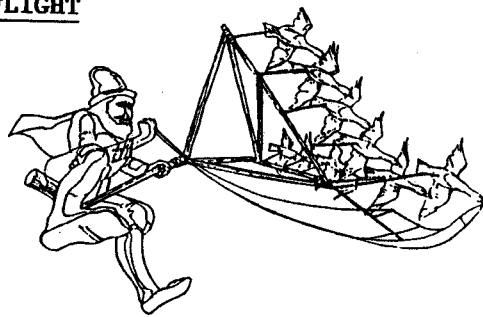
The history of aviation is filled with significant advances which took place in many countries. This is a selection of highlights by one major manufacturer of aircraft. While it is not inclusive, it does define eras.



#1 - GREEK GOD - ICARUS - GREECE

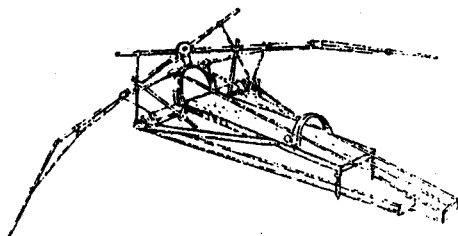
The magical ability to fly was often attributed to the Gods in Greek Mythology and legends. Oriental and Western folklore also abound with stories of magic carpets, witches on broomsticks and other forms of movement through the air.

HISTORY OF FLIGHT



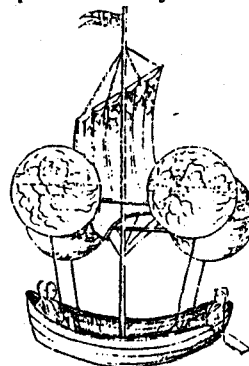
#2 - DOMINGO GONZALES - "Man in the Moon" - ENGLAND

A tale was written in 1638 entitled "The Man in the Moon." The hero supposedly trained a flock of geese to fly him to the moon. Birds and later on fish, inspired man to explore the principles of flight and movements through the air. This is an example of how flight was explored in early literature.



#3 - ORNITHOPTER - LEONARDO DA VINCI - ITALY

One early attempt to construct a flying machine was made by Leonardo da Vinci. It was a flapping wing aircraft, powered by the human body. It was called an ornithopter. The term ornithopter derives its name from the idea of the flapping wings of a bird and was designed around 1500.



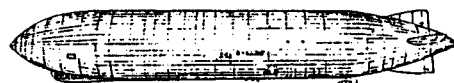
#4 - LIGHTER-THAN-AIR AIRCRAFT - ITALY

The first serious project for a lighter-than-air aircraft was proposed by Francesco de Lana-Terzi in 1670. It was intended that this aircraft be lifted by four thin copper spheres from which all the air had been extracted.



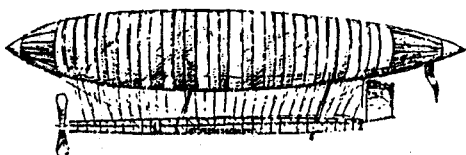
#5 - MONTGOLFIERE BALLOON - FRANCE

The first journey made by man in a balloon occurred in November 1783. The aerial journey was made over Paris by Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier who was accompanied by his companion Marquis d'Arlandes whose job it was to stoke the brazier which produced the hot air to keep the balloon aloft.



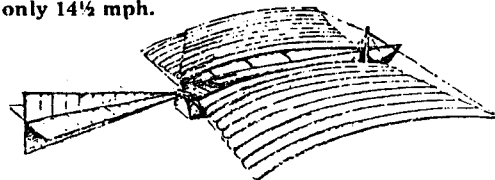
#6 - LA FRANCE AIRSHIP - FRANCE

The La France, built by Renard and Krebs in 1884, was the first airship which could be steered in any direction regardless of the wind. Its insufficient powerplant, electrically driven, had a speed of only 14½ mph.



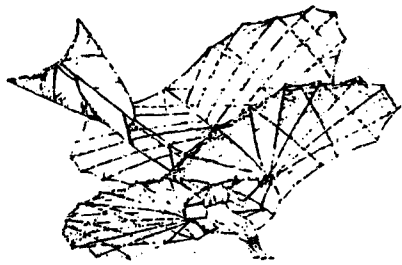
#7 - GRAF ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP - GERMANY

The Graf Zeppelin was the most successful airship ever built. It pioneered passenger travel over the Atlantic long before airplanes were capable of long range flight. Its first flight was in September 1928. The Zeppelin Company, a German firm, built a series of airships between 1900 and 1936 which made their own contribution to aviation history including aerial cruises and reconnaissance flights between Europe, North and South America. After nearly 10 decades of service the Zeppelin Company retired these airships from service.



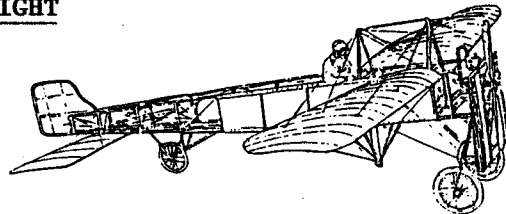
#8 - CAYLEY'S FIRST AIRPLANE - ENGLAND

Sir George Cayley is known as the "Father of Aerial Navigation." In 1799 he designed the first airplane with wings, fuselage, tail unit and a means of propulsion. In 1804 he flew the first successful model airplane which had a kite-shaped wing mounted on a pole with a universally-jointed tail unit. The modern airplane has a similar configuration.



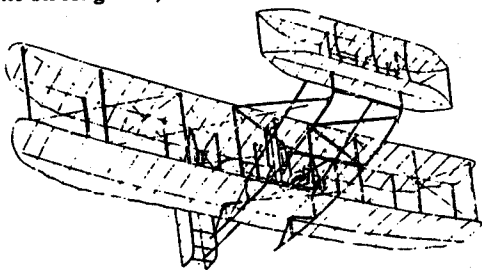
#9 - OTTO LILIENTHAL GLIDER - GERMANY

Gliding by definition means to move smoothly, and continuously. As man watched birds such as the albatross and gull, he observed their ability to soar for long periods without the need to flap their wings. To some it was a mystery but to others who understood the movements of the air, its cooling and heating, it was an incentive to design a device, heavier than air, with no power source, which could move through the air like a bird. This device is known as a glider. One of the great pioneers of gliding was Otto Lilienthal. Although he was successful in pioneering the art of gliding, he lost control, crashed and died on a flight on August 9, 1896.



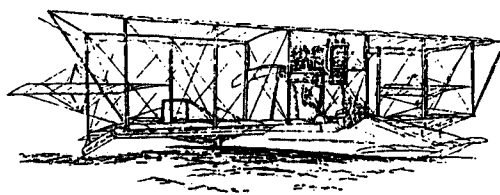
#11 - BLEROIT XI MONOPLANE - FRANCE

The future potential of the airplane was realized when Louis Bleriot flew his XI monoplane across the English Channel in 1909. The airplane for the first time had penetrated natural and political barriers. Britain could no longer feel secure and rely only on the Royal Navy.



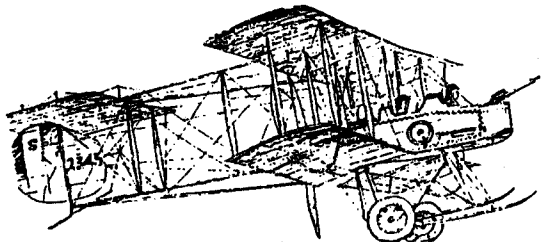
#10 - "THE FLYER" - ORVILLE AND WILBUR WRIGHT - U.S.A.

Although there is some controversy over the first powered, sustained and controlled flight of an airplane, Orville and Wilbur Wright are generally accepted as the first men to accomplish this dream. On December 17, 1903, they made four flights on the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in the aircraft they called "The Flyer."



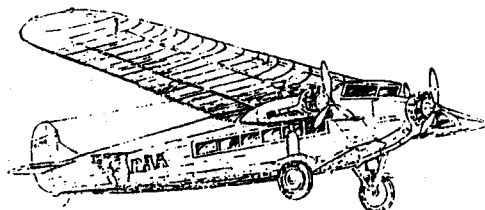
#12 - FIRST SEAPLANE - HENRI FABRE - FRANCE

Although the first seaplane was built and flown by Henri Fabre in 1910 at Martigues, France, the really great pioneer of marine flying was Glen Curtiss of the United States. In 1911 he fitted floats to one of his sturdy pusher biplanes and flew it off the water. His contributions to marine flying include flying boats and airplanes which could take off and land on a ship.



#13 - VICKERS GUNBUS - ENGLAND

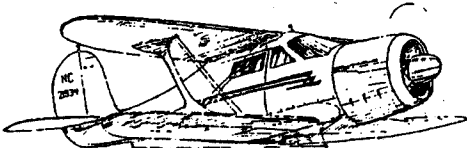
Until 1914, the airplane had no military use except for reconnaissance. As the war progressed the manufacturers were pressed to equip airplanes with guns, bombs and torpedos. This had been accomplished by 1914. In England alone the defense industry employed 250,000 turning out 30,000 airplanes a year, all for war.



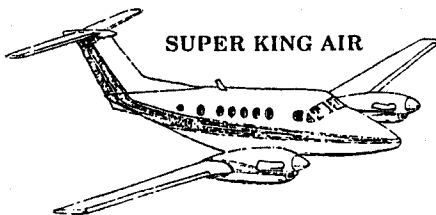
#14 - F.X. TRIMOTOR - U.S.A.

The world's first airline services were in a dirigible in 1910. With the advances in aircraft design brought about by war, the enclosed cabin airplane became the standard for commercial airline travel by the early 1920's.

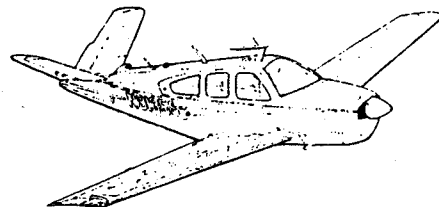
STAGGERWING



SUPER KING AIR



BONANZA



#15 - GENERAL AVIATION

For many years small airplanes were used for recreation and pleasure almost exclusively. In the gradual evolution of the uses of the airplane, the awareness of its use as a business tool became more pronounced. However, until 1932, small airplanes had open cockpits and poor weather restricted their use. In 1932 the first Beechcraft Staggerwing was built and was distinctive for its enclosed cabin, staggered wings and high performance engine. With this airplane Walter Beech launched the Beech Aircraft Corporation. The airplane as a business tool now comprises approximately 70% of all flying. Widely used for business purposes and in continuous production since 1945, the Beechcraft Bonanza has been one of the most popular and reliable airplanes in the industry. The Beechcraft Super King Air 200 is used almost exclusively for business purposes and is the largest and most powerful of all Beechcrafts.