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Conference Commemorates Diamond Jubilee of Powered Flight

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 6, 1978 --- A two-day conference on the design of past and future aircraft will be held at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum December 14 and 15. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics is sponsoring the program, in cooperation with the Air Force Museum and the University of Dayton School of Engineering.

The conference will commemorate the diamond jubilee of the first powered flight, which took place 75 years ago December 17. Sessions on the Evolution of Aircraft Design will cover the first three 25-year periods of aircraft design—including the Wright Brothers' contributions—and another will look at design trends in the next 25 years, one being the space shuttle.

Engineers and designers from Lockheed, Boeing, Rockwell, McDonnell-Douglas, U.S. Air Force, and NASA, who are recognized nationally and internationally for their contributions to aircraft design will speak. Some examples of the aircraft being discussed will be on display at the museum.

Paul E. Garber, historian emeritus of the National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., will describe the Wright Brothers' contributions to airplane design. And Owen F. Clarke, executive director of the San Diego Aerospace Museum will talk about design aspects of the Spirit of St. Louis.

Malcolm E. Oleson, who was project engineer on the DC-3, DC-4 and DC-6, will review Douglas transport aircraft from 1928 to 1953. Sergei Sikorsky will describe helicopter developments and Richard L. Foss of Lockheed will discuss the evolution of fighter aircraft from propellers to jets.

In the third session, Ron Smith of NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., will describe the "X" series of research aircraft. Consultant Pierre M. Sprey will talk on fighters from the F-100 to the F-18. Paul H. Poberenzy, president of the Experimental Aircraft Association, will speak on home-built and experimental aircraft, and Ronald Neal (formerly with Learjet) will cover the business jet field.

Speaker at the conference banquet December 14 at Stouffer's Dayton Plaza Hotel will be F.A. Cleveland, national president of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

For information about registration, call Dr. Jay Pinson, UD School of Engineering, 229-2241.

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Information Services/Richard T. Ferguson, director/University of Dayton/Dayton, Ohio 45469/(513) 229-3241