

History

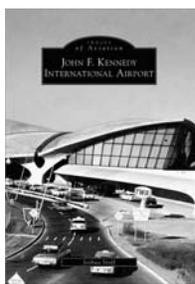
Images of Aviation: John F. Kennedy International Airport

By Joshua Stoff

Arcadia Publishing, 127 pages, \$21.99

John F. Kennedy International Airport opened in 1948, after the realization that the newly built LaGuardia Airport was unable to handle the volume of air traffic for New York City. Pushed through by New York's Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, the airport is strategically located 14 miles from Manhattan, in Jamaica Bay, Queens, on the site of the old Idlewild Golf Course.

For its first years, Idlewild Airport, as it was originally known, and then as New York International Airport, consisted of a low-budget temporary terminal and a series of Quonset huts. A major new building program began in the mid-1950s, and the airport rapidly changed from a ramshackle series of buildings into a glamorous-looking city. Renamed John F. Kennedy International Airport in 1963, it has grown to cover 5,000 acres, a third of the size of Manhattan.



Many of the photographs in this book came from the extensive archives of the Cradle of Aviation Museum, as well as the once-magnificent archives of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which were sadly lost in the attacks of September 11, 2001. Fortunately, these representative photographs, many of which have never been published, were copied prior to those attacks and were saved. Additional documentary photographs taken by Tyler Stoff, as well as those culled from other sources, present a then-and-now gallery of images of the evolving airport from a sandy and marshy land to a bustling American gateway. As part of the Images of Aviation series that celebrates the history of flight—from the early experimental, lighter-than-air craft to modern commercial, military, and private air machines, *Images of Aviation: John F. Kennedy International Airport* is filled with interesting and valuable historical images and factual documentary information. It should be because Joshua Stoff, the author, is an aviation historian and the curator of the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

However, this type of pictorial book could have been a far superior popular and engaging reference if professional attention was properly paid to the size, format, paper, printing process, as well as the layout and design. Inclusion of historical and up-to-date illustrations, pictographs and graphic visuals could also have enhanced the use and value to the book. Surely a magnificently designed airport such as JFK deserves to be presented in a book that is designed to be just as magnificent. Sadly, Joshua Stoff's book is not. Attention should have been given not just to the contents but to its design, packaging and presentation as well.

Its redemption is only in its well-researched information that individually captions the breadth and depth of historical and rare documentary photos.

Reviewed by Dominique James

The Candy Bombers: The Untold Story of the Berlin Airlift and America's Finest Hour

By Andrei Cherny

Caliber, 624 pages, \$18.00

Now in paperback, this highly acclaimed chronicle of the Soviet blockade of Berlin and the American-led airlift brings the post-War years to life. Author Andrei Cherny, editor of the journal *Democracy*, profiles the personalities, policies, and politics that swirled around war-torn Berlin in *The Candy Bombers*. This tightly written account reveals the struggle for the fate of Berlin as the accord between Britain, France, and America and Russia—former Allies—dissolved into discord over the spread of Communism. There is much more to this book than just the story of American pilots who, during the year-long blockade, parachuted tons of bundles of candy over Berlin. In fact, a good two thirds of the book is spent setting the stage for "Operation Little Vittles," which served not only to help feed Berlin's starving children, but also restored morale and helped forge new, lasting bonds between America and Germany—and secured America's role as a superpower. This fast-paced history reads like a well-written novel, although at times Cherny's language is a little florid and heavy on the similes. Replete with information from recently unclassified documents, letters, diaries, and interviews, *The Candy Bombers* is an absorbing piece of history and colorful storytelling.

Reviewed by Kelli Christiansen

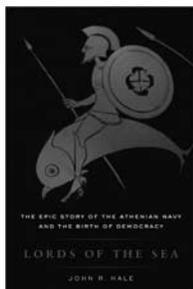
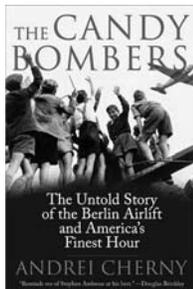
Lords of the Sea: The Epic Story of the Athenian Navy and the Birth of Democracy

By John R. Hale

Viking, 395 pages, \$29.95

In this account, John R. Hale of the University of Louisville gives us an institutional history of the Athenian Navy. Hale's central argument is that the success of the navy made Athens's golden age and its democratic system of government possible.

Hale has a persuasive and convincing case. The navy influenced Athenian society in profoundly basic ways. Much of the literature and architecture of this era was associated with success of the military.



SBR REVIEWER SPOTLIGHT

Dominique James

Dominique James is a professional photographer, writer and graphic designer based in New York City.

In the span of more than 20 years, he has photographed countless famous individuals from Asia and other parts of the world, such as celebrated entertainment personalities and top fashion models, as well as high-ranking politicians and prominent socialites. In addition, he has done numerous commercial, advertising, and corporate photography. Some of his international clients include Avon, Apple, Epson, Fuji, and Nikon.

Dominique also regularly conducts popular models and photographers workshops. Frequently, he serves as a judge and a consultant to photography contests, model searches, beauty tilts, and talent competitions.

To date, he has presented more than 50 one-man and group photography exhibits. While he is best known for his celebrity portraits, his scope of work is diverse: it includes cutting-edge fashion, product, food, travel, landscape, architectural, interior, and adventure photography for advertising, commercial, corporate, entertainment, fashion, and media use.

Please go to www.flickr.com/photos/dominiquejames to view some of his works and projects. Also, please visit www.dominiquejames.com for more information or send email to djphotographer@mac.com for inquiries.



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The navy itself was far more democratic in its structure than the Athenian Army with its hoplites and cavalry, because it had to be. This book is primarily about war, but given the point he is trying to make, Hale includes a good deal of description about the social, political, and intellectual life of Athens. Combat operations, though, are the central element of his account. Hale has a good topic and writes in an engaging fashion. Although some of the battles begin to blend together, one of the things that strikes the non-specialist is the amount of detail that the author has to offer his reader and that has survived for 2,000 years.

Although Athens suffered defeat at the hands of Sparta in the Peloponnesian Wars, Hale continues his narrative for another eight decades. It was only with the rise of the Macedonians under the leadership of Philip II and later his son, Alexander the Great, that brought the reign of the world's first great naval power to an end.

Reviewed by Nicholas Evan Sarantakes

The Devil's Tickets

By Gary M. Pomerantz

Publishers, 300 pages, \$26.00

The central story of *The Devil's Tickets* reads straight from the script of *Chicago*—a pretty murderess whose slick lawyer defends her life. Though the murder of Jack Bennett by his neglected wife Myrtle is ripped from the headlines, much of the drama and action is fulfilled by the two other stories Pomerantz tells: the megalomaniac bridge-whiz Ely Culbertson and the charismatic ex-Senator Jim Reed. And even more than that, *The Devil's Tickets* is less a story

of scandal than a slice of American history from the earliest years of the Depression. Pomerantz uses the unique narrative device of switching between the somewhat tenuous threads linking all three stories (Reed does represent Myrtle in court, but his story doesn't mesh with hers) in every chapter, and filling the latter half of the book with his personal search for Myrtle and the true story behind the 1929 murder of her husband. While taken separately, each story is arresting, but the erratic weaving of them together fills the story with too many emotionless holes. The end of the story is rather lackluster as Pomerantz's own discoveries of the personalities of each player changes the perception of them as seen in the first half of *The Devil's Tickets*. The book is readable and dramatic, but it isn't very well put together, nor are the conclusions drawn by the author very believable.

Reviewed by Angela Tate

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