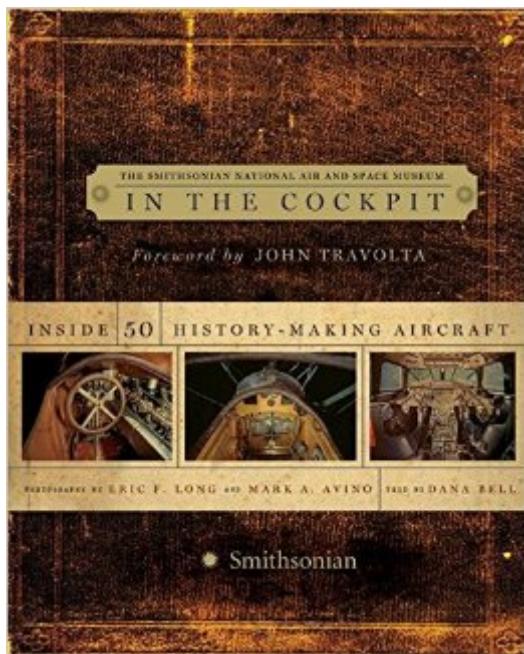


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# In The Cockpit: Inside 50 History-Making Aircraft



## Synopsis

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum holds the country's premier collection of historic aircrafts, but visitors must view these impressive structures at a distance. In the Cockpit captures the feeling of helming these historic craft with big, gorgeous four-color photographs that will give flight enthusiasts a true pilot's eye view of many of history's most important domestic and military airplanes, jets, and helicopters. Each entry includes archival images of the craft and authoritative text that places each one in the context of the development of aviation technology and world history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are some wonderful flight sims out there. You can sit at your PC and fly all sorts of aircraft. Not too bad, huh? With most of these sims you can see the controls. Sometimes the controls are rendered quite faithfully, at other times you get a generic rendition. In this book, however, you'll find that other than for WW I craft, interiors get very complex indeed. 50 aircraft interiors are covered here--lots of well-done full-color photographs. With the Halberstadt CL IV in 1917 you get a spartan cockpit--about a half-dozen gauges and a handful of switches and levers. It shouldn't be too hard remembering which is which. Taking off, flying, and landing, well, that's different. The 1937 Piper Cub--still quite simple. The 1927 Lockheed Vega--maybe 15 gauges, and 20 levers. The Hurricane of WW II begins to look quite a bit more intimidating: the Corsair takes another jump in complexity. The MiG-15 begins to look desparingly difficult (yet pilots regularly flew it). The Concorde looks as if

it might require its own 250-page section in a flight sim manual. Leave the actual flying to others--while you browse this delightful book!

This book is beautiful! I saw it at Borders today. Even if you are not interested in cockpits you should pick up this book. Cockpits are interesting and these are some of the most famous aircraft of all time. BEAUTIFUL photography. In addition to the photos I really enjoyed the nostalgic look and feel to the book. A very cool book indeed by two of the world's best aircraft photographers. No wonder they work at the Smithsonian...David Palermo

I purchased this book for my husband for Christmas and he has thoroughly enjoyed the book. He is a former pilot (retired) so he had a "built-in" interest. There were so many cockpits he had not seen and he enjoyed seeing and reading about each. I highly recommend this book for anyone with a pilot in their family.

My father was absolutely delighted with this book! He's a Navy veteran and worked at airports for many years. He loves it. Update to previous review: I bought this for my dad 9 months ago and just got notified today that someone said this review helped them, which was remarkably timely. I'm adding this update to my previous post to say that, only a few days ago, he told me he came across an old film from the 40s on Turner Classic Movies that featured an account of the real inaugural flight of one of the planes in this book. He was so excited and overwhelmed with emotion by the film (he's 82 and getting very sentimental about those early years in his life; he watches TV all day but never talks about being so moved by anything). Then, he told me he went looking in this book for that plane and found it. He got tearful and emotional just telling me about how much joy and pleasure he got from that. My dad has anything he wants, so it's hard to find things that are meaningful to him. Finding this book to give him has been a wonderful experience for both of us. It's such a beautiful and informative book. If you or whom you're buying it for care about this topic, I can't recommend it more highly.

Beautiful book. The cover looks like leather, the book's quality reminds you of an antique book. The photographs are excellent and extremely detailed. I purchased it for a nephew who is really into WWII planes, trains and ships. For a historical aircraft lover it's a perfect gift. I only read a page or two, so I can not comment on the writing, but I believe the real beauty is in the photographs. Even someone who has little interest in aircraft found the pictures compelling.

This book is unique in that it covers just about the history of cockpit design and function. The amazing part is that for any one born in 1903 with a life expectancy of 75 years or so he or she was a witness to the marvelous achievement as to aviation and space travels. In 66 years we went from the fragile machine of the Wright brothers to men on the moon with almost routine space flights.

Being hung up on internal details I really liked this book. It is a treasure trove for cockpit color data. Favorites are the He 219 Ki-45, Ju 388 and FJ-1. Ideal for modelers and armchair aeronauts.

Bought for my pilot husband. He enjoyed the pictures and the history behind the different planes. It is hard to believe how much aviation has changed so this really enlightened us all - especially from the pilot perspective!

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