

Musée
de l'air et de l'espace
Aéroport Paris Le Bourget



Press Release

Le Bourget, June 2009



Aircraft from the 100 years of the Air Museum!

As the 48th International Air and Space Show opens its doors, 100 years have passed since the 1st “International Air Locomotion Exhibition” at the Grand Paris, on the Champs Elysées. **Most of the planes that have graced the biannual show held at Le Bourget since the 1951 show are now displayed at the French Air and Space Museum.**

For the centenary, thirty of these treasures have been showcased in an exhibition that covers the whole of the Museum. Inaugurated on the same day as the show, on 15 June, volunteer professionals will guide visitors along the “Centennial Path” and bring back to life these fabulous machines, built and piloted by exceptional men and women.

Here's a close up of some of the “stars”, each having graced the famous air show and now put in context with other examples from the museum, all authentic:

The **Demoiselle** was presented for the first time at the 1908 Car Show, in the « air things » section. The museum's aircraft was piloted by its designer, Santos-Dumont, in Saint-Cyr in 1909.

Displayed at the 1909 and 1910 shows, the **Blériot XI** received all the honours in the summer of 2009, the centenary—another—of the first Channel crossing. The museum's aircraft is the one in which Adolphe Pégoud flew the world's first loop-the-loop.

The **Farman 60 Goliath** was exhibited in 1921 for the 7th “air show”. It performed the first commercial Paris-London flight in 1919. The Air Museum has the only existing fuselage.

The Breguet 19 “Point d’Interrogation” was at the 1928 and 1930 shows. This famous red airplane is one of the museum’s stars. It was on board this plane in 1930 that Costes and Bellonte made the first North Atlantic “Le Bourget-New York” crossing, against the prevailing winds.

The **Supermarine Spitfire**, a warbird also known as the “Spit”, was exhibited at the 1938 show. It was the hero of the Battle of Britain. The museum’s exhibit was given to France by the British government to honour the members of the French Air Forces.

Concorde appeared at the 1969 show, some months after the first test flight by André Turcat on 2 March. The supersonic took 3 hours and 30 minutes to fly from Paris to New York, at 15,000 meters altitude with 100 passengers on board. The museum is the only one in the world that owns two Concorde: the prototype 001 that made the maiden flight and Air France’s “Sierra Delta” that was operating until 31 May 2003.

The 27 airplanes of the Centennial Path and where to find them in the exhibition:

Grand Gallery: Demoiselle, Voisin-Farman, Blériot XI, Levasseur Antoinette, Bébé Nieuport, Breguet XIV, Caudron G3.

Saint-Exupéry Hall: Farman Goliath, Potez 25, Bernard 191 “Oiseau Canari”, Breguet 19 “Point d’Interrogation”, Caudron Simoun.

2nd World War Hall: Dewoitine D520, Supermarine Spitfire.

Prototype Hall: SO 6000 Triton, Leduc 010, Fouga Magister, Mystère IV A, Alouette II, Caravelle, Atar Volant C400 P2, Dassault Mirage G8-0.1

Rosette Hall: Dassault MD-450 Ouragan, Dassault Mirage F-1C Cristal.

Concorde Hall: Dassault Mirage IVA, Concorde.

Tarmac : Boeing 747

Ten years younger than the event that takes place every two years on its tarmac, the French Air and Space Museum is celebrating its 90th birthday in 2009. It is one of the oldest aviation conservatories in the world.

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All the current events at: www.museedelair.org