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## **Air France Menu Collection SDASM.SC.10002**

Finding aid prepared by Jenna L. Shaeffer, Stephania Villar  
San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives  
2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park  
San Diego, CA, 92101  
(619) 234-8291  
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**Title:** Air France Menu Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** SDASM.SC.10002

**Contributing Institution:** San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.17 Cubic feet1 manuscript box

**Date (inclusive):** 1933-1970

**Abstract:** This collection contains menus from Air France flights between Paris and Los Angeles and between Paris and Buenos Aires during the 1980s.

**Language of Materials note:** English and French

**Biographical/Historical note**

Air France was formed on October 7, 1933 from a merger of Air Orient, Air Union, Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne (CIDNA), and Société Générale de Transport Aérien (SGTA). In June 1945 French civil aviation was nationalized and, at the end of 1945, the entire French air transport network was entrusted to Air France. In 1946, the Paris to New York route was officially inaugurated.

In 1990, the airline acquired the operations of French domestic carrier Air Inter and international rival UTA - Union des Transports Aériens. Air France served as France's primary national flag carrier for seven decades prior to its 2003 merger with KLM. Between April 2001 and March 2002, the airline carried 43.3mn passengers and had a total revenue of €12.53bn. In November 2004, Air France ranked as the largest European airline with 25.5% total market share, and was the largest airline in the world in terms of operating revenue.

The Air France Special Collection contains menus, mostly in French and English, given on flights from Paris to Los Angeles, and also from Buenos Aires to Paris. The menus and their special presentation were in commemoration of the bicentenary of the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. The Bastille was a fortress and prison, the fall of which is widely considered the start of the French Revolution. Other menus feature images of various model aircraft.

**Conditions Governing Access note**

The collection is open to the public by appointment.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

For copyright and use information, please contact the library director.

**Preferred Citation note**

[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository "San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives"]

**Related Archival Materials note**

Digitized images from this collection can be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/sets/72157633109595037/>

Related SDASM Collections: Affiches, Posters, Air France, 1933-1983 / Jérôme Peignot: O/S N 8217 .A4 .P45 1988

 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/sets/72157633109595037>

**Scope and Contents note**

One box, 12" x 2.5" x 10.5". The Air France Special Collection contains menus, mostly in French and English, the majority given on flights from Paris to Los Angeles, and also one (1) from Buenos Aires to Paris, all in the 1980s. Eight (8) of the menus are in commemoration of the bicentenary of the storming of Bastille in 1789. Other menus contain images of models of different types of aircraft used by Air France as well as featured art work. There are 34 items in the collection, not including duplicates.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Aeronautics, Commercial

Air France

Airline menus

Airlines

Food

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**Folder 01 - Menus Bicentenary of the Storming of the Bastille**

**Abstract:** Contains 8 menus from the Paris to Los Angeles with Bicentennial Bastille replicated medal on the cover, each with differing captions and engravings depicting scenes from the French Revolution.

**Folder 02 - Inserts & Menus**

**Abstract:** Containing 15 unique items including short menus, inserts describing the artistists (Guy Arnoux & "N. Gérale") whose work is depicted, and long menus, featuring photos of various French model aircraft, as well as a specialty menus for a reception: "Air France: Orient/Extrême-Orient."

**Folder 03 - Menus**

**Abstract:** 11 menus depicting various French model aircraft on the covers.