Descriptive Finding Guide for

Air France Menu Special Collection

San Diego Air & Space Museum Library and Archives
San Diego, California 92101

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History

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.

Scope and Contents

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.

**Related SDASM Collections:**

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**Important Personalities & Subjects**

Air France; Airliner; Aviation Art; Bertrand Andrieu; Bicentenary of the Bastille; Bicentennial of the French Revolution; Bleriot; Breguet; Caudron; Commercial Aviation; English (language); Food; French (language); General Aviation; Guy Arnoux; Junkers; Liore et Olivier; Los Angeles, CA; Lucien Boucher; Menu; Nieuport; Paris, France; Food

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**Content & Series Description**

There is no series description for this collection. The collection contains an assortment of menus.

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**Box Listing**

**Box 1 of 1**

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

1. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bicentennial replicated medal on front “La Bataille de Valmy”
2. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bicentennial replicated medal on front “La Convention”
3. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bicentennial replicated medal on front “La Convocation des États Généraux”
5. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bicentennial replicated medal on front “Le Siège de la Bastille”
7. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bicentennial replicated medal on front “Le Comité de Salut Public”
Folder 02 – Inserts & Menus

1. Insert: Art of Guy Arnoux, Messageries Aériennes, Paris to Los Angeles in Boeing 747
2. Insert: N. Gérale art, Air France with Bloch, DeWoitine, and Liore et Olivier aircraft, Paris to Los Angeles
3. Menu: Banquet and reception “Air France: Orient/Extrême-Orient” held at Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles, California
4. Menu: Buenos Aires to Paris with Liore et Olivier, Wibault, and DeWoitite aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
5. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Latécoère Laté and Laté aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions (2 copies)
6. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Latécoère Laté and Laté aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
7. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Junkers, and SNCase aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
8. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Breguet, Bleriot, and Salaison aircraft on cover, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
9. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Douglas aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
10. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Liore et Olivier, Wibault, and DeWoitine aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
11. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Caudron, Potez, and Nieupor aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions (2 copies)
12. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Latécoère Laté and Cams aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
13. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Nieupor and Cams aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
14. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Cams, Farman, and Lioré et Olivier aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
15. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Liore et Olivier aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions

Folder 03 – Menus

1. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bloch and DeWoitine aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
2. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Potez and Breguet aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
3. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Potez and Breguet aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
4. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Couzinet, Potez, and Fokker aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
5. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Latécoère and Couzinet aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
6. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Latécoère and Couzinet aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
7. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Bloch and DeWoitine aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
8. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Lioré et Olivier and Farman aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
9. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Farman F 60 and Lioré et Olivier aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
10. Short Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Farman F 60 and Lioré et Olivier aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions
11. Menu: Paris to Los Angeles with Cams, Farman, and Lioré et Olivier aircraft on front, small insert included of chef’s suggestions