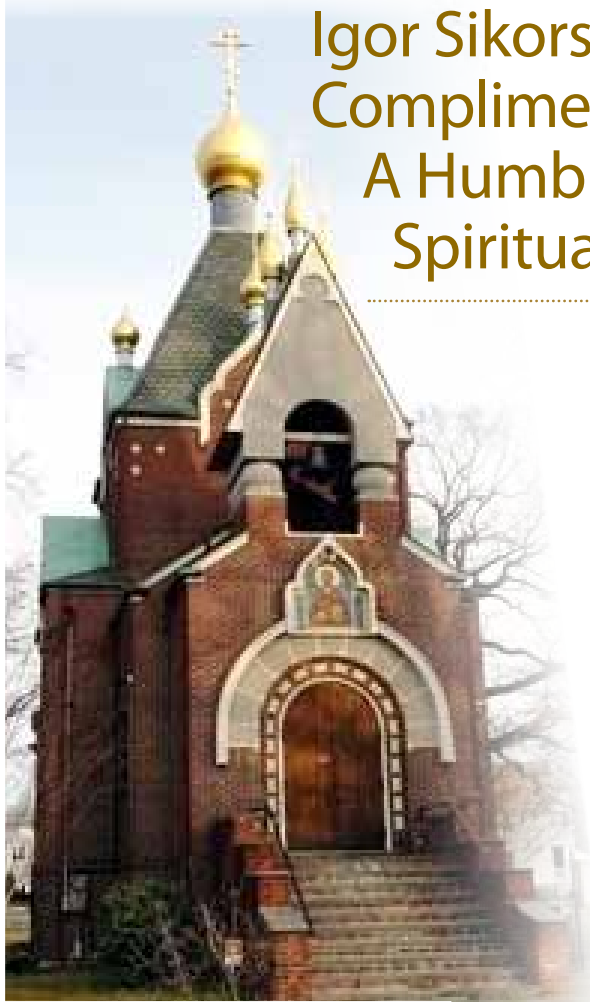




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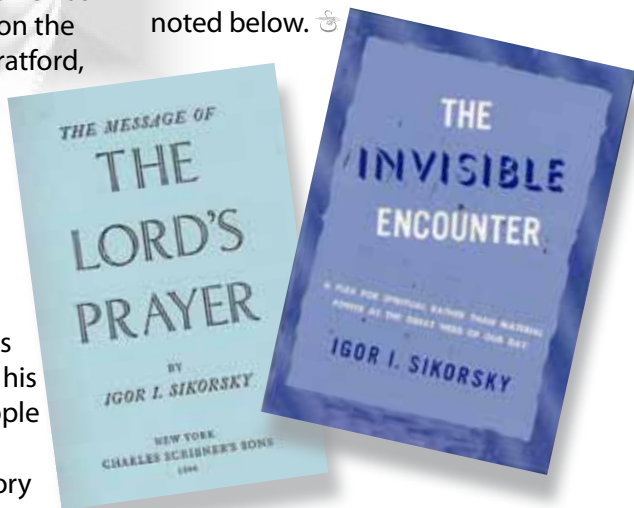
# Igor Sikorsky's Inventive Genius Was Complimented By His Human Compassion, A Humble Personality, And A Strong Spiritual Approach To Life.



*St. Nicholas Church, Stratford, CT*

**I**his issue is devoted to exploring the man behind the aviation genius of Igor Sikorsky. He has left a significant mark on the world as well as the Stratford, CT community, where he chose to expand his business ventures and make his home. His human attributes and philosophical approach to life are revealed in his writings and commentary from his associates and the people who knew him best. Sergei Sikorsky's memory of his father and writings

are reflected in this newsletter. The Sikorsky publications mentioned can be accessed from the archive website noted below. ☺



*S-21*



*S-42*



*S-46 (VS-300)*

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## Igor Sikorsky Was a Reflection of His Heritage and Experiences in life

Igor Sikorsky's ancestors can be traced to the reign of Peter the Great, 1672 to 1725. The first was a Russian Orthodox priest, Gregory Sikorsky (circa 1705 to 1760). His son, also a priest, was Alexei Gregorovich Sikorsky (circa 1740 to 1785). Both were already established somewhere in south-western Russia. Earliest firm date is Ivan Alexei'vich Sikorsky (1772 to 1862), then Alexei Ivanovich Sikorsky (1806 to 1870). Alexei served in the village church of Antonovka, in the province of Kiev. Ivan Alexei'vich Sikorsky (Igor Sikorsky's father) was born in Antonovka in 1842. At the age of nine, he was placed in a junior seminary in Kiev to study for the priesthood. At the age of twenty, he quit the senior seminary and passed the University of Kiev's

entrance examination with such a high score that he was accepted on the spot and awarded a special scholarship. His brilliant career as a physician, pioneering psychiatrist and professor at the University of Kiev is a matter of record. Ivan Sikorsky was the first to break with tradition by not becoming a Russian Orthodox priest. He lived to see his son become Russia's leading aircraft designer and pilot, and passed away peacefully in early 1919. Igor Sikorsky's humbleness and soft spoken humor is apparent when he responded to questions regarding his roots, he would answer: "My family is of Russian origin. My grandfather and other ancestors from the time of Peter the Great were Russian Orthodox priests.▼"

### Igor Sikorsky's Father, Mother, Three Sisters and Older Brother



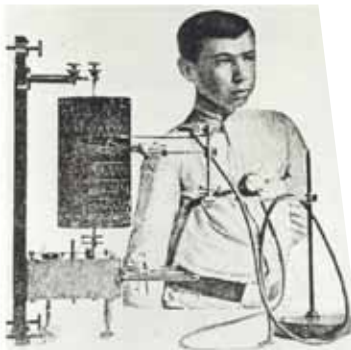
Ivan



Zinaida



Sikorsky Family Home ▶



▶ Igor at 12 using a vintage blood pressure measuring device

Consequently, the Russian nationality of the family must be considered as well established". In his autobiography, "The Story of the Winged S", he wrote, "I was born on May 25th, 1889, in Kiev, situated in south western Russia."

Igor Sikorsky grew up surrounded by a loving family of three sisters, an older brother and well educated parents. His mother was a graduate medical student who opted to raise the family. They lived in a three story home in Kiev, devoting a section of the house to a

school for children with special needs.

With the guidance of his mother and father, Igor developed an interest in reading and learning about the new developments in science exploration as well as futuristic fiction. He was intrigued with the writings of Leonardo Da Vinci and Jules Verne. Vacations to countries in Europe exposed him to airships in Germany and aircraft pioneers in France. His advanced formal education was at the St. Petersburg Naval Academy and the Polytechnic Institute in Kiev. ☺



Young Igor's interests included Da Vinci's Flying Helix and Verne's Rotor Driven Flying Machine ▶





## Igor Sikorsky, A Man of Principal, Humbleness and Human Compassion

Igor Sikorsky's eldest son Sergei, authored a special edition article in memory of his dad on the occasion of the thirteenth anniversary of his passing on October 26, 1972. In it, he discusses his father's early years in Russia and the revolution that resulted in Sikorsky immigrating to the United States. Sergei summarized his father's world acclaimed achievements in Russian and United States aviation, as well as his human attributes.

Portions of Sergei's publication devoted to his father's wisdom, humbleness, human attributes, plus his father's philosophical and theology publications, reveals the true personality of Igor Sikorsky, Igor Sikorsky was a polite and pleasant person who impressed those who met him by his charm and old-world manners. However, beneath the surface, there were a number of hidden characteristics. First, was his love of flying. It drew him to aviation at an early age, and it never lost its appeal. Those who flew with him often marveled at the ease with which he would get the "feel" of an aircraft within a few minutes. He could predict the handling qualities of many aircraft simply by looking at them and he was very seldom wrong in his judgment.

Another part of him can best be described as being the "Renaissance Man". One could talk with him about science, history, astronomy, religion, or most any subject. He was deeply religious, but comfortably so, believing that there was much truth in all religions, if one knew where to look. Perhaps his good friend Charles Lindbergh, best described the mixture of scientist and philosopher in Igor Sikorsky in the following words: "When I start to write about Igor, it is hard to know where to begin, for he was such a great man and his life covered such a broad expanse of the intellectual, material and spiritual worlds. I know of no man who so merged these worlds together or who could so move from one to the other to the benefit of all. His scientific designs gained from his spiritual awareness just as his spiritual awareness was enhanced by his scientific knowledge, and he understood

**"The thing that is remarkable about Igor Sikorsky, is the great precision in his thought and speech, combined with an extraordinary soaring beyond facts..."**



▲ Last photo of Igor Sikorsky in his office on October 10, 1972

as few men do the essential relationships involved."

Charles Lindbergh's wife Anne described Igor Sikorsky's personality with the following statement: "The thing that is remarkable about Igor Sikorsky, is the great precision in his thought and speech, combined with an extraordinary soaring beyond facts. He can soar out with the mystics and come right back to the practical, to daily life and people. He never excludes people. Sometimes the religious-minded exclude people or force their beliefs on others. Igor never does."

Eugene E. Wilson was President of United Aircraft Corporation in 1956, and wrote an article for the Readers Digest Magazine titled, "The Most Unforgettable Character I've Ever Met." He states "Sikorsky goes to his plant each morning to confer with his staff, but his really important work takes place late at night, when he often sits in the dark and thinks to music. An unabashed mystic, he believes that some artists and writers possess the gift of seeing beyond the curtain of time and detecting cloudy visions of things to come. Modestly he suggests that engineers may also share the gift." 🕊

## Igor Sikorsky's Love of Aviation Started as a Young Man Experimenting With the Unknowns as Reflected by His Brief But Classical Comments

- » I was always interested in flying . I dreamed about it as a small boy. However, at that time, flying was considered completely impossible.
- » Aeronautics was neither an industry or even a science. Both were yet to come.
- » It was an art and, I might say, a passion. Indeed, at that time (1909) it was a miracle.
- » My first two machines were built between 1909 and 1910 and were helicopters. The first of these ships refused to leave the ground while the second could lift itself, but refused to lift me.
- » Throughout 1910 and 1911, I followed the intensely interesting and romantic road of the early pioneers who built their machines without knowing how to build them and then climbed into the cockpits to try to fly their aircraft, without knowing how to fly.
- » The next important step in my activity was the creation of the first large four engine airplane which proved to be a success. It was a unique aircraft. It took off at a speed of 60 miles an hour, cruised at 60 miles and stalled at 60 miles an hour.
- » In the pioneering days, self-training, both in engineering problems and in piloting, was an important condition of success and even survival.
- » Today, the words of Igor Sikorsky still reflect the excitement and the romance of that pioneering era of flight. In the 1920s he started his second career in aviation, eventually designing the long range flying boats that were used to establish the first trans-pacific and transatlantic airline services.
- » During all the years this work was in progress, I did not forget my first love, the helicopter, and waited for the right moment to resume this work.
- » For me, the greatest source of pride and satisfaction is the confirmation of my belief that the helicopter would prove to be a unique instrument for saving of human lives.
- » There was also the comforting realization that nearly all discoveries were preceded by numerous failures.

- » In the course of your work, you will from time to time encounter the situation where the facts and the theory do not coincide. In such circumstances, young gentlemen, it is my earnest advice to respect the facts.
- » Truth in politics is optional. Truth in engineering is mandatory. ☺



▲ *S-21 first four engine aircraft in the world, with Igor Sikorsky in the open nose compartment*



▲ *Igor Sikorsky in his office with a model of the S-42 and a painting of the VS-44*



◀ *Igor Sikorsky in the cockpit of the S-55*



## Sergei Sikorsky Described His Father as the “Renaissance Man”

The classic definition of a “Renaissance Man”, is one who has broad intellectual interests, and is accomplished in a wide range of fields. Igor Sikorsky definitely qualifies for this description. He was an inventor and genius in the field of aviation. He was interested in archeology and traveled the world to explore the variety of cultures in Egypt, Mexico, Greece and other locations.

His first attempt to conceive and develop a flying machine was one that truly defies gravity. With no formal aerodynamic background, he designed and built a coaxial rotor helicopter that could lift itself, but not the inventor. 100 years later, his company developed his concept and successfully broke the world speed record for a helicopter.



*Crew of S-62 observing Leonardo Da Vinci on his flying helix*



▲ *Igor Exploring Pyramids in Egypt by Camel*



▲ *Igor Sikorsky was one of the original leading founders of St. Nicholas Church in Stratford CT*



*Igor studying volcanoes in Mexico*

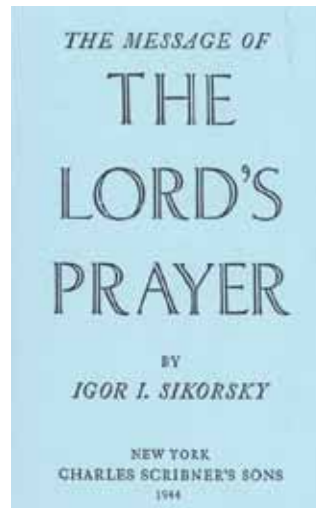
Igor Sikorsky’s sea planes were a major factor in encouraging over ocean travel via air routes to the Caribbean Islands, Bermuda, West Indies, Central and South America, across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and regions which would be unreachable by other means. His contributions in the aviation field has effectively reduced the size of the world, and has brought all people closer together, resulting in a better understanding and appreciation of the differences between the various cultures.

Igor Sikorsky was an avid astronomer and studied the heavens to fathom the immensity of our physical universe. His writings indicate that he marveled at the known characteristics of spacial bodies and invisible forces, and was mesmerized by its power and structure. He was knowledgeable about science, history, religion, mountain climb-

ing, music and philosophy. The religious and humane characteristics of Igor Sikorsky is very apparent when you read the books he authored.

It should be noted that Igor Sikorsky lived through the horrific time period of the Russian Revolution, World War I and World War II. During this period, the evils of Communism, Nazism and the German Holocaust, Fascism and Japanese Imperialism were being perpetrated on the world population. During this tumultuous time period, over 200 million lives were lost and the nuclear age was spawned. Historically, it may have been the most disastrous period for the human race since recorded history. It is very apparent that Igor Sikorsky’s experiences during this time are reflected in his religious books, papers and lectures. 🕊

## Igor Sikorsky's Religious Philosophy of Life is Revealed In His Publications and Lectures



Sikorsky states, "Often when walking alone through forests or climbing mountains, I thought about the great prayer until I began to realize that besides the direct meaning of the few outwardly simple sentences, the Prayer included indirectly a very extensive and profound message". His analysis of the meaning of The Lord's Prayer is revealing to all thinking individuals regardless of whether the reader is religious, believes in a different religion, is an atheist, or an agnostic.

Sikorsky's analysis of The Lord's prayer concludes that it is actually two separate prayers. The first deals with final eternal destinies of mankind in relation to God and the universe. The second Prayer "And Lead Us Not Into Temptation" deals mainly with material and spiritual needs of the present time and governs human existence while on earth. He concludes that this part is essential for human existence on earth, and that this portion of the Prayer instructs us to ask not for courage and determination to win a certain battle, but for the help of God to avoid that battle. He further states, "that this one contains the deepest mystery and, to my belief, touches the most important as well as the most dramatic factors of earthly existence. The origin and source of the greatest tragedies in the life of individuals as well as of nations can be traced to the mysterious factors discussed in this eleven word sentence more than to any other causes." Sikorsky states, " that the last petition of the Lord's Prayer

The Message of The Lords Prayer was written by Igor Sikorsky aboard the Steamship Europa September 17 to 18, 1938, during his visit to a Greek Orthodox Monastery in Solonika , Greece. He states in the preface of his book that "The Message Of The Lord's Prayer" is comprised of a few brief sentences consisting of some sixty six words that are simple and can be understood by a child, but when one starts to think and to analyze them carefully, there gradually comes the realization of the overwhelming immensity of the message.

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." ☺

◀ *Igor Sikorsky in deep thought*

refers mainly to a mysterious and dangerous evil influence that is capable of assuming a large variety of aspects and may even appear under the guise of service to idealistic or humanitarian principles. The whole historical process and the tragic experience of our time indicate that human intellect and highest scientific education are unable to recognize and powerless to resist the sinister danger of spiritual evil, while scientific discoveries and engineering inventions are liable to become the servants of evil, helping to spread lies, fear, hatred and murder on an unprecedented scale". Sikorsky concludes that support from divine guidance and protection is asked in the sentence, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." ☺

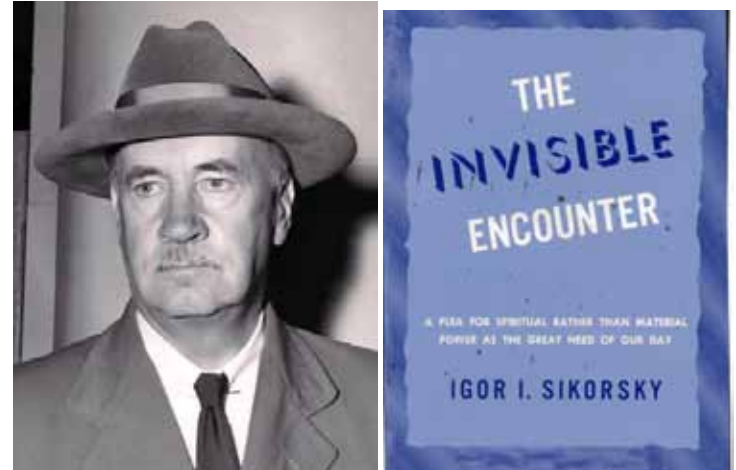


▲ *Monastery in Solonika, Greece*



The Invisible Encounter was written in 1947, and makes a plea for spiritual rather than material power as the great need of the day. Mankind, he says, is now passing through a crisis of unprecedented depth and magnitude. The main cause can be traced to a deep inner dislocation in the moral and spiritual sphere of existence. The book discusses the nature of the great disturbance and its inner cause, and shows the way out. He discusses the nature of good and evil as discussed in biblical teachings and historical events. He discusses how mankind has continued to choose the material rather than the moral and righteous way to confront problems. He uses the analysis that if the world is to be controlled by spiritually dead men, it is as if an unconscious crew were placed at the controls of an airliner.

Igor Sikorsky was versed in the words of the European philosophers of his time period. He references the novel, "Crime and Punishment" relative to the plague that was spreading from Asia to Europe, and causing widespread death, and a breakdown of civilized society. They did not know how to judge and could not agree what to consider evil and what good. There was conflagrations and famine. All men and things were involved in destruction.

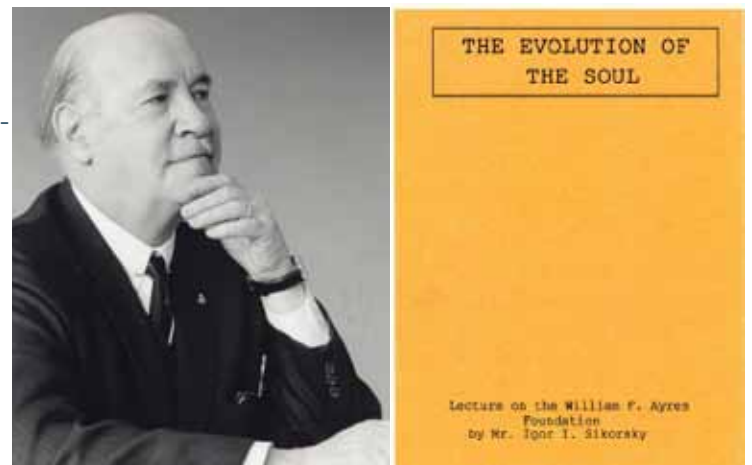


The infiltration of spiritual evil manifested itself in a catastrophic downfall of moral culture, amidst an accelerated and miraculous progress of science and industrial civilization. The causes were traced to the abandonment of religion. Sikorsky believes that the current injustices in the world can be eliminated only when guided and directed by a spiritual wisdom. ☺

The Evolution of the Soul was a lecture written and presented by Igor Sikorsky at Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing, Michigan on November 15, 1949.

The lecture starts with his definition of the term "soul" as "The highest, potentially immortal component of human personality. It is part of our conscious being which reacts to such factors as respect for truth, compassion, good will, forgiveness, tolerance, love, and the like. The term can not be identified with the term intellect."

He further states, "that you can easily find examples of simple, uneducated human beings with highly refined and developed souls. As a rule, this is connected with active religious faith. On the other hand, we find cases where high intellect and extensive learning are combined with a crude soul which may be below that of a cave man, and may in some cases, descend to the level of a beast." In reference to the subject of the lecture, he defines evolution as a process of gradual change which is essentially directed

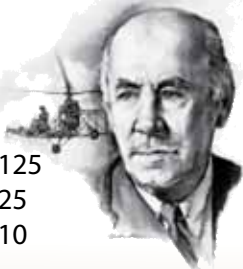


toward ascent, expansion, improving and refinement. He concludes his lecture by stating, "The evolution and ascent of the human soul in preparation for the mysterious transition into the higher grade of life represents by far the most important phenomenon which takes place on our planet. It is this fact which gives a noble, worthy and lasting meaning to the whole process of earthly life." It would have been an inspiring memory to have been in the audience during Igor Sikorsky's lecture. ☺

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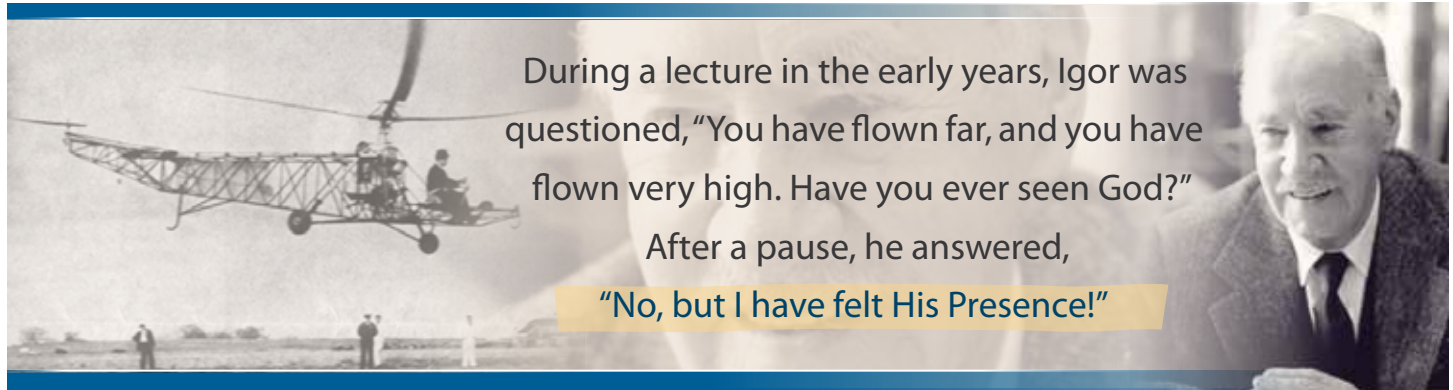
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IGOR SIKORSKY "RENAISSANCE MAN"



Sikorsky Statue at Polytechnic Institute, Kiev, Ukraine

Newsletter designed and edited by Lee Jacobson and Sikorsky Archive Members with art direction assistance by Edgar A. Guzmán



During a lecture in the early years, Igor was questioned, "You have flown far, and you have flown very high. Have you ever seen God?"

After a pause, he answered,

**"No, but I have felt His Presence!"**

# Sikorsky Archives News

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