



Sikorsky Archives News

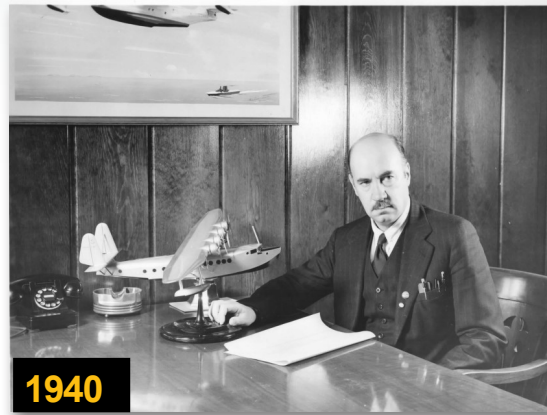
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Igor I. Sikorsky's Office



1913



1940



1972



1953

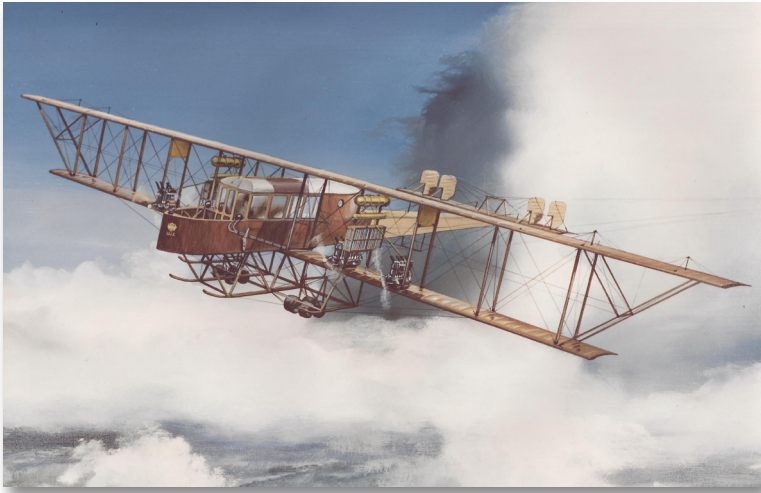
Igor Sikorsky's Offices through the decades. (Clockwise from upper left): Aviation Division, Russian Baltic Railroad Company, St. Petersburg, Russia; Sikorsky Aircraft, South Main Street, Stratford, Ct.; Sikorsky Aircraft, South Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct.; Sikorsky Aircraft, North Main Street, Stratford, Ct.

Igor Sikorsky's office on North Main Street, Stratford, has been preserved in fundamentally the same configuration as when he occupied it from 1956 through 1972. Throughout his three careers in aviation: Russian fixed wing aircraft, early American fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, Igor Sikorsky received 89 prominent awards and honors and met with thousands of dignitaries. His office contains many of these artifacts and interactions. This issue of the Archives News highlights some of these.

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Russian/American Fixed Wing Memorabilia



①. Painting of Igor Sikorsky's S-21 (The Grand). On August 2, 1913 the Grand set a record by flying 1 hour and 54 minutes over St. Petersburg while carrying eight passengers.



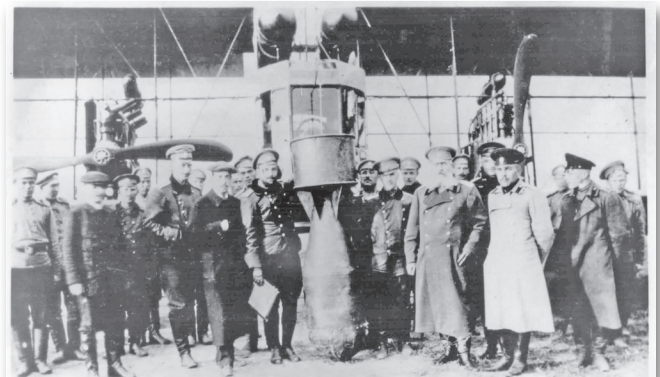
②. On December 18, 1925 Igor Sikorsky, returning to wooded Long Island, made a hasty dusk landing in his S-29A. The wing of the sesquiplane airliner severed a tree limb. A piece of the embedded tree was mounted on a plaque to remind him of his narrow escape.



③. Igor Sikorsky is pictured at the controls of his S-5. The photo was used when he was issued Federation Aeronautique International (FAI) Pilot's License No. 64, dated August 18, 1911.



④. A 1938 design concept, designated as the S-45, would carry 100 passengers nonstop from New York to London. The project was terminated.



⑤. The Ilya Muromets (S-22). A group of officers of the "Squadron of Flying Ships" and a 1,000 pound bomb. Igor Sikorsky is fourth from the left and Russian Major General Shidlovsky is third from the right.

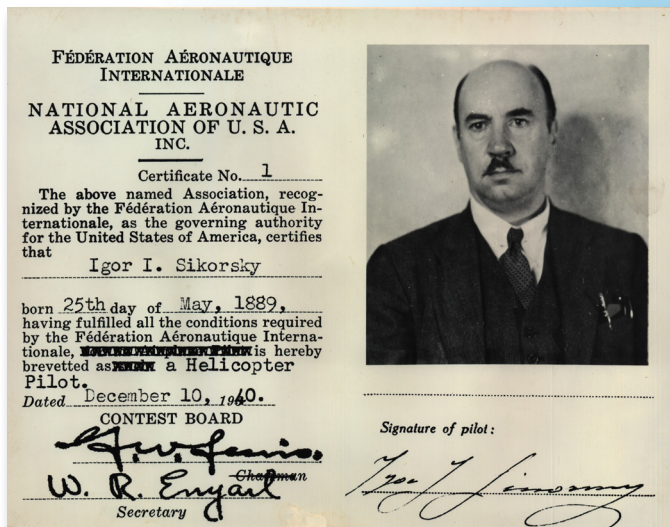
Early Rotary Wing Memorabilia



⑥ On October 6, 1943, the VS-300 was donated to the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. (l to r) Henry Ford II, Charles Lindbergh, Sikorsky test pilot Lester Morris, Henry Ford and Igor Sikorsky.



⑦ Igor Sikorsky and Charles Lindbergh on October 9, 1940. Mr. Lindbergh was a witness when, on that day, the VS-300 established an altitude record of 100 feet.



⑧ Igor Sikorsky's helicopter license #1, awarded by the Federation Aeronautique International (FAI).



⑨ Igor Sikorsky, Orville Wright and Colonel Frank Gregory meet at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. The Sikorsky XR-4 2-place helicopter was flown from Bridgeport, Ct. to Dayton for test flights and pilot training by the Army Air Force in May 1942.



10) Igor Sikorsky's desk contained a library of books including four he authored (*The Story of the Winged-S*, *The Evolution of the Soul*, *The Invisible Encounter* and *The Message of the Lord's Prayer*). Several editions of the Bible and aeronautical reference books, his slide rule and models of the S-43 and S-38 aircraft are also on the desk.

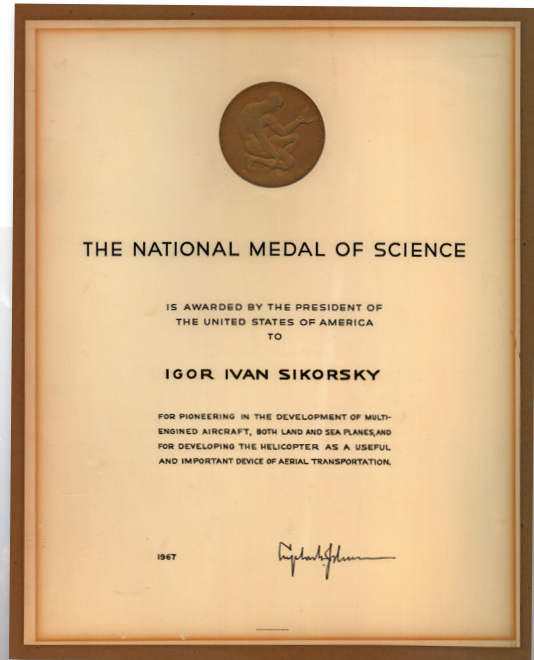
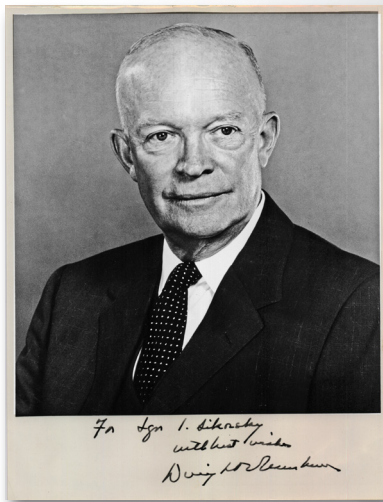


⑪ Igor Sikorsky's fedora (not shown in above picture). During the Korean war the helicopter proved itself as a lifesaving aircraft and thousands of lives were saved. Around that time, word spread within the U.S. Marine Corps that if a pilot wore the Sikorsky fedora for just a few seconds, he would never be hurt while flying a helicopter. This special protection became legend, and Igor Sikorsky made certain that the hat would be readily available to his aviator visitors.

Rotary Wing Recognition



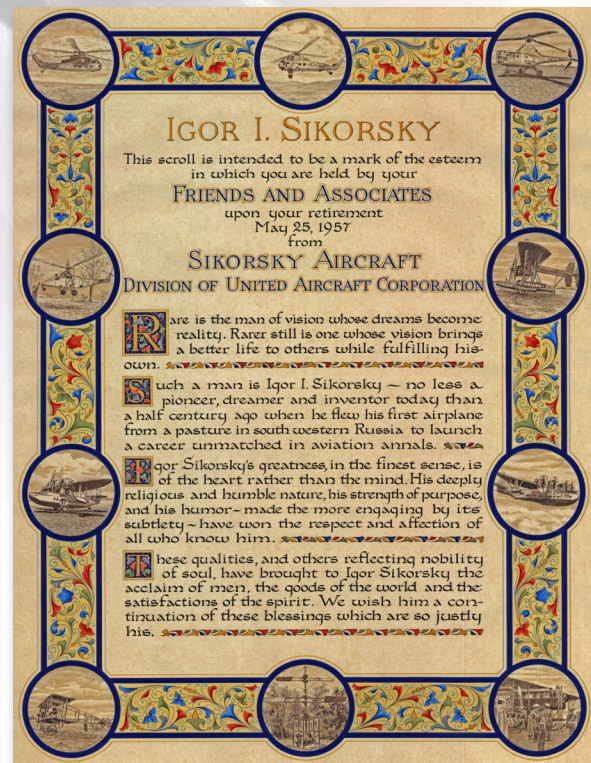
⑫ Igor Sikorsky met with a number of U.S. presidents, including Lyndon Johnson (above) and ⑬ Dwight D. Eisenhower (below).



⑭ In 1967 Igor Sikorsky was awarded the National Medal of Science, an honor bestowed by President Lyndon Johnson.

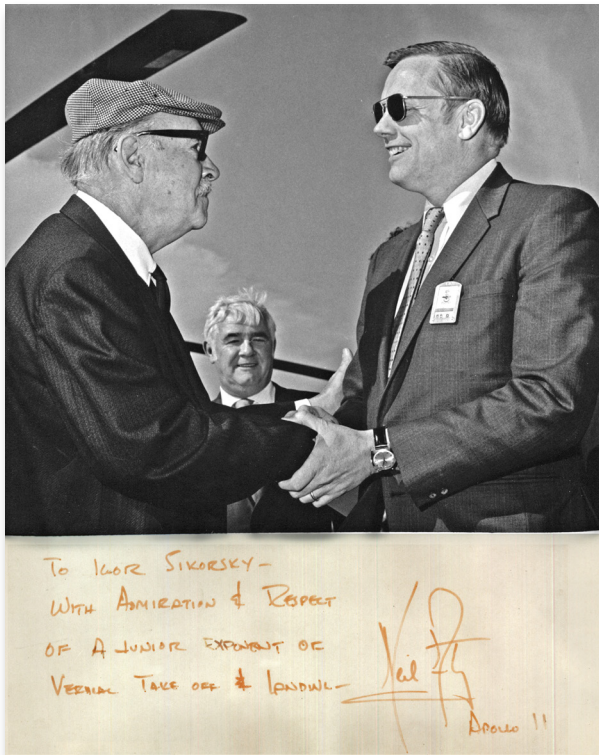


⑮ President Harry Truman awarded the Collier Trophy to the helicopter industry for its service in the Korean conflict, the military services and the Coast Guard on December 17, 1951. Mr. Sikorsky represented the helicopter industry.



⑯ Scroll presented from his friends and associates to Mr. Sikorsky at his retirement party – May 1957.

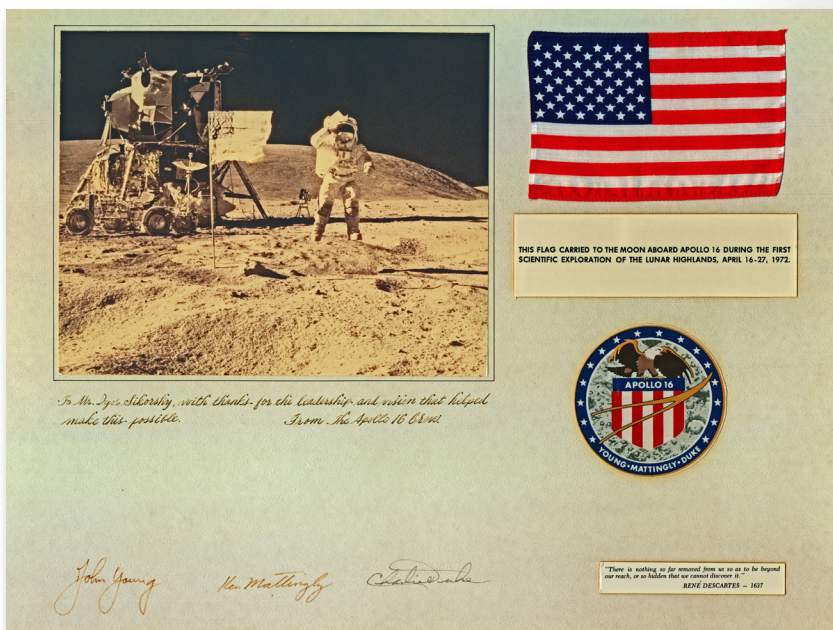
Astronaut / Test Pilot Memorabilia



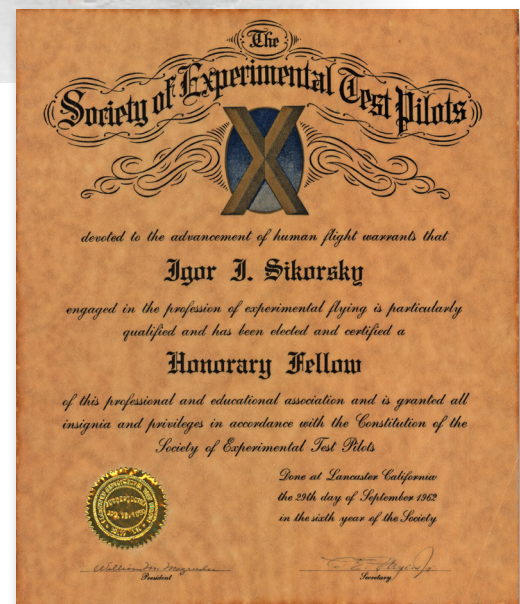
17 The first man on the moon, Apollo astronaut Neil Armstrong, meets Igor Sikorsky in November 1970. Inscription from Armstrong reads "To Igor Sikorsky - With Admiration and Respect of a junior exponent of Vertical Take off & Landing."



18 Igor Sikorsky presents models of the S-61 (SH-3) recovery helicopter to Apollo 16 astronauts John Young, Charles Duke and Thomas Mattingly in May 1972. Connecticut Senator Lowell Weicker (right background) looks on.



19 A plaque from the Apollo 16 crew to Igor Sikorsky contains an American flag carried to the moon. The handwritten message states "To Mr. Igor Sikorsky, with thanks for the leadership and vision that helped make this possible."



20 The prestigious Society of Experimental Test Pilots awarded Igor Sikorsky an Honorary Fellow award on September 29, 1962.

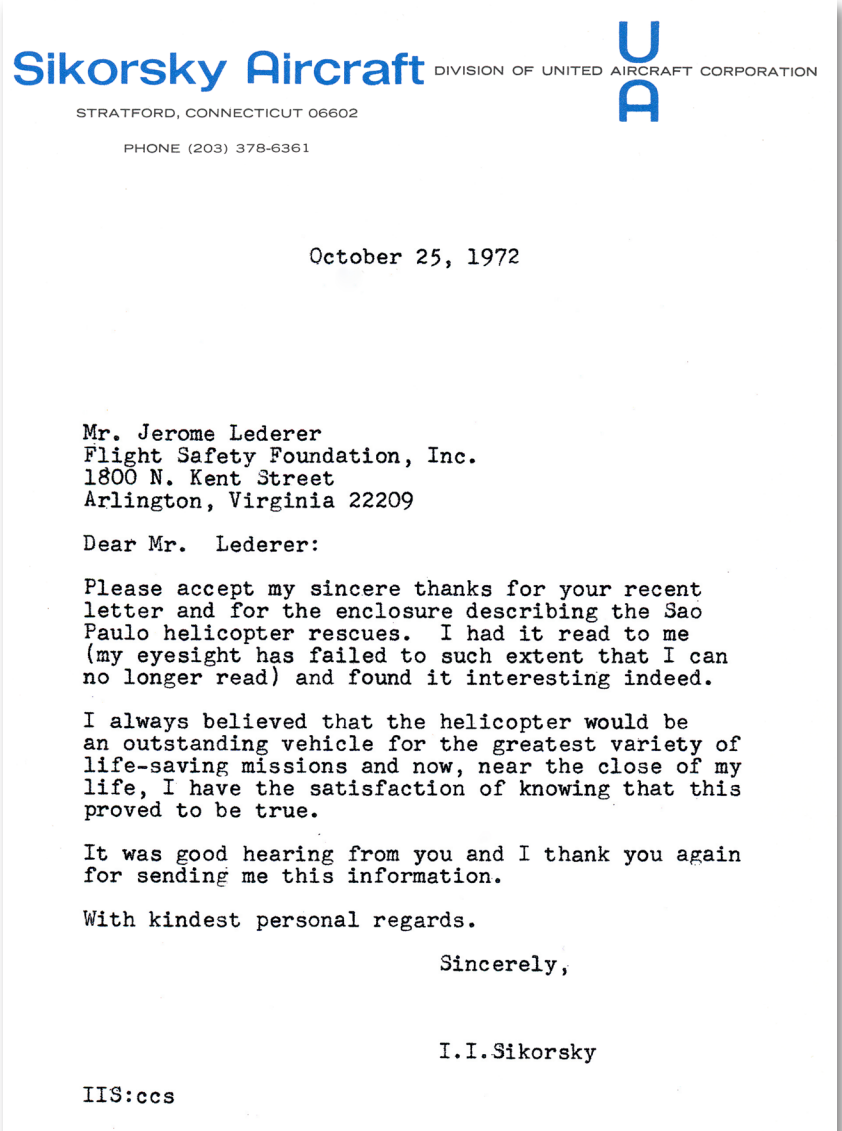
Igor Sikorsky's Last Letter

While on summer vacation with his father in Germany in 1908, Igor Sikorsky learned the details about the successful flights of the Wright Brothers. Following the trip, Sikorsky made the firm decision that aviation would be his life work. His entrance would be by way of the helicopter, a vehicle that could hover in one spot, rise and land vertically and fly in any direction chosen by the pilot.

In February 1972, a horrific fire engulfed the 26 story Pirani building in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The fire swept up from a lower floor and trapped people on the roof. Twenty helicopters took part in the rescue operation; 400 were rescued.

Mr. Jerome Federer, Director of the Flight Safety Foundation, sent Mr. Sikorsky details of the fire and the lifesaving role helicopters played. Mr. Sikorsky's response confirmed that his life-saving vision 64 years earlier had come to fruition.

Prepared by Frank Colucci and John Bulakowski with graphic art and layout by Jodi Buckley.



(21) The last letter dictated and signed by Mr. Sikorsky. He passed away the following morning, October 26, 1972 at the age of 83.

