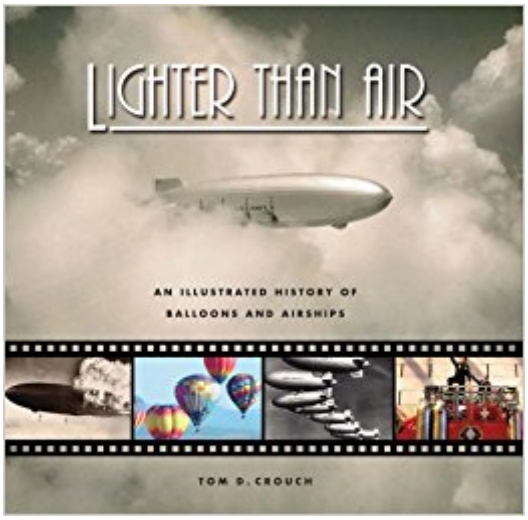
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Lighter Than Air: An Illustrated History Of Balloons And Airships



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Synopsis

This richly illustrated book chronicles lighter-than-air flight from ArchimedesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ discovery of the principle of buoyancy to the latest in sport balloons and plans for future airships. Far more than a timeline of events, Lighter Than Air focuses on the peopleÃ¢â ¬â ¢flamboyant and daring, heroes and scoundrelsÃ¢â ¬â ¢who made history in the sky. Here are the eighteenth-century pioneers who first took to the skies, the peripatetic aeronauts who criss-crossed two continents a century later, the airmen who manned the great rigid airships, and the intrepid balloonists who flew their craft across oceans and continents in the years following World War II.The first half of the volume recounts the invention of the balloon, the golden age of the professional aerial showmen in Europe and America, the use of balloons for aerial reconnaissance, and the key role of balloons in scientific research. The second half presents the rich tale of the airship from eighteenth-century dreams to twentieth-century reality. These chapters describe the early development of the pressure airship, the emergence of the rigid airship and its golden age in the first half of the twentieth century, and the military and civil applications of these aerial behemoths. The author concludes by discussing modern blimps, sport balloons, and dreams of a future for airships.The highly accessible text is complemented with a wealth of prints and photos from the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., the MuseÃƒÂ© de lÃ¢â ¬â„¢Air et de l’Espace at Le Bourget, the Zepplin-Museum at Zepplinheim, and the Imperial War Museum in London. Written by award-winning aeronautical historian Tom D. Crouch, Lighter Than Air brings to life the color and excitement of buoyant flight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This copiously illustrated overview of lighter than air aviation chronicles an adventurous period in human accomplishment with style and insight... A fascinating account of the thrilling quest for human flight." (Literary Features Syndicate)"Crouch is one of the most knowledgeable authorities on the history of flight today. In his latest book, Crouch slices off a portion of that history and presents it in accessible fashion in a lushly illustrated volume." (History Wire - Where the Past Comes Alive)"Accompanied by beautiful illustrations, prints and photographs, the text of Lighter Than Air is easily acccessible and informative...The fascinating world of air travel comes to life with this entertaining and well-researched book." (Deseret News)

Tom D. Crouch, senior curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the Smithsonian InstitutionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s National Air and Space Museum, has written and edited over a dozen books, including The BishopÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright. He has won several major awards for historical writing, including prizes offered by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Aviation/Space Writers Association.

This book help feed an interest I've had in dirigibles/zeppelins since childhood. Got it quickly and cheaply

I've read most of the books written on balloons and dirigibles. I'm maybe a little obsessed with the story of Alberto Santos-Dumont. I once had a conversation with Tom Crouch at the Smithsonian after he gave a talk on the Wright Brothers about why he sort of ignored Santos-Dumont. It may have been just a matter of emphasis. Anyway this is an absolutely wonderful book chock full of great images and although I consider myself well versed in lighter than air history I found Crouch's book extremely interesting. It is a feast of LTA stories, personalities, and photographs. By far the best single volume on LTA history.

I've read a number of books on the history of aviation and some have provided limited information on the role of lighter than air vehicles. This book provides all the details on the true pioneers of aviation and the steps that were essential to make flight a reality, including many of the failures that are an inescapable part of experimentation. It's well illustrated, containing a large number of early drawings as well as early photographs of this important piece of aviation history. The only flaw: I wish the book was longer and contained even more of the excellent photographs of the various

lighter than air vehicles.

I like it very much! First, for the size, not too big, vice versa. And as a history of balloons and Airships,not only a picture book,though the photos are less than I imagined, but I think one reasonis because at that time,it was the beginning of the technic of photography, and there are someprints to reduce the regret, and read the history is still very interesting too!But I still want to know more details of the Balloons and airships.

A beautiful coffee table book & a must for anyone who loves the romance of air balloons & dirigible! I'd also like to recommend the book "Dirigible Dreams" to round out your collection.

Probably well done but not exactly readable.Too little on the rigid airships era and too much elsewhere to keep the interest.When I read the review in Aviation History I expected much more on rigid airships.So while a personal disappointment, for anyone interested in background history and even possible future use the book would be fine.

This is the history of air travel in lighter than air craft. Nicely layed out material and put into prespective for the reader. A very nice book on the subject. Happy to own it. Thanks. Sincerely, Rick L.

Need to go through it more in order to fully take in the information, but it seems to be exactly what I was looking for in regards to airship history.

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