



Those Magnificent Flying Machines

Do aeroplanes have a personality?

Ask any pilot or engineer and he will emphatically answer in the affirmative. Aeroplanes have their quirks and traits and no one knows them better than the pilots and engineers. To them a plane is not just a machine, but something more, a living being. Look at a pilot watching a plane taking off or landing or an engineer walking towards a plane. The gleam in their eyes is an unmistakable recognition of a unique relationship between man and machine.

As Ernest K. Gann wrote in *Fate is the Hunter*: "...the various types, regardless of their natural origin, are as individual as breeds of animals. The Stinson A is thought of as wanting a firm hand, else it can very quickly prove more treacherous than an unfanged cobra. In contrast, the DC-3 is an amiable cow... marvellously forgiving the most clumsy pilot."

Air-India had them both in its fleet, as so many others on this page — from the long-legged Puss Moth, a wood-and-fabric affair, which began it all back in 1932 to the modern day Queen of the Sky Boeing 747. They provide a remarkable historical record not merely of Air-India, but of the growth and development of air transport in the 20th century.

And so here they are in a unique 'plane portrait' of Air-India, composed mainly of models, lovingly created by Mr. P.D. Bhatnagar, former Dy. Director, Engineering, back in 1970. He has painstakingly collected technical specifications of each aircraft. One of his skilled draftsmen, Yeshwant Jagtap, prepared detailed drawings and then his devoted band of carpenters carved out from carefully chosen blocks of wood, authentic replicas of Air-India planes, complete even to detail the pride of place in this portfolio, of course goes to the Puss Moth, which Mr. J.D. Tata flew from Karachi to Bombay on October 15, 1932, to start the first scheduled airmail service to India.

Each of these planes was once part of Air-India's proud fleet. Most of them have long since disappeared in the pages of history, but almost magically restored to life in the following pages flying over the length and breadth of India, and some even on their way to distant lands.

This is a tribute to hundreds of Air-Indians who have taken care of them, nursed them on the ground, flown them as pilots, and others who have contributed in a million different ways to build Air-India as it is today.

K.S. Mhatre

Why the 12?

The first 30 years of Air-India's history were undoubtedly the most momentous, dominated by a pioneering spirit. The 12 planes in the calendar represent that period. On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary, what is more appropriate than to give them a pride of place, to provide a glimpse into the past in order to derive inspiration for the future.

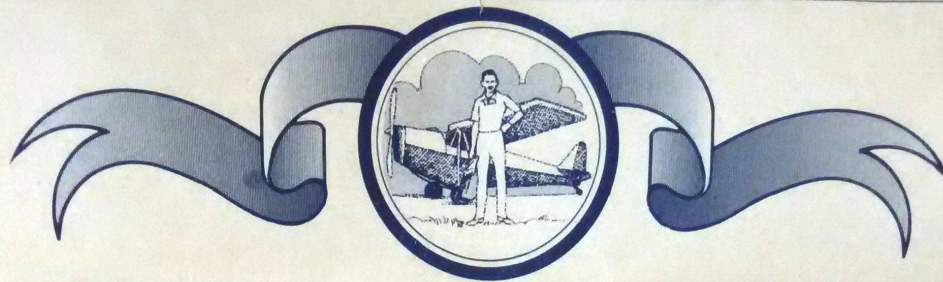


एअर इंडिया
AIR-INDIA

Concept, Design & special effects by C.V. Kulkarni AIR-INDIA Art Studio, Bombay.

Processing by Chinmay Photo Offset, Printed by Pratiksha

1 Puss Moth — 1932 2 Leopard Moth — 1933-34 3 Fox Moth — 1935 4 Miles Merlin — 1935 5 Waco YXC-4 — 1937 6 Dragon Rapide — 1938 7 Expeditor — 1939 8 Puss Moth — 1940 9 Lockheed L-1049 — 1954 10 Boeing 707 — 1958 11 Boeing 747-200 — 1965 12 Airbus A300-600 — 1974 13 Lockheed L-1049 — 1954 14 Boeing 707 — 1958 15 Boeing 747-200 — 1965 16 Airbus A300-600 — 1974 17 Boeing 747-300 — 1980 18 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 19 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 20 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 21 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 22 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 23 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 24 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 25 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 26 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 27 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 28 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 29 Boeing 747-400 — 1988 30 Boeing 747-400 — 1988



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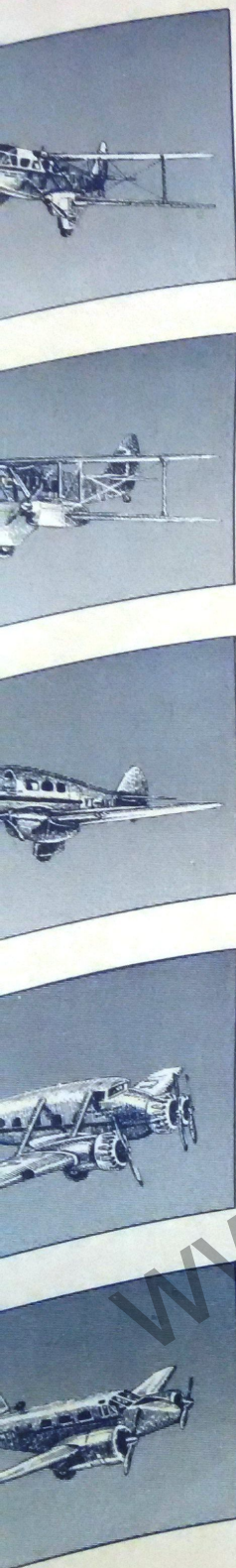
K.S. Mhatre

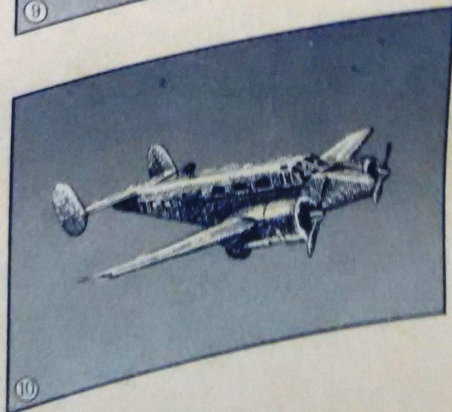
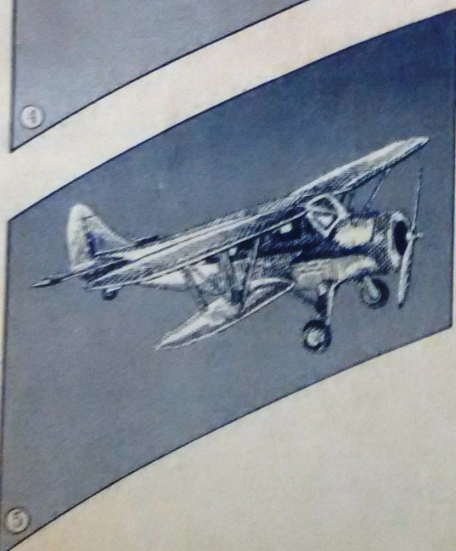
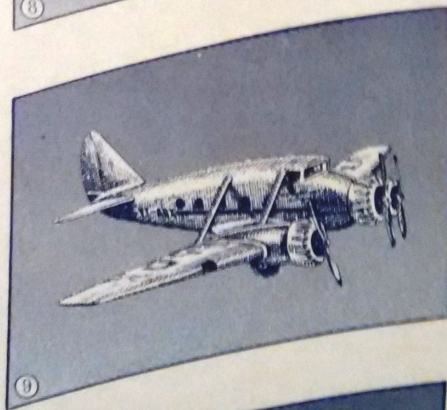
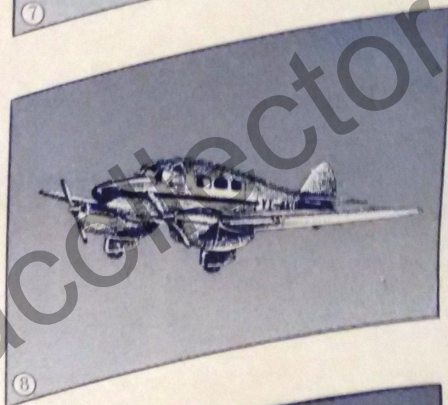
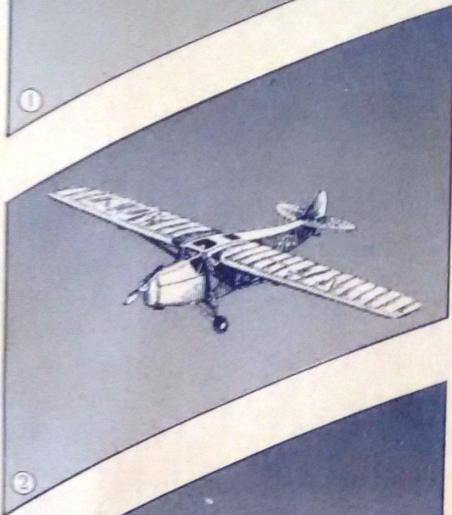
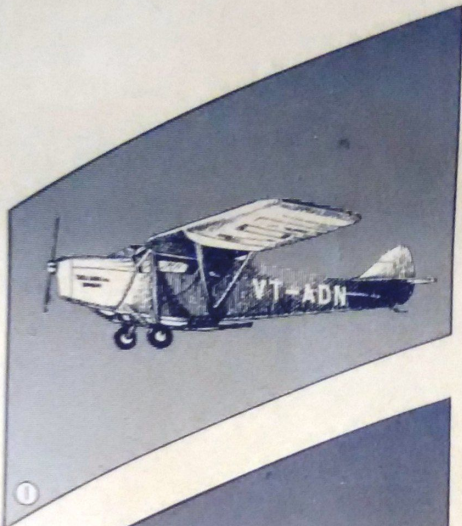
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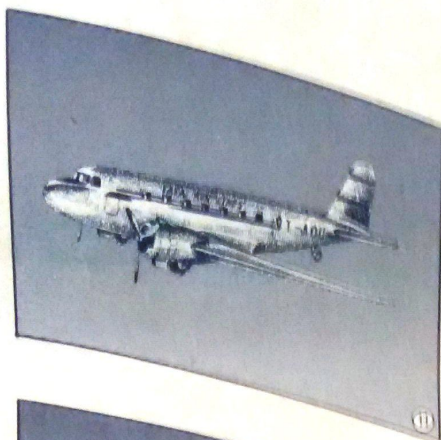
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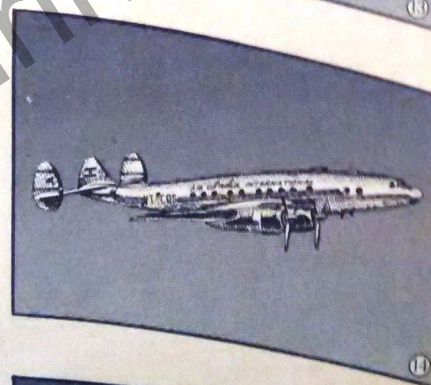
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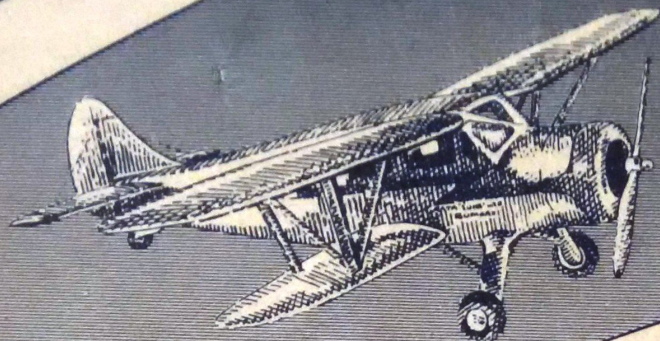


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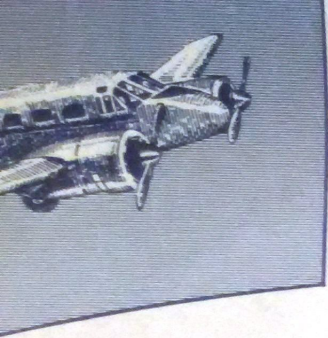


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Concept, Design & special effects by C.V. Kamkar. AIR-INDIA Art Studio, Bombay.

- ① Puss Moth — 1932 ② Leopard Moth — 1933-34 ③ Fox Moth — 1935 ④ Miles Merlin — 1935 ⑤ Waco YQC-6
⑭ Lockheed Constellation L-749 — 1948 ⑮ Douglas DC-4 — 1950 ⑯ Lockheed



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 ng 747-237 B — 1971 (14) Airbus 300 B4 — 1982 (15) Airbus A310-300 — 1986 (16) Boeing 747-300 Combi — 1988 (17) Boeing 747-400 — 1993

Processing by Unique Photo Offset. Printed by Parksons.