USNM Curators Annual Report - Division of Aeronautics, 1946-47

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In a general discussion of the project, two of the decisions were: that a
survey be conducted of the aeronautic field in order to learn what
important historic and technical material might be available, and that
efforts be made to locate a storage area where collected material might
be received pending the construction of permanent facilities for public
exhibition and study.

On January 6, 1947, in Administrative Bulletin No. 2, Dr. Wetmore
directed that Mr. Carl W. Mitman, Head Curator, Department of
Engineering and Industries, be designated as Assistant to the Secretary
for the National Air Museum; that Mr. Frank A. Taylor, curator of
Engineering, serve as adviser to Mr. Mitman in aeronautical matters,
and that the section of Aeronautics be elevated to the status of a
division.

On September 17, 1946, Mr. Paul Edward Garber, who had been on
military furlough during the war, returned to the Museum after an
absence of nearly five years in the Navy with the final rank of
Commander. Administrative Bulletin No. 2 designated that he be curator
of the new division of Aeronautics, reporting directly to Mr. Mitman. The
division obtained the services of Mrs. Ann S. Campbell as secretarial
assistant on March 3, 1947.

Although the Law establishing the National Air Museum authorized the
sum of $50,000 to defray the expenses of its planning, this money was
not made available during this fiscal year and the carrying out of the
Advisory Board’s directives has been accomplished as far as possible
by the existing staff. Because of the high priority accorded this work, it
has constituted the division’s principal endeavor during the latter half of
the fiscal year. Consequently the basic functions of the division
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