

# FROM THE WINGS OF THE GREEK GODS TO THE WINGS OF THE MORTALS

## INTRODUCTION

This exhibit briefly tells the story of man's quest for flight and highlights a few notable historical events - from the era of Ancient Greece when the gods were portrayed with wings, to the present day. The history of aviation extends from the earliest forms of flight such as kites and balloons to supersonic and hypersonic flight by jet aircraft, as well as flight beyond the atmosphere of Earth, with mankind's desire to travel to other planets in our Universe. The development of the ability to fly has also impacted on warfare as well as on the delivery of the mail.

### PLAN

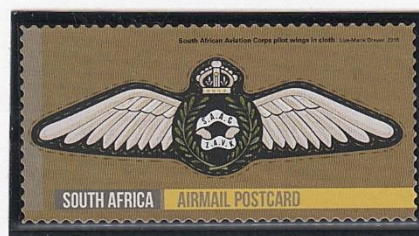
		<i>Page</i>
Introduction, Plan, Bibliography		1
1	PRIMITIVE BEGINNINGS	
1.1	Greek mythology and legend	
1.1a	Hermes	2
1.1b	Daedalus and Icarus	
1.2	The Renaissance - Leonardo Da Vinci (1480's)	
1.3	George Cayley (1799)	
2	LIGHTER THAN AIR - BALLOONS	
2.1	Bartolomeu de Gusmão	3
2.2	Montgolfier - First hot air balloons (1783)	
2.3	Development of air balloons	
2.4	Modern air balloons	
3	LIGHTER THAN AIR - AIRSHIPS/ZEPPELINS	4
4	HEAVIER THAN AIR - PIONEER ERA	
4.1	Orville & Wilbur Wright - First aircraft (1903)	5
4.2	Alberto Santos-Dumont (1906)	
4.3	Louis Bleriot (1909)	
5	FIRST WORLD WAR (1914 - 1918)	
5.1	Development of warfare aviation	6
5.2	Aircraft of WWI	
6	AIR RACES	
6.1	Air Racing - Challenge International de Tourisme	7
6.2	Air Racing - Coupe d'Aviation Maritime Jacques Schneider (Schneider Trophy)	
7	SECOND WORLD WAR (1939 - 1945)	
7.1	Aircraft of WWII	8
7.2	Battle of Britain	
8	FLYING BOATS	9
9	HELICOPTERS	10
10	MAIL CARRIED BY AIR	
10.1	Airmail postage stamps	11
10.2	Airmail etiquettes	
10.3	First flights airmail	
10.4	Aerogrammes	12
11	CIVIL AVIATION AIRCRAFT	13
12	AIR FORCE AEROBATIC DISPLAYS	
12.1	Red Arrows	14
12.2	Snowbirds	
13	MODERN DIGITAL AGE, EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT, & THE SPACE AGE	
13.1	Modern Digital Age aircraft	15
13.2	Experimental aircraft	16
13.3	The Space Age	

*Philatelic information on pages in Italics*



Mythological flight  
and modern day recreational hang-gilding

*Miniature sheet*



South African Aviation Corps pilots wings\*

*Self-stick airmail postcard rate postage stamp  
from larger set issued in a miniature sheet*

\* The South African Aviation Corps was formed 5 February 1915 and ceased to function as a separate unit from the end of the South West African campaign in October 1915. The title South African Air Force was first used officially on 1 February 1923 when the SAAF was listed under the provisions of the reconstituted SA Defence Act when it was listed as one of the corps of the Permanent Force.

"To earn ones wings" means a pilot has officially obtained the necessary qualifications and earned a pilot's licence. Pilots wings are also known as pilot badges or aviator badges.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- o Stanley Gibbons - Collect aircraft on stamps (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).
- o Flight - The complete history of aviation, by R.G. Grant.
- o Wikipedia / Britannica - On-line encyclopaedia's.