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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**WINGS AROUND THE WORLD**, by Captain Burr W. Leyson. (E. P. Dutton & Company, New York 1948, pp. 192, \$3.00.)

Vital strategic requirements of the past decade have imposed increasing demands upon long range air transportation, and the postwar epoch has seen the fruition of the seeds of United States international civil aviation which were planted and nurtured by Pan American World Airways. As the routes and frequencies multiplied, a public which had learned the bitter lesson of air power looked with growing interest to the expansion of American overseas flying. For some time there has been a genuine need for a popular account of this development, so that the people may know.

It is regrettable to report that this is not the volume for which they have been waiting. There is a good deal of factual information within this comparatively brief text, but it has not been utilized in a manner certain to produce a balanced understanding of the evolution and expansion of airline operations of U.S. carriers abroad. This is a wholly favorable narrative of the growth of Pan American's sky network, one which should be found useful for new material on that company's role in the creation of Atlantic Airways as the ferry service which led to the Air Transport Command. It also contains interesting data on the contributions which the first United States international operator made to the national defense in Alaska and elsewhere.

Almost no space is devoted to the activities of any other carrier, and the tremendous progress of the postwar period is sloughed over in a few pages. Despite its subtitle, this book does not record "The Story of American International Air Transport." Serious observers in the field will note that Captain Leyson has omitted much of the material which drew attention to the Josephson study,<sup>1</sup> nor will they find the relevant information which appeared in the Burden and Lissitzyn reports.<sup>2</sup>

The failures of this text do not dim the splendid history of the determined band of enterprising men who laid the foundation of an American air age. "Wings Around the World" may please the general public with its pleasant style, but it remains obvious that adequate volumes on both Pan American World Airways and U.S. international civil air transport remain to be written.

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<sup>1</sup> JOSEPHSON, *EMPIRE OF THE AIR* (1943).

<sup>2</sup> BURDEN, *THE STRUGGLE FOR AIRWAYS IN LATIN AMERICA* (1942); LISSITZYN, *INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT AND NATIONAL POLICY* (1947).