

1952

Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

WORLD AIRLINE RECORD, 1952, Roy R. Roadcap & Associates, Chicago 4, Ill. 400 pp. ill., cloth, \$12.50

It is usually difficult to recommend reference volumes without knowing the needs and desires of a wide range of readers. However, *World Airline Record, 1952* can be recommended for acquisition by anyone interested in knowing facts about one or all of the world's 240 airlines. The Record is now global in scope. Some one hundred and thirty-eight airlines not covered in earlier editions are included in this volume.

One of the new features of the present edition is an informative report on the Russian airline—AEROFLOT—which includes figures for 1950 and states in part, "An excellent statistical impression of the high degree of service concentration may be found in the fact that 37 individual route segments, or about 15% of the total, accounted for more than 60% of the traffic on the entire system." . . . "It is estimated that 3.8 million passengers were flown on average distance of 460 miles to produce 1,750 million miles. On the basis of passenger miles, Aeroflot's passenger traffic would be the equivalent of approximately 22% of the total U.S. scheduled domestic air travel in 1950."

Also included for the first time are Service Density Maps showing station-to-station traffic volume over each route segment. The data on each airline is presented under standard headings in such a manner as to facilitate the making of comparisons between companies. Eight major headings are used to analyze the lines: the Service Density Route Map, History of Organization and Development, Operating and Traffic Statistics, Income Accounts, Income Account Analysis, Balance Sheets, Capitalization and Financial Ratios and a Historical Statistical Summary. Additional information is given under a Management heading and by a seasonal chart. Some preliminary estimates or unaudited financial statements have been included as "Interim" Reports. The 27 page General U.S. Survey with readily understandable tables and graphs is another feature that commends this book.

This is the fourth year that this book has been published. Its continued publication and its extended coverage in the 1952 issue indicate that there is sufficient demand for copies as to make it a profitable enterprise. The difficult task of compiling the information, involving as it does, the interpreting, translating, and relating a variety of monetary units, standards, etc., along with the liberal use of charts, graphs, maps and illustrations indicate that the production of this volume is necessarily costly. With this in mind the price per volume, though seemingly high, is reasonable and all the copies of the limited printing should soon be exhausted.

C. T. L.