


Above: The first photo (left), an old and rare sepia tone print taken around 1929, shows a very young Ladislao, then only five years old with his first of many model planes, when he probably "knew" that his life would be one of aviation. Photos to the right chronicle a personal journey over a half century of modern aviation – accompanied by real planes as milestones of his work.

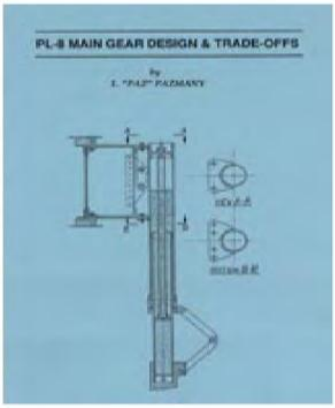
Ladislao Pazmany:

A Teacher's Legacy to Future Students

In the true spirit of aviation, Ladislao Pazmany was an innovator in every aspect of his life: In concepts, aeronautics, aviation, avionics – design, plans, parts, assembly, building, testing, teaching, flying, safety, friendships, meetings, fly-ins, displays, data-basing, photos, articles, books, networking and communication.

And he loved to teach.

This is well demonstrated in his books: alive with direction, detail, and understanding. They have a command of design engineering and construction that are recognized worldwide as definitive in the field of light aircraft. These books have become classics.



When receiving an AIAA award for Outstanding Technical Achievement in Aerospace Engineering in 1984, Mr. Pazmany was portrayed in Achiever magazine as a "man who has pursued for over four decades, aircraft designs of ***perfection***." It is an ambition he compares with a classic symphony…

"***The ultimate flight efficiencies blended with many components into a single machine.***"

What follows here are building blocks of his legacy:

1. AIAA Achievement Award

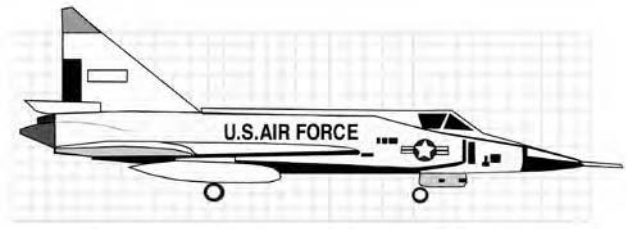
Honorary Recognition by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Outstanding Contribution to Aerospace Engineering, December, 1984.

2. NASA Research

Research, analysis and writing of the NASA contractor report: “Potential Structural Material and Design Concept For Light Airplanes” NASA CR93258, 1968, for mission analysis division. National Aeronautics Space Administration. Ames Research Center Moffett Field, California.

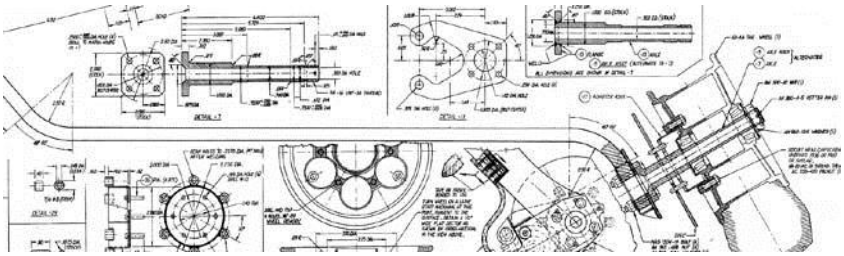
3. Department of Defense Engineering

Coming to the United States at the height of competition with Soviet Union for aeronautical, avionic, aerospace and overall military development, Mr. Pazmany helped push the frontiers of aviation for Convair, General Dynamics, Ryan and Rohr - at a time when technological development was a key to the safety and security of America - the cornerstone of peace in the free world. Mr. Pazmany worked on the F-102 and F-106. Years later he also worked on groundbreaking concepts of stealth aircraft.



4. Formulating Aircraft Plans

When Paz’s PL-1 plans reached the marketplace, they set a new standard for detail, completeness, and accuracy that resulted in a general improvement in all other plans and innovative building practices. Offered at affordable rates, they become popular and income was used to promote further developmental activities. His plans equal or surpass those in commercial aviation and provided a high level credibility to the growing field of individual homebuilding.



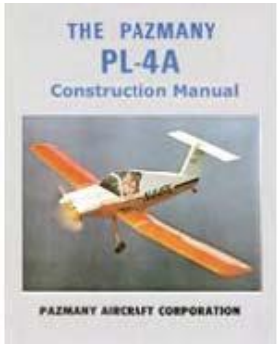
5. Pazmany Aircraft Corporation

From Homebuilding origins in San Diego, Pazmany began his own company using it to write, instruct, teach, design, and build - a lasting body of work that helped four generations of pilots and builders - utilizing the company funds for travel, fly-ins and air shows, expositions, and conferences. Founded in San Diego in 1957, the company is still functioning today.



6. Publishing The Light Aircraft Books

Focusing on light aircraft design, construction, and landing gear, in six separate books, Pazmany instruction spread to amateur, professional, industrial, and military builders everywhere. The publishing of highly-detailed, yet simple books and assemblies, set quality standards within homebuilding and commercial aviation, institutes, associations and universities around the world where they remain a staple of education for aircraft into the future - including recent applications such as General Atomics' current unmanned aircraft usage in Iraq.



7. University Lecturer in Aerospace Engineering

Mr. Pazmany introduced new concepts, innovations, principles and practices as a lecturer at both UCSD, the University of California at San Diego, 1979-1980; and SDSU, San Diego State University, 1975-1979. Subjects ranged widely from light aircraft design, engineering, construction to larger, jet, missile, and space applications.

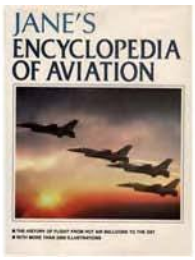


8. EAA MEMBERSHIP

Pazmany joined the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) Local Chapter in San Diego, California while working on aerospace defense contracts. This original San Diego chapter has grown and is still active and productive today. Then Mr. Pazmany helped build the EAA strength organizationally, through networking, friendships, design, teaching and flying, that helped expand the EAA nationally and around the world.

9. International Recognition

The PL Monoplanes, including PL-1, PL-2 PL-4A, and PL-9 Stork gain international recognition in magazines,clubs, associations, and from governments around the world demonstrating solid engineering and achieving anear-perfect safety record almost unmatched in aviation anywhere. Pazmany's inspired designs and activities lead to multiple listings in the prestigious Jane's Encyclopedia, used worldwide as a reference for military, institutional, governmental and corporate specifiers.



10. Government Licensing

Recommended by the US Air Force personnel, Nationalist China Taiwan committed to build 70 PL-2s as trainers for its military flight school at Kangshan during the early 1970's. After their success, other governments, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, followed with the formula set for PL-2 light airplane manufacture for military and civilian air patrol pilot training. They began their program with the Pazmany's design. Pazmany meets and advises governments and military in their development. Cadet corps are created. Simple efficiency and solid safety are emphasized.. 1962-Present

11. The Pazmany Efficiency Test

Pazmany created and conducted the first real world evaluation of homebuilt aircraft for the EAA, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 1970. It is still used as the standard for high quality homebuilding.

12. Networking

Pazmany set up an office in his home where he received friends, colleagues and pilots for help in design, safety, workshop, building, welding, assembly, and inside tips - including a vast collection of notes, photos, and diagrams. These extended relationships also included visits to both nearby Montgomery and Brown Field, flight monitoring nationwide, and a technical support line to pilots, engineers, and builders.


13. Dr. August Raspet Award:

Outstanding contribution to the advancement of light aircraft design, 1970. This award was an inspiration to contemporary builders of the era, a proof of EAA principles and productivity, and a foundation for future members, developers, students and pilots. The was the highest award given at that time.



14. Registered Patents

Pazmany innovations marked every stop in this aeronautic journey over a span of half a century. Some of the more prominent include Emergency Shut-Off Gas Valve; Elastic Support For Ducts (Convair); Elastic Belmouth For Vertifan Systems (Ryan); Overwing Thrust Reverser (Rohr); Fin Erection Mechanism (General Dynamics). Many other innovations were shared with other pilots and were applied though not necessarily recorded or patented.

15. Designing The Ryan Cloudster

Paz went to work for Ryan (Lindbergh's The Spirit of St. Louis is credited to this company) as head designer to develop the Ryan Cloudster, a motor glider that was flown and shown at the air show at Oshkosh. The Cloudster holds records for long endurance flight, and low gas usage. 1977. San Diego, California.


16. EAA Homebuilders Hall Of Fame

Mr. Pazmany was honored for lifelong contributions made in helping to build, expand, grow and enhance aviation. Specifically, he was awarded this unique place in the Hall for his work in design, education, flying, and furthering the goals of the EAA. His unstinting daily commitment of friendship and help to members worldwide left a lasting legacy to all. Three of his planes symbolize his work.


17. Website: www.pazmany.com

One of the first complete personal pilot sites, done in 1999, this online resource set a standard for accessibility, ease, thoroughness and functionality, unveiling such innovative features as movies, downloadable PDFs, e-commerce, comparison charts, and detailed information on books, plans, biographical reference, and FAQ.It also set a standard for new aircraft introduction around the Pazmany PL-9 Stork. This site is active today and shows the latest in homebuilder photos and submissions. Technical support is available by e-mail. Some AIAA and EAA members lauded this site when it began.

18. AIAA Award Winners Thank Pazmany

The historical achievement of the Gossamer Albatross, a human powered flying machine that crossed the English Channel and successfully flew from England To France in 1979, stands out in aviation history. A kind acknowledgement came from its inventors to Ladislao Pazmany for the innovative application of aeronautic principles that helped this unique machine to fly: “To Paz”...Paul MacCready “To Paz..We all learned from you.” - Peter Lissaman

19. An Ongoing Tradition Worldwide

Young students, pilots and builders continue the Pazmany tradition of innovation with new designs, engineering changes, construction and flying experience around the world, through associations, schools, universities, commercial and government sectors.

Left : A young Ladislao barnstorming in the fields outside Buenos Aires, Argentina in the 1930’s.
Middle : Recent construction of wings in a workshop from Pazmany plans and books.
Right : Completed Pazmany PL-9 Stork airborne over the deserts of Utah today.