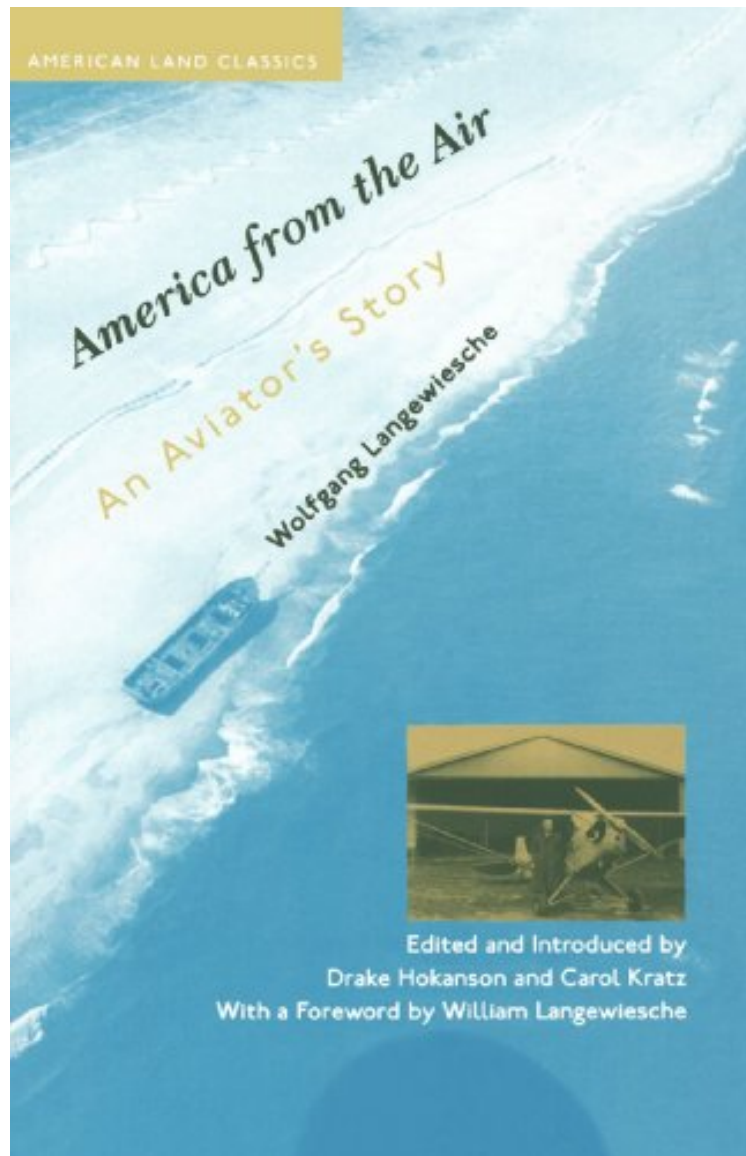


(Ebook pdf) America from the Air: An Aviator's Story (American Land Classics)

America from the Air: An Aviator's Story (American Land Classics)

Wolfgang Langewiesche

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Wolfgang Langewiesche : America from the Air: An Aviator's Story (American Land Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America from the Air: An Aviator's Story (American Land Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Birds' eye view By Eric This book is a great read, and gives a great perspective about the early ages of private piloting for leisure. Much about the author is learned from the preface, and the book itself reinforces that characterisation. The last chapter in particular, although slightly repetitive of the

previous chapters (or vice-versa) and in seemingly written in more hurried style, shows the observation skills of Wolfgang Langewiesche. Interestingly, the revolution that the author describes as happened in the 1930's with the coming of the Piper Cub, is being repeated during the last 10 years or so. The coming of very low-cost aircraft, with slightly less-reliable engines and easy field requirements, is presently happening with microlight or Light Sport Aircraft flying. This book is especially a thrill for those pilots. With strong emotions and vivid descriptions, the book relates of cross-country flying, the X-factor and the power of the view from above.⁸ of 8 people found the following review helpful. For anyone truly curious about what it feels like to fly

By Midwest Book Review Collaboratively edited and with introductions by Drake Hokanson and Carol Kratz, *America From The Air: An Aviator's Story* is the memoir of Wolfgang Langewiesche, a German-born test pilot, writer, and editor famous for his series of classic books that describe his adopted home of America from the sky. *America From The Air* collects selections from his classic accounts, "I'll Take The High Road" and "A Flier's World", first published in 1939 and 1951 respectively. Both give a talented perception of the physical sensation of flying, seeing small farms, deserted seashores, busy railway lines, and the general awe and wonder of looking down from on high. An engrossing read for anyone truly curious about what it feels like to fly, encompassing memories of America through time and the author's own true passion for aviation.

"I am no helmeted, begoggled hero of the skies; picture me bookish, bespectacled, unable to hold even a teacup without rattling it. As a pilot, I am merely an amateur, and I know it.... I shouldn't be talking. But I can't help talking. For you take the air: the thin, substanceless air that can be made to bear a man; you take America; and you take an airplane, which of all the works of man is the nearest to a living being you take those things and mix them up, and they will act as a drug which will knock all proper reticence right out of you. And so, here I go talking..."

from *America from the Air*

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh made his historic solo flight across the Atlantic; Amelia Earhart became the first woman to do so in 1932. And so was born the golden age of flying. Aviators became the era's new heroes and the airplane its icon. In early 1930s Chicago, a German-born graduate student became fascinated by the airplane and its usefulness as a great geographic and sociological tool. Wolfgang Langewiesche sold his car and used his meager salary to pay for flying lessons at 25 cents a minute. With the same passion America had taken to the road a decade earlier, Langewiesche took to the air. He eagerly inhaled the landscape and breathed observations about the country, writing a series of books that describe the heady excitement and freedom of flight and the stunning views of his adopted country from an entirely new vantage point the sky. This new edited volume revives the writings from two of his now out-of-print books. *America from the Air* draws from Langewiesche's classic account of his early experiences as a pilot, *I'll Take the High Road* (first published in 1939 and praised by the *New York Times* as "a stirring and revealing story, told with sensitiveness and lucidity and with the warmth of a modest personal charm"), and selections from his 1951 memoir, *A Flier's World*, to create a distinctive book that provides a pioneering look at the American landscape as seen from the cockpit of a light plane. Langewiesche's photographs from his cross-country flights circa 1939 evoke the era. Wolfgang Langewiesche is revered among pilots for his 1944 flying primer, *Stick and Rudder*, currently in its seventieth printing. Considered the bible of aviation, it tells us the "how" of flying; *America from the Air* tells us the "why." Here his descriptions of the country offer unique perspectives on New England, the Midwest, and the Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Key West, at a time before the country was paved over by multilane expressways, suburban tract housing, and strip malls. His bird's-eye view of America takes in small farms, deserted seashores, busy railway lines, and cities in which skyscrapers were still engineering marvels. With the keen eye of a surveyor and an uncommon talent for conveying the physical sensation of flying, he describes landscape in all its beauty and detail as it rolls out beneath him, unveiling its mysteries. Langewiesche is revealed here as an infectiously enthusiastic aviator and an unrivaled observer of the American landscape. In a new foreword, Langewiesche's son, writer William Langewiesche, describes his father's love of the view from above. Hokanson and Kratz's introduction and biography update the reader, incorporating stories gleaned from recent interviews with the author.

"A joyous, wonderful book. Beginning with his own visceral passion for flying, Wolfgang Langewiesche leads the lay reader effortlessly into the arcane world of the pilot first as he learns to fly, then as he learns to look. The writing is unobtrusively elegant, and the book is a page-turner of the first order. Langewiesche looks at flying in all sorts of ways: as a skill, painfully to be learned on the antique crates of the post-Wright Brothers years, as an art to be mastered, as an experience in psychology and emotion and as a new way of looking at the earth." (Peirce Lewis, Emeritus Professor of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University)

Here Wolfgang Langewiesche, master of aviation writing, reminds us of flying's wonders: learning, seeing, feeling and the joys that are still there, despite today's complications. A book for all pilots to read." (Bob Buck, author of *Weather Flying* and *North Star Over My Shoulder*)

"The heart of the work is in Langewiesche's sensitive, descriptive prose, which will keep readers both veterans and newcomers entranced" (*Sport Aviation*)

"[Langewiesche] introduced Americans to their own environment as seen from the air, combining his love for the coasts, farms, and plains of his adopted country with his love for flying slightly over them." (*Reference and Research Book News*)

About the Author Wolfgang Langewiesche (1907-2002) was born in Dsseldorf in 1907 and emigrated to the United States in 1929 after studying at the London School of

Economics. He earned a master's degree in economics from Columbia University and proceeded to the University of Chicago as a doctoral candidate and research assistant in political science. He worked as a test pilot as well as a writer and editor, contributing to numerous publications including *Life* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. Drake Hokanson is an author, photographer, pilot, and assistant professor of mass communications at Winona State University. Carol Kratz is an author, editor, pilot, educator, and physician assistant. William Langewiesche is a national correspondent for the *Atlantic Monthly* and the author of four books, including *American Ground: Unbuilding the World Trade Center*.