

What's New?

FlyPast reviews our pick of the things to spend your money on

Books, Clothing
Accessories
and the best of
the rest

FlyPast
Product Of
The Month

God of fire facsimile

www.corgi.co.uk
AVRO VULCAN B.2 DIECAST MODEL, £199.99

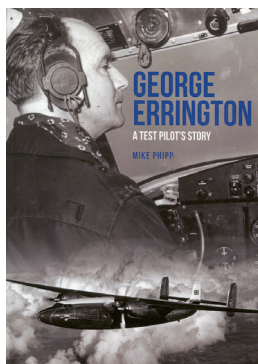
Corgi's Aviation Archive series has offered excellent limited-edition diecast models over the years, and with much variety. This new 1/72 scale Vulcan, though, is arguably its most impressive replica yet. The hefty beast has a wingspan of approximately 19in (just over 48cm) and it can be posed 'in flight' courtesy of a sturdy stand, but a separate undercarriage is supplied if you want to show it off on its wheels. Corgi has done well in imitating the RAF Dark Green and Medium Sea Grey over white scheme on this airframe, XM575 of 101 Squadron at Waddington, Lincolnshire in 1975. A pleasing detail is that the single in-flight bomb bay door unit can be removed (and individual doors fitted), to reveal a full load of 'live' thousand-pounders on seven-store carriers. On closer inspection there are fine renderings of airframe stencilling and antennas and you can even fit an alternative crew access door in the open position, with the ladder dropped. It is limited to 1,000 units and comes with a numbered collector card.



Testing times

www.amberley-books.com
GEORGE ERRINGTON – A TEST PILOT'S STORY, MIKE PHIPP, SBK, ILLUS, 128PP, £16.99

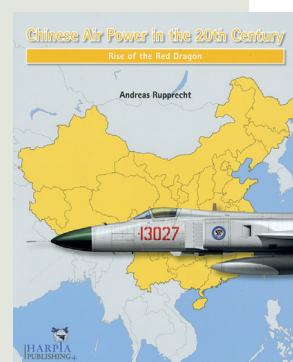
The name George Errington may be new to some readers – certainly his fame as a test pilot has been overshadowed by the likes of Neville Duke and Roland Beamont – but for three decades the Hertfordshire-born aviator was every bit as busy and frequently appeared in aviation magazines of the time. In collaboration with George's son, Roly, author Mike Phipp has attempted to redress this balance, profiling Errington and describing his many adventures. The subject's first step into test flying was with the Airspeed company in the mid-1930s. By 1939 he was the Portsmouth-based organisation's chief test pilot and he played a key role in its activities during World War Two, including the development of the Horsa glider. Inevitably, this was a hazardous business, but a challenge to which George rose with vigour. Using many of his memoirs, reports and logbooks, the book also describes the protagonist's overseas flights, taking in South Africa and China, battling through "unfavourable weather, tropical sandstorms and monsoon rains". George ended up with de Havilland after the war, flight testing and delivering Comets, Herons and Vampires. His was certainly a life well lived, and it's enjoyably recounted here.



Sino wings

www.casematepublishing.co.uk
CHINESE AIR POWER IN THE 20TH CENTURY, ANDREAS RUPPRECHT, SBK, ILLUS, 258PP, £35.99

Subtitled *Rise of the Red Dragon*, this workmanlike book is worth considering if you are in any way interested in the history of Asian air arms. Books from the Harpia Publishing imprint (marketed by Casemate) are always lavishly illustrated, and this is no exception, with photographs of mostly excellent quality, along with maps, digital 3D renderings of aircraft and examples of differing national insignia. The book begins with a prequel explaining the Chinese aviation landscape from 1911-24, followed by a detailed description of the 'early years' from 1924-49. Subjects such as the Manchurian Air Force, Manchukuo Air Transport Company and National Government of China Air Force are all explored. Of course, China's aircraft activity throughout World War Two is examined, before delving into the post-war years. The photos offer interesting views of various MiGs, Ilyushin Il-28/Harbin H-5 bombers, and other licence-built and indigenous machines. The section on the Cultural Revolution is fascinating, particularly as it includes narrative on the Vietnam War. A superb publication.



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