

## **Two Up** By Ron & Jim Smith.

This colourful first edition is a guaranteed aviation reward for all - from the youngest enthusiast to all pilots who have developed a love of flying no matter how experienced they may be. Written by two of UK's brightest graduate aviation engineer designers and active private pilots, 'Two Up' is not only a travelogue of world-wide scope but its galleries of memorable photographs alone make it a 'must have' addition for all aviation enthusiast bookshelves. You will study the pictures again and again as you read through the stories and anecdotes recalled by each of the identical twin brothers, Ron & Jim Smith who have helped shape the Aerospace Communities in both the UK and Australia.

Recalling their school days and service in 574 Squadron ATC, they take us back to RAF Kenley in the summer of 1967 and flying the Slingsby T-21 'Sedburgh' (and soloing in the T-31 Tandem Tutor). Beautifully illustrated with full-page colour photographs, they conclude this chapter with the tale of a fellow cadet who, in a moment of bravado, had asked his instructor to demonstrate some aerobatics from a winch launch in the T-21. An experience the lad was never to forget!

The brothers take it in turns to relate various personal adventures that have taken place during their many years as leading members in the Aerospace & Defence Organisations. Along with several colleagues on their way to a Helicopter Association International Convention at Las Vegas in 1981, Ron visited the vast expanse of obsolete military & civil aircraft stored at Tucson, Arizona. At the aptly named 'Aerospace Maintenance & Reutilization Center' at Tucson Airport he saw and photographed 'a veritable sea of abandoned aircraft' including a Boeing B377 Stratocruiser and an even rarer Boeing 307 Stratoliner. This one section alone with *over thirty pages* of coloured photographs of bygone aircraft make it compulsive reading and, on a brighter note, many were under active restoration at the nearby Pima County Museum.

But there are also some vital lessons to be learned from their many years of flying light aeroplanes. Jim recalls some scary moments in a Chipmunk that was committed to flying under a Cu Nim and Ron devotes a chapter on the memorable experiences of handling DH82A Tiger Moths. He gives us some very useful advice about flying the Tiger and ensuring safe landings.

Their professional duties as heads of Aerospace & Defence Committees in UK & Australia took them individually all around the World. Thanks to their personal cameras they were able to record the 'post Berlin Wall' Russian Aircraft Industry with its intriguing helicopter developments. On a lighter note but no less interesting, we can also enjoy their photographs of the many vintage aircraft & float planes that are still in everyday use for delivering freight & food supplies to the many scattered outlying settlements in Alaska.

If I had any criticism of this modestly priced book (£18.95) it is that, at end of its generous sized (10"x8") 265 pages, one becomes addicted to Ron & Jim Smith's lifetime adventures. The image that I take with me is their youthful memories of Eastleigh Airport as they studied for their Aeronautical Engineering Degrees. During revision periods they would cycle over to the Airport and carry out their studies while lying on the grass under approach lights. From this vantage point they could identify and photograph each arriving airliner, freighter or light aircraft coming into land.

Age has not dimmed their youthful enthusiasm for all aspects of aviation. This book is a treasure-trove of aeronautical memories and I can recommend it to all LAA members and aviation enthusiasts.

John Beeswax.

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