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## Sometimes Eagle's Wings: the Saga of Aropostale

*Joy Dunkerley*

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#2247322 in Books 2010-02-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.251, .61 #File Name: 1439268010264 pages | File size: 63.Mb

**Joy Dunkerley : Sometimes Eagle's Wings: the Saga of Aropostale** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sometimes Eagle's Wings: the Saga of Aropostale:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant History of a Great Early European AirlineBy Michael G. LavelleAuthor Joy Dunkerley is to be highly commended for the research conducted and the subsequent writing of her book "Sometimes Eagle's Wings - The Saga of Aropostale". This has resulted in a true contribution to international aviation literature.However, her book is much more than a factual history. It is the story of the human spirit,

dedication, and team work to meet challenges to establish a reliable air transportation system. The story begins in 1918 with the Frenchman Pierre-Georges Latécoère and his vision to connect France with South America through Africa. From 1918 to the final days of Aeropostale in 1933 the reader will meet not only the financier, Latécoère and his equally visionary successor, Marcel Bouilloux-Lafont, but also the government officials, as well as the field station managers, mechanics and pilots who pushed beyond the performance limits their aircraft as the routes expanded further and higher. The story of the 3000 mile plus transcontinental line developed in the United States by the Post Office between 1918 to 1925 is an amazing story as well. But it was done over a homogeneous culture, supported by one government, over many large populated areas with alternative forms of transportation between them. Dunkerley's book clearly bring out the challenges of the personnel working "The Line" on doing the same thing over multi-cultural lands (Northwest Africa and South America) with not only cultural barriers and competing government systems, but long distances over vast areas of undeveloped land bounded by the Atlantic ocean one side and one of the world's largest deserts on the other. South America wasn't any easier with the Andes reaching up higher than many of the earlier aircraft could climb. Then to complete Latécoère's vision, Dakar in Africa and Natal in South America were connected, first by ship, and once by air, across the 2000 mile south Atlantic route. In the 228 pages of text Dunkerley does a masterful job having the reader meet the real life characters that established this remarkable air line including the famous novelist pilot Antoine de Saint-Exupéry who gathered much of his books material while flying for Aeropostale. However, this easy and informative read is not fiction but factual. To help the reader follow the fast moving story closely the author included both maps and a year by year chronology of key dates and events covering the time period of the book. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting a great history of human accomplishment, aviation or otherwise. Mike Lavelle Issaquah, WA 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jorge Eduardo Leal Medeiros One of the very few books in English on Aeropostale, presenting a most comprehensive overview of all its development. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history of Aeropostale By A2A great overview of the trials and tribulations of the people, aviators and corporate innovators that built Aeropostale into what it was. An interesting read.

Few in the English-speaking world realize that Aeropostale, the French airline often associated with pilot Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince*, was the world's first intercontinental carrier and a company that catapulted France into the role of the world's aviation leader. Founded in 1918 as a mail and passenger carrier between the south of France and Morocco it soon expanded mail service to Argentina. When rival carriers were traveling routes separated by mere hundreds of miles, it became an airline that remained a symbol of adventure and daring until its liquidation in 1931. In *Sometimes Eagle's Wings: The Saga of Aeropostale*, Joy Dunkerley brings to life this historic airline, infusing each page with compelling and often intriguing information about its pilots and crews, its historic presence in South America, and the political and financial wrangling that kept it flying and eventually led to its demise.

About the Author Joy Dunkerley is an economist, historian, and author who studied at Stanford University and earned degrees from the London School of Economics and, as a Fulbright Fellow, from Clark University in Massachusetts. She has published extensively in the field of Energy Economics, including Transportation. The author was elected President of the International Association for Energy Economics and is a recipient of its Adelman-Frankel Award for Unique and Innovating Contributions to the field of Energy Economics. She is a member of the Cosmos Club and has served as board member of the National Rehabilitation Hospital and the American Friends of the London School of Economics. Ms. Dunkerley resides in Washington D.C. and is a frequent visitor to France.