

Daniel Guggenheim Medal

MEDALIST FOR 2002

For significant pioneering contributions to aircraft and the airline industry from flying boats to jet aircraft.



JOHN G. BORGER

John G. Borger was born in New York City. He entered M.I.T. from Pearl River, New York and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in 1934. Shortly thereafter he joined Pan American Airways as an Airport Engineer.

Early in 1935 he participated in the first North Haven expedition which built bases for flying boats at Midway and Wake Islands in the Pacific. After spending 6 months at Wake he returned to Pan Am at Alameda, California to become a junior engineer. He assisted John Leslie with engineering tasks related to the early transpacific flights of the Martin-1,30, known as the China Clipper and the Sikorsky flying boats.

In 1937 he transferred to the Atlantic division of Pan Am to do similar work with the S-42's in transatlantic surveys and the New York-Bermuda operation. After the Boeing B-314 Clippers were delivered in 1939, the base was transferred to New York City's La Guardia airport.

He served as the Assistant Resident Engineer at the Lockheed plant in Burbank, California in 1941, in conjunction with the development of the Constellation aircraft.

John returned to New York City in 1943 as Project Engineer in the Systems Engineering Office, and became Chief Project Engineer in 1946, Chief Engineer in 1963, and Vice President and Chief Engineer in 1971. He retired as Technical Advisor in 1980 and is now a consultant.

In addition to the aircraft mentioned above, he was involved in the development of the Boeing B377 Stratocruiser, four versions of the B707 jet transport, three versions of the B747 as well as the Douglass DC-6B, -7B, -7C, DC-8, the Lockheed L1011-500, the Convair CV-240 and the Dausault Falcon 20, -10 and -50. From 1953 he was responsible for the evaluation of new aircraft and technical standards for airplanes, engines, airborne equipment, interior layouts, seats, galleys, fuels and lubricants as well as the oversight of technical aspects of flight operations procedures.