



ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY (1900-1944)  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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POET  
PILOT  
PATRIOT

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“ABOVE YOUR OWN COUNTRY,  
YOU BREATHE OXYGEN  
MADE IN THE UNITED STATES.  
NEW YORK AIR IN A FRENCH SKY:  
AMAZING.

YOU FLY THE P-38 LIGHTNING,  
THAT LIGHTWEIGHT MONSTER,  
AND YOU HAVE THE FEELING,  
NOT OF BEING IN MOTION,  
BUT OF BEING  
EVERYWHERE AT ONCE,  
ALL OVER A CONTINENT.”

*Lettre à un Américain (Letter to an American)*  
May 30, 1944



# ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S ANCESTOR AND THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Georges Alexandre Césarée de Saint-Exupéry (1757-1825), Count of Saint-Amans, joined his compatriot, the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), in the American Revolutionary War and was wounded in the fighting. He took part in the taking of Pensacola and fought until the Franco-American victory in Yorktown on

October 19, 1781. Following his return to France, the Duke de La Rochefoucauld asked him on June 22, 1783 to write his memoirs to recount France's contribution to the armed combat that led to the independence of the United States of America.



*The Marquis de Lafayette  
on US stamps*



*Lord Cornwallis surrenders on October 19, 1781*



*Top: Georges Alexandre Césarée  
de Saint-Exupéry  
Bottom: Coat of arms of the  
Saint-Exupéry family*



*The Marquis de Lafayette*

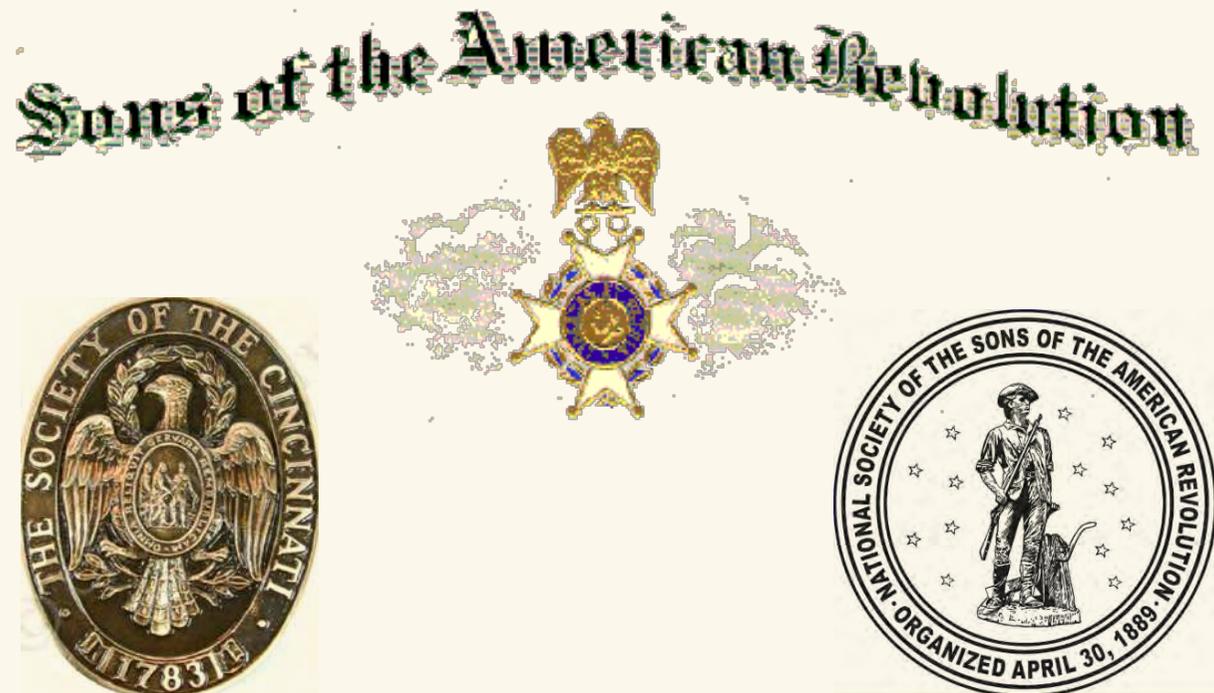
# ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY AND AMERICAN PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was therefore given a patriot's welcome to the USA and, in recognition of his ancestor's participation in the American War of Independence, he became a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American

Revolution (SAR) in 1939. His nephews are now members of America's two leading patriotic societies: Sons of the American Revolution and Society of the Cincinnati, America's oldest patriotic society founded by George Washington on May 13, 1783.



Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Rockefeller Center, NY, July 13, 1939



Left: Insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati  
Top: Medal of the Sons of the American Revolution  
Right: Insignia of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

# SUCCESS OF SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S NOVEL NIGHT FLIGHT IN THE USA

After *Courrier Sud* (Southern Mail) published in 1929, *Night Flight* (*Vol de Nuit*) is the second novel by French writer and pioneering aviator, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. First published in France in 1931, his book arrived in the USA in 1932 already translated into English and published by Desmond Harmsworth, London, and became an international bestseller. *Night Flight*, which won the 1931 Femina Prize in France and a Book

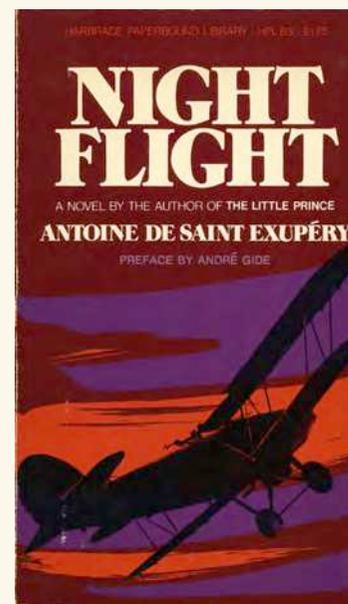
of the Month Club Selection in 1932 in the USA, proved to be a great success with the American public. Clarence Brown, a Hollywood director who had made a name for himself by directing stars like Greta Garbo, decided to adapt *Night Flight* for the silver screen in 1933. Distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the film starred Clark Gable in the lead role.



*Saint-Exupéry flying above the sand dunes of the Moroccan desert*



*Poster of the film Night Flight*



*Illustration of the book Night Flight*



*American actor Clark Gable*

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S AIR RACE: NEW YORK – TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry arrived in New York in January 1938 to prepare a long-distance record attempt from New York to Tierra del Fuego in his Caudron C.630 "Simoun" aircraft. He took off on February 15, 1938, but in Guatemala City his plane crashed at the end of the runway. He was seriously injured, and during the lengthy convalescence that followed in New York, he signed a contract for a new novel with his American publishers, Reynal & Hitchcock. A flood of correspondence with translator Lewis Galantière followed to order the notes

and articles that would ultimately form the content of his novel *Wind, Sand and Stars*, which came out in the USA in June 1939. The novel was chosen as Book of the Month and won the 1939 National Book Award of the American Booksellers Association in the USA. In just one year, the novel sold over 250,000 copies. It was also awarded the Académie Française's Grand Prize for Novel Writing in May 1939 under its French title, *Terre des Hommes*.



*Saint-Exupéry with his publishers and his translator, NY, July 1939*



*Advertisement for Wind, Sand and Stars*



*Saint-Exupéry photographed by ACME Newspictures as he landed in NY, January 12, 1938*



*Saint-Exupéry with his Simoun*



*Saint-Exupéry's plane crashed in Guatemala, 1938*

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY AND GUILLAUMET'S FIRST TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT ON THE LATÉ 521

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry returned to New York in June 1939, where he was now an internationally-acclaimed writer and famous figure celebrated by the American society. Aboard the Latécoère 521 giant flying boat, „Lieutenant de Vaisseau Paris“, piloted by his friend Henri Guillaumet, the two aviation pioneers made the first non-stop transatlantic crossing from Biscarosse to New York, paving the way for the opening of the future scheduled service by Air France. On August 3, 1939, Saint-Exu-

péry recounted this historical flight during a radio interview at NBC studios and expressed his admiration for the Rockefeller Center's modern architecture and great interest in the City of New York. He also explained that he had accepted to write the preface to Anne Morrow Lindbergh's book, Listen! The Wind. A recording of this unique interview was recently discovered in the archives of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ao-XXtkr1SI>



Charles A. Lindbergh and Anne Morrow Lindbergh in flight gear, 1931



The Latécoère 521 giant flying boat



Top: Saint-Exupéry and Guillaumet upon their arrival in NY (Photo by Hansel Mieth for Life Mag.)  
Bottom: Saint-Exupéry and Guillaumet in the Latécoère 521

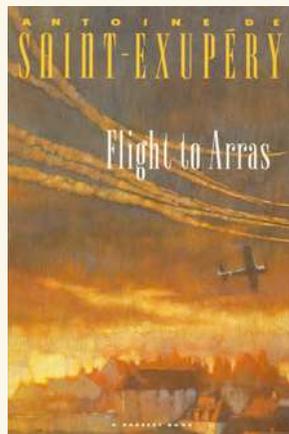


Saint-Exupéry and Guillaumet in the Latécoère 521 cockpit

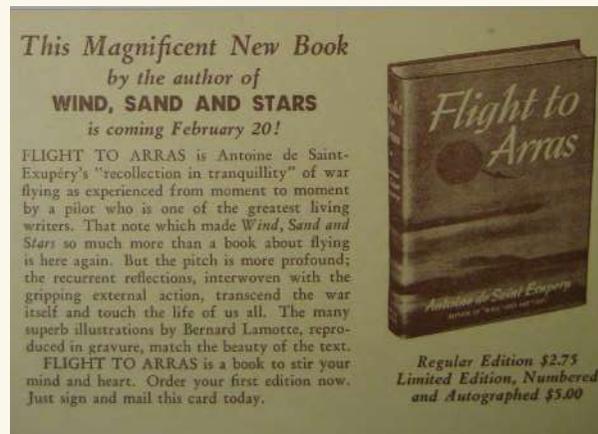
# SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S EXILE AND COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY IN THE USA

At the outbreak of WWII, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry joined the French Air Force's most dangerous unit, the 11/33 Group, long-range reconnaissance squadron, until France's armistice with Germany in 1940. Flying behind enemy lines, this prestigious unit lost 17 of its 23 planes. After being demobilized, he returned to the USA on December 31, 1940 not to take refuge, but to use his fame to attempt to persuade the American government of the need to fight fascism and to save the Western democracies. This led to a 27-month hiatus in North America, during which he drew from his wartime experiences to write

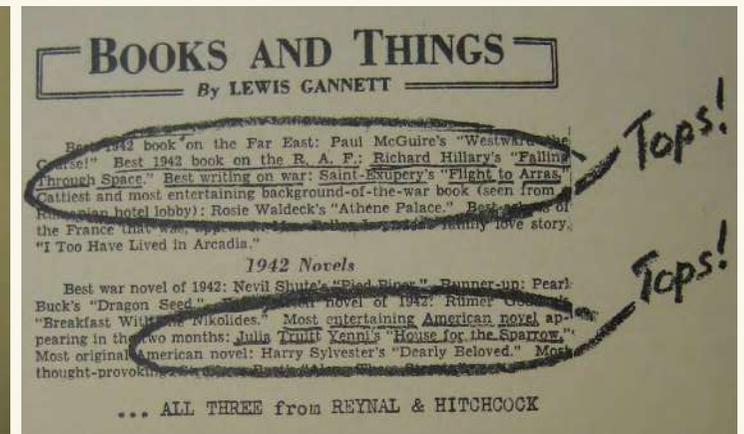
Flight to Arras, published in New York on February 20, 1942. It topped the bestseller charts for six months and earned him widespread acclaim. "This narrative and Churchill's speeches stand as the best answer the democracies have yet found to Mein Kampf," wrote Edward Weeks in The Atlantic Monthly magazine. The French edition of the book, *Pilote de Guerre*, was banned in France a year later by the German occupation authorities, but the French Resistance managed to overcome this interdiction by printing clandestine editions in Lille and Lyon.



Cover of the book  
Flight to Arras/  
Pilote de Guerre



Advertisements for the book Flight to Arras





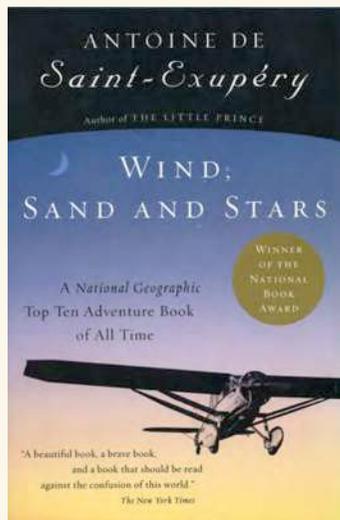
PHOTOGRAPH  
BY  
HIRSCH  
SAINT-EXUPÉRY  
JUL 13 1939

Contact sheet of Saint-Exupéry,  
photographed by  
Hirsch, New York, July 13, 1939

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY WITH HIS ARTIST FRIENDS IN NEW YORK

During his exile in the USA in 1940, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was reunited with his good friend, French painter Bernard Lamotte. As early as 1936, French and American celebrities would get together to socialize in Lamotte's New York studio (then known as "Le Bocal", which is today La Grenouille restaurant). Stars visiting his studio would carve their names into his wooden table. Among the signatures were three carvings by

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, including one depicting a Little Prince, and also the signatures of Ingrid Bergman, Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin, Grace Moore, Marlene Dietrich, Jean Renoir, and Jean Gabin, among others. Saint-Exupéry traveled to Los Angeles and, through the help of his friend Jean Renoir, made contacts in Hollywood for the idea of a film based on *Terre des Hommes* (Wind, Sand and Stars).



Cover of the book *Wind, Sand and Stars/ Terre des Hommes*



Jean Renoir and Saint-Exupéry in LA, 1941



Saint-Exupéry and Lamotte on the terrace of "Le Bocal"



Top: Commemorative plaque on the façade of La Grenouille restaurant  
Bottom: Lamotte's table

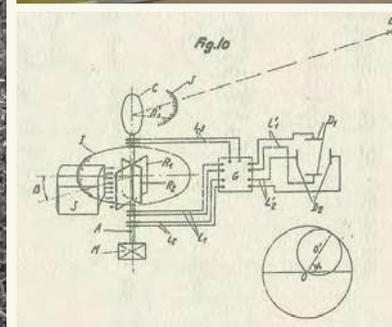
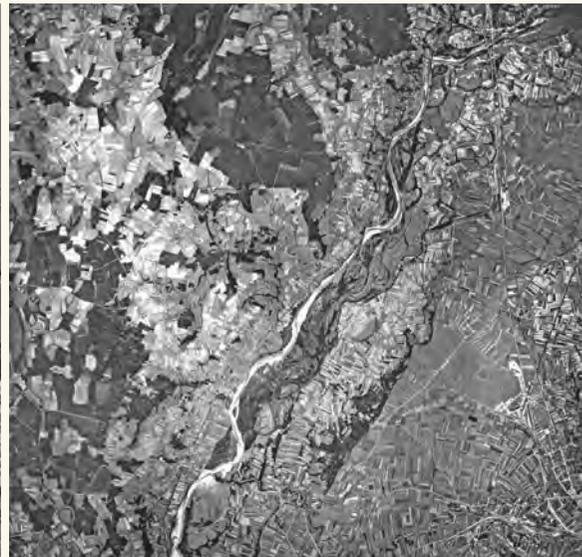


Details of Lamotte's table

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE US WAR DEPARTMENT

During his time in the USA, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry went frequently to the US War Department (now the Pentagon) at the request of the American authorities, mainly to help analyze aerial reconnaissance photographs of the South of France to assist the Americans in the preparations for the Allied landings in Provence. He also offered them two aviation-related inventions, but they attracted no interest. During this period, he spoke out on numerous occasions in the American press.

He also approached US political leaders including President Roosevelt, with the help of William Donovan, the man who in June 1942 set up the Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of the CIA). Donovan was a personal friend of both President Roosevelt and Saint-Exupéry. He even asked Lewis Galantière to submit his plan for landings in North Africa to the US Army Chief of Staff.



*Aerial photographs taken in the south of France by Saint-Exupéry during WWII*

*Top: The US War Department  
Bottom: „System of position finding by  
electromagnetic waves” invented by  
Saint-Exupéry (US Patent Office June 4, 1941)*

*Saint-Exupéry in the NBC studios*

# THE LITTLE PRINCE

## A NEW YORK STORY

Saint-Exupéry's wife Consuelo arrived in New York in spring 1942. Over the summer and fall, he worked on his next book, *Le Petit Prince* (*The Little Prince*), at Bevin House on Long Island. He felt that his drawing skills were not adequate for illustrating the book himself, but his friend, journalist Silvia Hamilton Reinhardt, managed to convince him otherwise. It did not come easily to him, even if he had been drawing all his life. The

baobabs were the source of many problems. He left his manuscript of *The Little Prince* and numerous original watercolors with Silvia, which was published in the US for the first time on April 6, 1943 and would become the world's most translated book of French literature of all time with 300 translations to date. Link to a color video of Saint-Exupéry in Canada in 1942: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7xGCdstoFA>



*Drawing from the manuscript of The Little Prince  
(Morgan Library and Museum, New York)*



*Bevin House*



*Antoine playing with Silvia Hamilton Reinhardt's poodle,  
which would serve as the model for his sheep in The Little Prince*

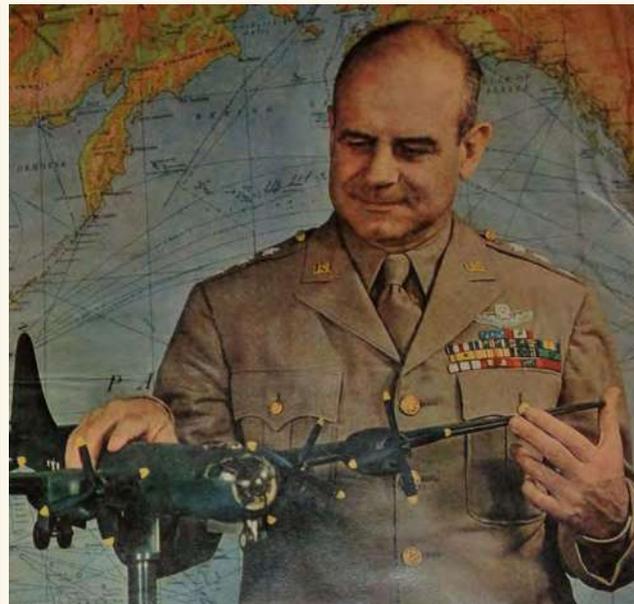
# SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S EFFORTS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING THROUGH WORDS AND ACTS

As soon as the Allies landed in North Africa (November 6, 1942), Saint-Exupéry started trying to get back to the 11/33, now reformed under American command in Algeria. He solicited the US authorities, including General James Doolittle, head of the US air forces in North Africa and an admirer of the author, and William Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services. He wrote numerous articles in support of France such as Lett-

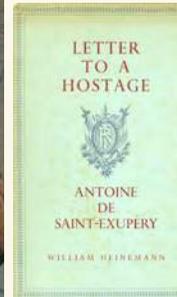
re aux Américains (Letter to Americans) and An Open Letter to Frenchmen Everywhere in The New York Times Magazine on November 29, 1942, extolling unity among Frenchmen worldwide after the Fall of France. He also authored Lettre à un Otage (Letter to a Hostage) dedicated to the 40 million French people living under Nazi oppression, before leaving the USA to return to combat in April 1943.



Saint-Exupéry with Eugénie and Elysabeth Reynal (his publishers),  
New York, 1942



General James Doolittle



Covers of the book  
Letter to a Hostage  
/Lettre à un Otage



Copy of the article  
An Open Letter to Frenchmen Everywhere

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY RETURNS TO WAR WITH THE US AUTHORITIES' SUPPORT

Saint-Exupéry left the United States for North Africa on April 13, 1943 to join his companions-in-armed from Flight to Arras and to serve with the Allies in the 11/33 reconnaissance squadron. He sailed to Algiers on an American convoy of 30 ships carrying 50,000 US soldiers. Then aged 43, he was far older than most men in operational units. Although eight years over the age limit for such pilots and in declining health, he had petitioned endlessly for an exemption, which had finally been approved by General Dwight Eisenhower. In 1944, after wrecking a Lockheed P-38 Lightning high altitude reconnaissance aircraft due to engine failure on his second mission, he was grounded for eight months, but was then later restore to operational flying thanks to the personal intervention of Ge-

neral Ira C. Eaker, in command of the Mediterranean Allied Air Force, who was persuaded by Life magazine's American photographer and journalist, John Phillips. In recognition of his support, Saint-Exupéry wrote his last article, *Lettre à un Américain* (Letter to an American), for his friend John Phillips, who also captured the last photos of the famous French aviator on the Alghero airbase in Sardinia from May 10 through May 30, 1944. On July 31, 1944, Major Saint-Exupéry took off from Borgo, Corsica, for his last assigned reconnaissance flight with the U.S. 23rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron over occupied France aboard an unarmed Lockheed F-5B, No. 223, a mission from which he never returned. The circumstances of his disappearance remain a mystery to this day.



John Phillips and Saint-Exupéry



Article in *The New York Times*,  
August 10, 1944



Saint-Exupéry and his P-38



Saint-Exupéry preparing  
for a mission

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S HONORS AND LEGACY

Pioneering aviator, bestselling writer and humanist, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry enjoyed a celebrity in his lifetime that was surpassed only by his fame after his death. With his mysterious disappearance during WWII and then the worldwide success of his final book, *The Little Prince*, he achieved mythical status, one that has kept the French enthralled ever since. France posthumously conferred him national hero status. Officer of the French Legion of Honor, Saint-Exupéry was recognized as “Mort pour la France” (a member of the French military forces who died in action during WWII in the service of his country) in 1948. In the Official Journal (State register of the French Republic) on March 12, 1950, Major Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

was cited posthumously in the French Air Force Order for having “proven in both 1940 and 1943 his passion for serving and his faith in the destiny of the motherland”. This citation includes the awarding of the Croix de Guerre 1939/1945 avec Palme (1939/1945 War Cross with distinction). Although his body was never identified, the French government commemorated the legendary pilot and internationally-renowned writer with an inscription in the Panthéon in Paris, France’s repository of historical greats, on September 17, 1965 by a French legislative act. Link to a TV report about the national homage of December 13, 2016:

<https://youtu.be/H9Pp11Ldpeg>



*National homage to Antoine de Saint Exupéry at the Pantheon on December 13, 2016*

# SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITIONS

Saint-Exupéry earned further widespread recognition thanks to international translations of his other literary works, such as his 1939 novel, *Terre des Hommes* (Wind, Sand and Stars), which was used to create the central theme of the most successful world's fair of the 20th century, Expo 67 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. All around the world, more than the author, it is Saint-Exupéry the man who is revered, with the panache of his life and the sacrifice of his death constantly revisited in newspaper articles, books, exhibitions and even his image on

the 50-franc bill in France. His memory and his name continue to be celebrated internationally with numerous postal stamps, medals and coins paying tribute to him, and also thousands of schools, libraries, museums, cultural centers, monuments, streets and squares bearing his name and image. Moreover, his books regularly travel to space with French, American and Russian astronauts and an asteroid is named after him. Link to a video recorded from space by ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet: <https://youtu.be/mAQTeYBexaw>



*European Space Agency Astronaut Thomas Pesquet presenting Saint-Exupéry's book aboard the International Space Station on January 2, 2017*

THE LITTLE PRINCE –  
A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY



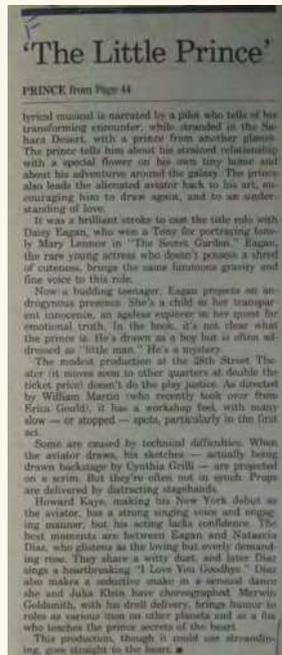
Left: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry writing, 1940  
Right: The Little Prince on Asteroid B-612



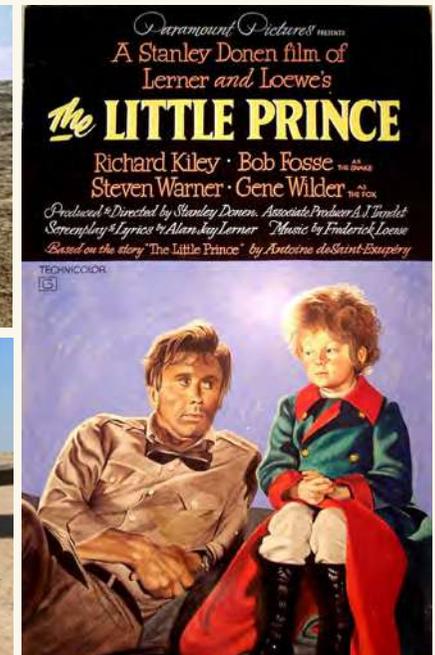
# THE LITTLE PRINCE – A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY

First published in the USA on April 6, 1943 by Reynal & Hitchcock, *The Little Prince* (original title: *Le Petit Prince*) is the most read and most translated book of French literature and was voted the best book of the 20th century in France. The novella has been adapted into various media over the decades,

including films, plays, ballets, operas, audio recordings, movie musicals and an animated series. Among all the international adaptations of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's masterpiece and celebrations of his greatest achievements, one can mention the following major creations and events:



Articles about The musical „The Little Prince“, 1993, directed by William Martin with music by Rick Cummins



Film poster & scenes from Stanley Donen's film „The Little Prince“, 1974, a British-American fantasy-musical film starring Steven Warner in the title role, with Richard Kiley as the aviator.

# THE LITTLE PRINCE – A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY



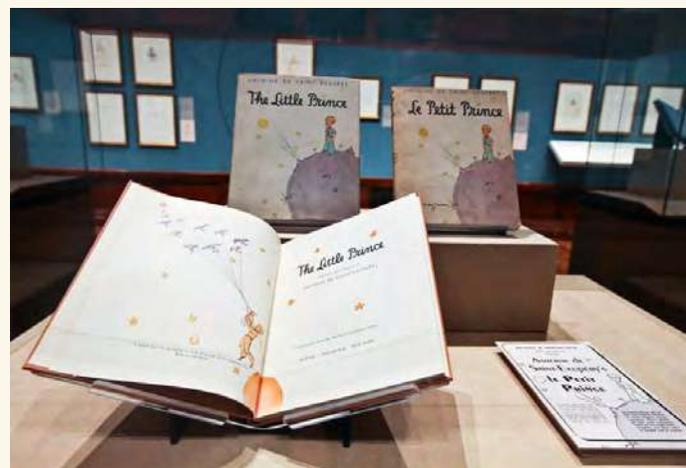
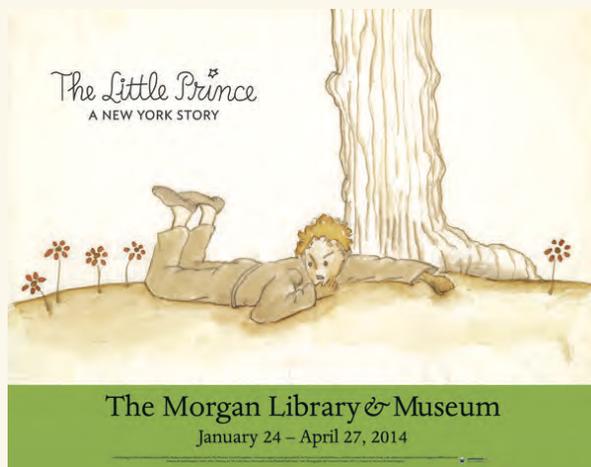
Illustration of book covers of *The Little Prince* from all over the world

# THE LITTLE PRINCE – A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY

Two major exhibitions held at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York showcasing the manuscript of *Le Petit Prince* (1993) to mark the 50th anniversary of its first publication and (2014) *The Little Prince, A New York Story* in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the 1943 classic, which attracted 80,000 visitors

and widespread media coverage.

1994 – Publishers A.A. Knopf bring out the US edition of the biography of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry by Pulitzer Prize-winning American nonfiction author, Stacy M. Schiff



*The Little Prince* exhibition at the Morgan Library & Museum, New York

Pulitzer Prize-winning American nonfiction author,  
Stacy M. Schiff & the cover of her  
*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry* biography

# THE LITTLE PRINCE – A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY

2003 – Rachel Portman adapts *The Little Prince* into a stunning opera, with the main roles played by brilliant soloists: Joseph McManners, Lesley Garrett, Aled Jones and Willard White.

2013 – Conference and roundtable on the life and work of Saint-Exupéry at the Maison Française of Columbia University

in New York City and a cultural event jointly organized by the United Nations, the International Organization of La Francophonie and the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Estate, as part of the “Mois de la Francophonie” (Francophone Countries’ Month), “a cultural diplomacy initiative” at The New York Public Library.



*The Little Prince* opera by Rachel Portman



*The Maison Française, Columbia University, New York*

# THE LITTLE PRINCE – A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY

2016 –The Little Prince, an English-language, French 3D animated film directed by Mark Osborne (Kung Fu Panda) and starring the voices of Jeff Bridges, Rachel McAdams, Paul Rudd, Bud Cort, Marion Cotillard, Benicio del Toro, James Franco, Ricky Gervais, Paul Giamatti, Riley Osborne, Albert Brooks

and Mackenzie Foy. Co-produced by French company ON Entertainment, the film was named the “top animated French film export” and Mark Osborne won a César for Best Animated Film.



Poster for Mark Osborne's film  
The Little Prince, 2015-2016

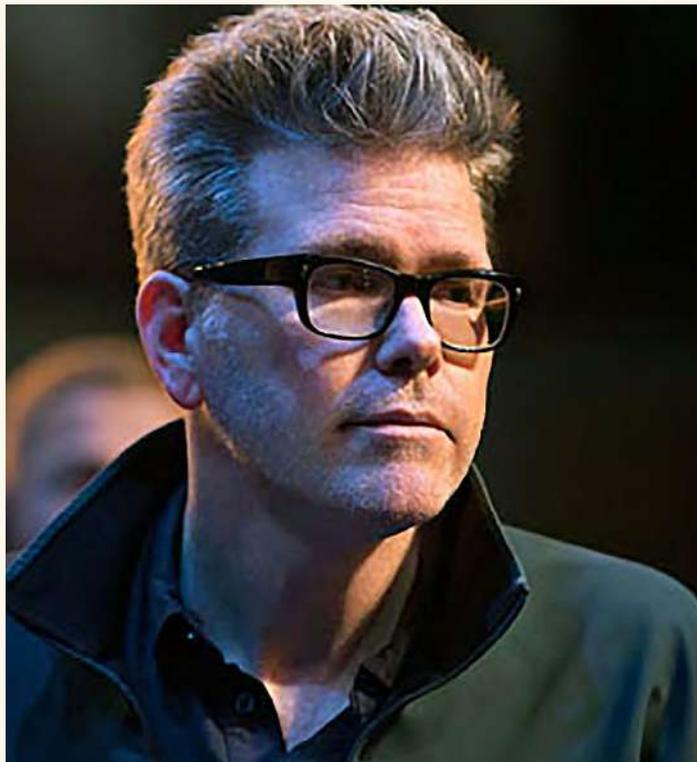


Top, left to right: Scene from movie; Mark Osborne with French producers Dimitri Rassam (top) and Aton Soumache (bottom), Cesar Film Awards 2016  
Bottom, left to right: Marion Cotillard as The Rose, James Franco as The Fox, Rachel McAdams as The Mother, Jeff Bridges as The Pilot, Paul Giamatti as The Teacher, Mackenzie Foy as The Daughter

# THE LITTLE PRINCE – A UNIVERSAL SUCCESS STORY

2018 – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, a feature-length biopic. This Hollywood mega-project led by a Franco-American team including film director Christopher McQuarrie and actors Johnny

Depp and Marion Cotillard is expected to be released in time for Christmas 2018.



Director Christopher McQuarrie



Saint-Exupéry in flight gear, Argentina, 1930



Top: Saint-Exupéry after his crash in the Libyan desert, 1936  
Bottom: Saint-Exupéry, Morocco, 1936

MAJOR ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY TAKES OFF  
AT THE CONTROLS OF HIS LOCKHEED P-38/F-5B LIGHTNING  
OF THE FRENCH 1<sup>ST</sup> SQUADRON OF II/33 GROUP AT  
THE ALLIED AIR BASE, ALGHERO, SARDINIA, MAY 1944.





FONDATION  
— ANTOINE DE —  
SAINT EXUPERY

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