

CANAV Books UPDATE

Aviation In Canada: The Noorduyn Norseman

Great news from CANAV Books ...
you know about *The Noorduyn Norseman Vol.1*,
Now *Vol.2* is here, so read on!!

Rarely has any Canadian-built airplane received such in-depth treatment as in these big, finely-produced, hardcover volumes. Here for the first time is the story in depth of Canada's renowned and beloved Norseman bushplane. The world-famous Norseman first took to the air in 1935. After nearly 80 years, a few still earn their keep, others are the pride-and-joy of sport aviators, several are in restoration, others are museum showpieces around the world.

The Noorduyn Norseman Vol.1, authored by Larry Milberry and Hugh A. Halliday, begins with the brilliant aeronautical designer Robert Noorduyn daring to launch a new project in Montreal in the depths of The Depression. The determined Noorduyn got his show-stopping prototype CF-AYO into the air and somehow kept his business afloat. A few production planes were delivered and improvements were soon made, especially changing from a Wright to a Pratt and Whitney engine.

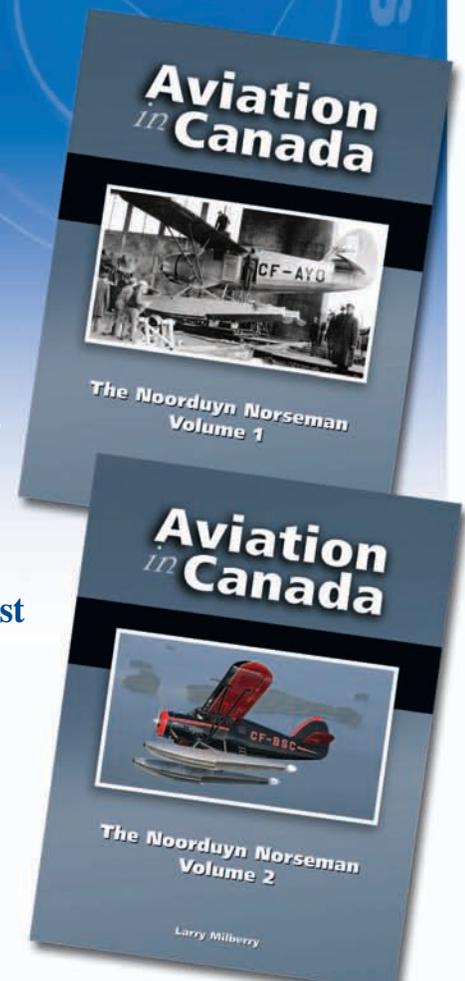
Finally, Noorduyn got into gear, with sales driven by the coming of war. First the RCAF, then the US Army placed orders — the Americans took more than 700. Naturally, Vol.1 covers the wartime scenario. Wherever the Norseman was assigned, the job got done — all along the BC coast, from the Northwest Staging Route to Newfoundland or at BCATP training schools. From Baffin Island to Greenland, the South Pacific, Australia, China, or in Europe supporting D-Day to war's end, the Norseman was king in its league. Serious aviation fans will revel in all the details and the world-class photo collection supporting it.

Postwar, the story continues. Affordable surplus Norsemans allowed civil operators to replace their worn out, pre-war fleets. Noorduyn introduced its improved Norseman V, the company was sold and the Beaver and Husky appeared as rivals. Vol.1 concludes with a search and rescue chapter. Incredible cases are described from the horrendous crash in the NWT of CF-BSL, to disaster amazingly averted for CF-BSG and CF-CPL, in-flight structural failure for CF-BHW, and rescue in the Antarctic.

The Noorduyn Norseman Vol.2 begins with a solid review of the Norseman in Canadian government service from the RCMP to the provincial air services. The commercial scene is covered with such themes as forestry, mining, commercial fishing and Arctic exploration. Many operators are featured, including Charter Airways, Hollinger Ungava, Hudson Bay Air Transport, Northern Wings and Queen Charlotte Airlines. A special chapter with a hundred key photos is devoted just to Austin Airways, a Norseman operator for almost 30 years.

A major chapter covers the international scene with service from the US to Czechoslovakia, Norway and Australia. In one episode you can follow a young RCAF veteran ferrying a Norseman on an amazing odyssey to Argentina, including crossing the Andes at 18,000 feet! Further chapters include exciting profiles of later Canadian operators from Bearskin Airlines to Gold Belt Air Service, Ilford Riverton Airways, Lamb Airways, La Ronge Aviation, Northern Wings, Ontario Central Airlines, Rainy Lake Airways, Sabourin to Transair. Many of the personnel also are profiled in detail — the engineers and pilots who made it all happen. Yes, in true CANAV fashion, these are as much people books as airplane books.

Vol.2 describes how, even in the 1980s-90s, Norseman operators continued springing up. Wrecked Norsemans were being hauled out of junkyards and the bush to be scavenged for parts, even restored to life. Red Lake became the official "Norseman Capital of the World". Naturally, Red Lake's world-famous annual Norseman Festival is part of the story.



In the end the Norseman blazed new trails in the North, serving trappers, hunters, fishing folk, prospectors, explorers, missionaries, medical people, government people, sportsmen and all others who inhabited or passed through Canada's remotest geographical niches. Whatever all these people needed, somehow the Norseman carried that as well.

Inevitably, the saga of the Norseman arose. *Aviation in Canada: The Noorduyn Norseman Vols.1 and 2* capture it all in more than 500 pages of facts, anecdotes, technical info and more than 1000 photographs. Here is a spectacular aviation book in the CANAV tradition. If you have any connection to the Norseman, or simply revel in Canada's amazing aviation heritage, you'll enjoy this pair of iconic books for decades.



OUR READERS SPEAK UP...

What have our readers had to say so far about Norseman Vol.1? After all, you're the ones who do the real book reviews – pro or con! As usual, there is some pretty hard-hitting stuff bubbling up. Having edited the journal of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society for more than 40 years, Bill Wheeler is one of the most highly qualified in Canada to review any such book. Bill has a few succinct observations: "While countless articles have been written about the Norseman, a comprehensive book such as this was long overdue... A striking photograph will capture your attention and you will find it impossible not to read the relevant text, which is usually in the form of first-hand accounts by those involved in development of the Norseman or in its operation... I would recommend this book for any enthusiast's library."

A hardcore aero-bibliophile in the United States, Guillaume, remarks of Vol.1: "The Noorduyn book is terrific. I like the weaving of anecdotes with the narrative, and the photographs are very nicely reproduced." Retired airline pilot, Mike, reports: "The Norseman story is compelling and exceedingly well written. What airplane fan couldn't love it! I'm standing by, straining at the chocks, for the next installment. Now I'm sure I should have bought that Norseman in Winnipeg in '83, but I built a house instead."

Len Halloran from New Brunswick who, with his Eskimo companion, Irkotte, saved pilot Wiggo Norwang and his passengers following their horrendous 1958 Norseman crash on the tundra, admits that he really isn't particularly interested in aviation. However, on going through his copy of Vol.1, Len's key phrase about it all is "out of this world". "You sure put a book together, my friend," is how he finishes. From Jim in California, whose order included Vol.1, the word is: "Man oh man, the books came yesterday. Wow, is all I can say! Not since my teens, when I bought mail order from Beachcomber Books in the great northwest, have I gotten a more exciting book shipment. Methinks that American 'airplane nuts' are doing themselves a great disservice if not frequenting CANAV books."

So it goes in the early days of Vol.1, now we'll see what you think of Vol.2. Here are the book specs and ordering info. Meanwhile, keep an eye on our blog for the latest updates. Thanks as usual for supporting CANAV and good reading to one and all ... Larry Milberry, publisher

Aviation in Canada: The Noorduyn Norseman: Specs & Ordering Info

- Vol.1** \$50.00— 232 pages, 9 x 12 inches, hardcover, 450 photos, glossary, bibliography, index. ISBN 978-0-921022-42-8
- Vol.2** \$65.00—300 pages, 9 x 12 inches, hardcover, 650 photos, glossary, bibliography, index. ISBN 978-0-921022-43-5
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