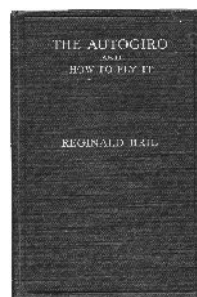
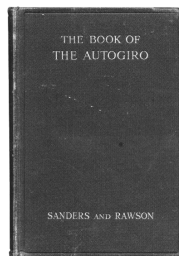
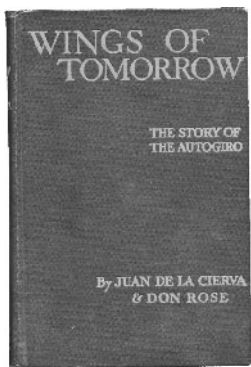




The Autogyro/Gyroplane Bookshelf: Treasures New and Old - part I

An extract from an article by Dr. Bruce H. Charnov

There has been a continual stream of introductory 'gyro' books since the publication of *Wings of Tomorrow: The Story of the Autogiro* by Juan de la Cierva and Don Rose (New York: Brewer, Warren & Putnam 1931; condensed in the April 1931 issue of Readers Digest) and *The Book of the C.19 Autogiro* by C. J. Sanders, and A. H. Rawson (London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1931). These were followed by Cierva test-pilot Reginald A. C. Brie's *The Autogiro and How to Fly It* (London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1933, Revised 2d. ed. 1934). Brie's book is noteworthy with its first-person account, outstanding photographs of Cierva and his aircraft, engineering schematics and historical commentary that presents information not otherwise available.



These books are quite rare, although they can be secured on a fairly regular basis on both ebay and at www.abebooks.com.

Happily several new offerings are readily available that will delight the novice gyronaut! Shirley Jennings' *Short Hops* (1998 with regular updates), Dave Organ's *An Introduction to Ultralight Gyroplanes* (2002) and most recently Marion Springer's *Born Free: My Life in Gyrocopters* (2004) are wonderful additions to the gyronaut's reading list.

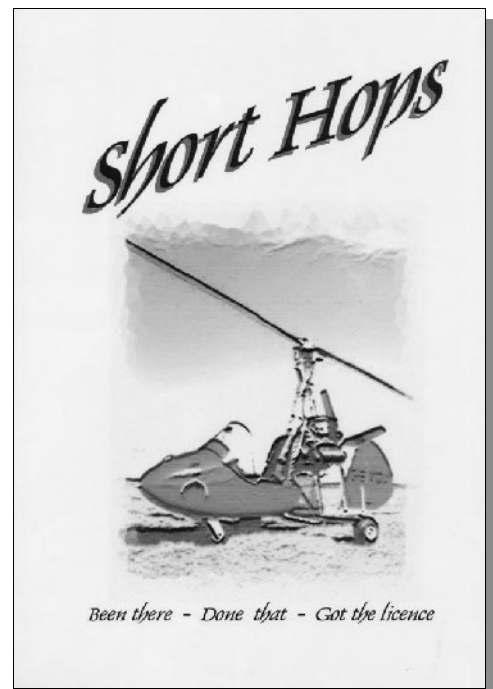
Shirley Jennings, an English autogyro pilot from colorful Cornwall, has written and privately published this A4 softback describing her introduction, personal flight evolution, achievement of her P.P.L.(G) (which, for us Yanks, is Private Pilot License [Gyroplanes]) and construction of her Cricket Gyroplane, "Delta-J".

This 8½"x12" spiral-bound book is simply wonderful with an incredible amount of information and boundless gyroplane enthusiasm crammed into its handsome 69 pages. Dedicated to among others "The St. Merryn Gyronauts" Tony Philpotts and the late Chris Julian (who died on May 17, 1997), this is a gorgeous book with a rare sense of aesthetic design. The colour photographs and diagrams are reproduced with great clarity and have been especially well-considered to illustrate the text which offers the reader a great deal of information about flying an autogyro without seeming to overwhelm. This is a 'great read' and sure to be visited time and again. Jennings is generous in sharing her sense of wonder as she progresses from gyro-gliding to

powered flight, including an account of her visit to Magni's Day in Italy and flight in Lisa Magni's M18 – a lovely portrait of the aerial bond shared by Italy's first female gyronaut and England's preeminent female gyro pilot. The author is of slight stature (as described in the book, 8 stone and dubbed "a wafer" by Tony Philpotts), and being naturally shy, this very personal, extremely well-written account, comes as a marvelous surprise gift to the neophyte and experienced builder/pilot alike.

This skilled pilot prefaces her book with the disclaimer that "I am not an instructor and this isn't a training manual", but it is evident that she has greatly benefited from Chris Julian's superb instruction and her explanations as to the basics of autogyro flight merit reading and rereading – Shirley, whom I was privileged to meet at the 2003 Wallis Days, is simply one of the best writers on this subject I have ever read. Her explanations are well-reasoned and even better written – clear, concise and convincing – this is a truly superb introduction to gyro flying and should be part of every rotary-wing flight library.

Shirley has regularly added to the book with new pages that can be inserted into the original spiral binding, and it surely a 'work-in-progress' that chronicles this wonderful gyronaut's on-going adventures – one can only hope that she has many opportunities to enlarge this autorotational account – it just gets better and better!



It, and the following book by Dave Organ, [reviewed in the next issue - Ed.] can be ordered using a credit card from the British Rotorcraft Association (Mr. P. Cresswell, "Five Farthings", The Green, Great Bourton, Oxon, OX17 1QH or bra-bookshop@tiscali.co.uk) see page 25

Bruce Charnov