



Shea Oakley Commercial Aviation Historian



I founded an aviation history consultancy and serve on the boards of aviation-focused organizations.

How long have you been a commercial aviation historian?

Between managing an aviation museum and being an independent consultant, 16 years, but I worked in other areas of commercial aviation prior to that (and first joined the World Airline Historical Society at age 15).

Where do you work?

The Commercial Aviation History Consultancy, the Pan Am Historical Foundation, and the Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel.

How do you spend most of your time at work?

- Social media content generation
- Monitoring and responding to social media posts
- Ongoing study of aviation history
- Writing
- Giving interviews on print, broadcast, and electronic media

Why did you choose this career?

God-given passion.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I earned Aviation Management and English Literature degrees and did six years of volunteer and paid internships in airport operations/management from age 16-22.

SHEA'S FUN FACT

My favorite aviation movie is the original "Airport" (1970), NOT the spoof "Airplane."

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Interacting with other people who love airline history.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Now, as an independent contractor, maintaining a constant level of income.

What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?

Unofficial airport operations intern job began at 16 working for the Port Authority of NJ and NJ's JFK Operations Unit. This experience showed me I loved to work in aviation as much as I loved having it as a "hobby."

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Internships, internships, and more internships. Mine got me a great job in the end.



Not even two years old and already hooked on aviation!

