

## EXPERIMENTAL LIGHT AIRCRAFT AND MIDGET RACERS

(Book Review)

Experimental Light Aircraft and Midget Racers is a comprehensive pictorial album of the individual private ventures in small light aircraft building, depicting not only the sport and racing types built in this country, but their foreign contemporaries as well.

The work was compiled by John W. Underwood and John W. Caler, and is well worth the attention of the aviation minded. It is published in a paper bound edition (of somewhat awkward dimensions) by Aero Publishers, Inc., of 2162 Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles 26, California. It sells for \$2.50, and is available from the publisher.

Many rare types are included in this book, doubtless heretofore never published, as well as the most popular and representative of these airplanes. It should not be considered as all-inclusive, however. It is suspected that the authors only included in this compilation, those aircraft which could be effectively illustrated.

While the publisher purports the book to be very detailed, it is sorely lacking in that respect. Primarily, each illustration should have been identified with the registration numbers. Being such an important part of the personality of these airplanes, such information would impart a great reference value to the book. Almost all of the captions merely generalize comment on the individual airplanes, whereas some pertinent and basic details of each, where available, would be more obviously desired. Likewise, a pattern of accuracy and conformity truly does not seem to exist in this work.

The building programs in the United States, France and other countries are dispensed with in short treatises. With a published date of 1958, many of the dates involved in these writings should have been brought up current.

Even so, the authors deserve congratulations and recognition, as theirs is the first such attempt to bring all of this interesting material under one cover. The illustrations are good, and a great deal of effort went into amassing the items, against a known shortage of records and information concerning this type of aircraft. It will certainly fill a void in the present aviation library, and it is recommended for your consideration.

Leo G. Kohn

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### BABY BLUE BLIMPS

The following rare item, concerning Navy Markings, has just been uncovered in the December 16, 1937 issue of the New York Times, page 32; "Lakehurst, N.J., Decked in a coat of robin's egg blue, the Navy blimp J-4 made a flight today in an experiment to determine if that color was a better all-around disguise than the familiar aluminum tinge. Observers said that the blimp was hardly discernable against a blue sky, however tests must be made in all kinds of weather to find out the merits of the dull blue surface."