

Ray Malmström (1914–2001)



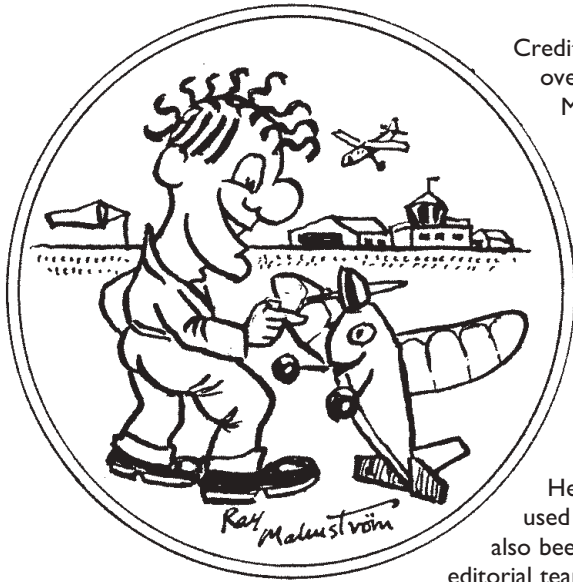
This book commemorates the immense service which Raymond Malmström, known universally as simply “Ray”, gave to our great hobby of aeromodelling for more than 60 years. During that time he introduced many thousands of newcomers to the hobby, large numbers of them youngsters who had only a few pennies or so to spend, through the publication of the hundreds of models he designed, the plans of which went around the world. He was a most approachable and likeable man always ready and willing to give a helping hand and a bit of expert advice to anybody who needed it, to make sure their models built from his plans flew as well as intended. In the eyes of many people who knew Ray he was a genius, a description which he would, modestly, decline to acknowledge. He devoted much of his spare time to designing and building his fleets of models, some of them pretty, some of them ugly and some of them downright bizarre. But they all flew – and really well. There cannot be many aeromodellers around the country who have not, at one time or another, built one of Ray’s designs – or know somebody who has.

The book celebrates too, the 60th anniversary of the Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club, which Ray founded in the rooms at the College near Cambridge, where he taught art. Despite warnings from his professional colleagues that the idea “won’t work because nobody’s interested”, Ray pressed ahead. The Model Air Squadron, as Ray called the club, flourished under his dynamic leadership and remains immensely active 60 years later – still based at the College and flying models, which include many of his designs on the same playing fields at the back of the buildings. The Club has international champions and some of the best-known names in the aeromodelling world among its members. Ray would indeed have been proud of the giant oak tree that grew from the tiny acorn he set all those years ago. He has, no doubt, already organised a model air squadron, in that great flying field in the sky and announces everytime he produces a new model, “Here’s another little confection for your delight”, in exactly the same way as he told Club members whenever he turned up with a new model. Which was usually every week!



*“Friendship, flying
and fun” – the club motto*





Credit for preparing this book goes to a team of Club members who, over a period of many months, gathered information about Ray Malmström, the Club, past and present, plans, pictures and anything they could lay their hands on to help celebrate Ray's genius and the Club's diamond anniversary.

The idea for the book came from Club Chairman, **CHRIS STRACHAN** who felt the publication of Ray's plans would be a fitting and highly useful tribute to Ray. Chris had a far wider involvement in the book than being just the brains behind it. He spent hours sorting through a mountain of plans and agonising over which were best representative of Ray's work. His task was to choose a selection of plans from the hundreds Ray produced.

He was joined in this task by Club Secretary **CLIVE KING**, who used his expertise to sort out another selection of plans. Clive has also been on hand with advice and help, whenever needed by the editorial team and he suggested the title for this book!

Third member of the selection panel was **JOHN VALIANT** without whose extensive knowledge of modern day computer printing this book would never have been possible. But more about John's valiant(!) efforts later.

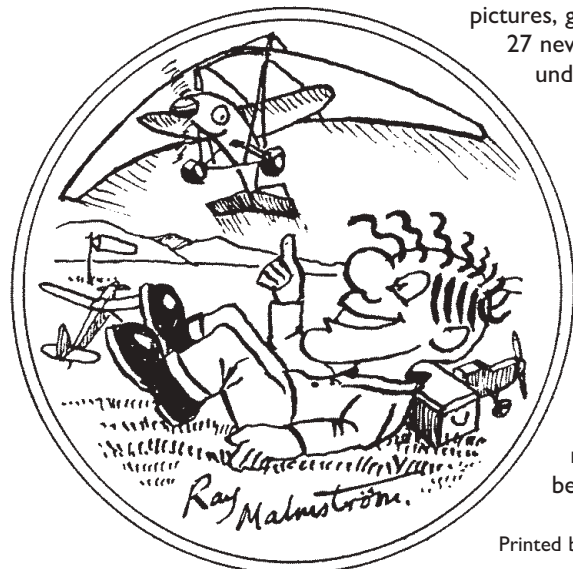
They burned the midnight oil making their choices, only to find they had chosen ten of the same plans. So it was back to Ray's building board, to sort out some more plans – the final choice of which appear in later pages to delight your eyes.

This book would have been dull indeed if **CHRIS HINSON** and **TERRY KING** had not wielded their cameras over the years to snap the passing Club scene. Chris and Terry between them have compiled a unique pictorial record of the past 60 years, the results of which have been drawn heavily upon in the following pages to enable you to see actually what happened instead of just reading about it.

Much of the research, general writing and editing of the book was done by Club President **PETER HOSKISON**, who found the work rather more interesting than many of the news stories he has written over the years.

Here we return to **JOHN VALIANT** who has given up countless hours of his time to put together this book. For months he was snowed under with typescripts, photographs, plans – not forgetting many helpful and some less than helpful(!) ideas, suggestions and general lobbying. He took everything in his stride, put it all on his computers and now you are holding his months of work.

When it comes to giving thanks we must not forget Ray's wife **SHEILA**, daughter **ELIZABETH** and grandson **PETER**, who took an active hand in helping to gather the contents. Elizabeth scored a bull's eye when she produced a large plastic bag of Ray's early records and pictures, going back for 70 years. This cornucopia gave the Club access to 27 new designs and plans by Ray in his early years which had lain undiscovered all that time.



Thanks also to **RON MOULTON**, "Mr Aeromodelling" that doyen of the model airways and friend of Ray for more years than he can remember. Ron helped smooth out concerns we had about matters relating to this book's use of plans published by a number of model magazines over the years. Also thanks to **TONY DOWDESWELL**, publisher of Aviation Modeller International magazine, who waived copyright giving permission to reproduce Ray's plans which had appeared in Aeromodeller and Model Aircraft magazines.

Then there's you, the Club members without whose keen membership of the Club over many years, this book would have been impossible. Read on and enjoy it.