Hello, my name is Maxime Perez, I am communication manager and cultural development manager at the sea plane museum, today I’m with Sylvie Bergès, director of the museum for this presentation.
The museum is located at Biscarrosse, a seaside resort in the south-west of France, in Les Landes (15,000 people during winter and 130,000 during summer.) This is a cultural institution, touristic four seasons, open during all the year.

Founded by an friend museum association law 1901 in 1982 under the initiative of Marie Paule Vié-Klaze. The museum became municipal at the end of nineteen ninety-nine. It’s a « Musée de France » museum, unique in Europe because of his theme.

1,200 square meters of exposition
24,000 visitors per year of 32 different nationalities

Organization of an International Seaplane Meeting in Biscarrosse every 2 years.

Seaplane activity during all the year for formation training to hydro flying and discovery flight and first flight.
The museum is situated on a historic place which hasn’t been chosen by pure chance. Biscarrosse lived its seaplane apogee thanks to the freshwater lake of 3 400 hectares. 3 bases were set up around the lake:

- From 1930 to 1956: The Latécoère assembly and testing base. The biggest seaplanes never made started from this lake and flew from Biscarrosse to New York or Biscarrosse to Fort de France.

- The seaplane base in Les Hourtiquets, unique seaplane base in France, where also American seaplanes like the clippers of the Pan Am Airline company and British seaplanes of BOAC landed.

- Lahitte international airport.

Those major places, particularly “Les Hourtiquets” got occupied by the Germans during the World War 2, which provided us a lot of seaplane wreck such as: BV222, Arado 196, Dornier 18/24...

It’s in 1981 (the first in 1980) that a Dornier 24 got salvage from the bottom of the lake.

The preservation of this aeronautic vestige caused a problem.
In 1990, the company Electricity Of France (EDF) the first promoter in France of scientific and technologic patronage, established an electrolysis laboratory in the Museum, for the treatment of small wreck of the lake. A young engineer, Christian Degrigny, wrote for the Valectra EDF Paris a thesis about aluminium. Now, we expose to public some pieces such as CAMS-37 steering wheel.

The laboratory worked more or less until 2007 but in lack of real intern skills, it’s inactive today. The Museum is still really interested by the procraft project because many world war 2 wreck are still in the lake. This got confirmed by the GRECEL, a unity of military divers and bomb disposal experts working for the missil test base of Landes in Biscarrosse. During their training they found some seaplane wreck deep in the lake and inform us for their identification.
Arc’Antique laboratory follows us on restoration (propeller, cannon) since few years. So, the museum cooperates as well with other partners of Procraft Project: DRASSM, Museum of Air and Space, Aerocherche (Wreck pieces of Latécoère 298).
The more we can bring for the Procraft project:
World war 2 wreck pieces get salvage from 1980 to 1990
(german seaplanes)
Possibility to go further in the underwater research with GRECEL and in the co-working about the new founded pieces.
Our documentation department is very rich, among other things, you can find archives in all kind about old technical aeronautic constructions.
Communication and valuation of searching results by permanent or temporary exposition: exhibition in the Museum.
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