PRESS RELEASE
14 OCTOBER 2026
TOULOUSE

CENTENARY

L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS LAUNCHES A POP-UP EXHIBITION TO MARK THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT-EXUPÉRY'S RECRUITMENT BY L'AÉRIENNE LATÉCOÈRE IN TOULOUSE



Photo de Saint Exupéry issue de collection particulière avec l'aimable autorisation de la Succession Antoine de Saint Exupéry-d'Agay

To mark the centenary of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's appointment at Lignes Aériennes Latécoère, L'Envol des Pionniers is presenting a new temporary exhibition. Launched on 14 October by the author and director Riad Sattouf, the exhibition will run from Saturday 17 October 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027.

100 YEARS AGO, ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY JOINED LATÉCOÈRE AIRLINES IN TOULOUSE

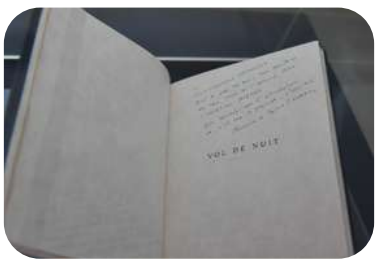
On 14 October 1926, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was received in the office of Didier Daurat, the demanding head of operations at Lignes Aériennes Latécoère, which would later become Société Générale Aéropostale. After a few weeks in the workshops, he was quickly promoted to pilot on the Toulouse–Casablanca route, then on the Toulouse–Dakar route, before becoming station manager at Cap Juby the following year.

A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION TO DISCOVER FROM THE START OF THE ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAYS

To celebrate this centenary, L'Envol des Pionniers is launching a pop-up exhibition. Centred around three key dates, it looks back at Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's recruitment, his time with the Aéropostale and his encounters with pilots such as Henri Guillaumet, who would inspire him when writing his novels.

The exhibition then goes on to show how his experience with the Aéropostale enriched his literary work and how this story continues to inspire today's authors, including the writer and director Riad Sattouf. In particular, it highlights the global success of *The Little Prince*, the most translated novel in the world after the Bible.





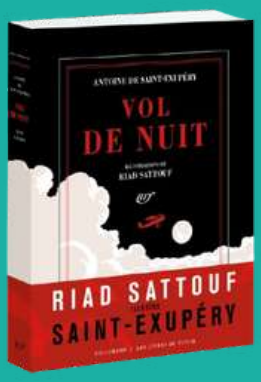


Édition dédicacée de Vol de Nuit : L'Envol des Pionniers - Prêt Fondation Latécoère ©Manuel Huynh

Visitors will also be able to see previously unseen items, such as a copy of *Night Flight* signed by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and dedicated to Pierre-Georges Latécoère, on exceptional loan from the Latécoère Foundation.



Riad Sattouf ©Les Livres du futur



RIAD SATTOUF, AN ADMIRER OF ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

On Wednesday 14 October 2026, exactly 100 years to the day since Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was hired by Lignes Aériennes Latécoère, the author and filmmaker Riad Sattouf has chosen L'Envol des Pionniers to present his illustrated edition of *Night Flight* to the press; the book is due to be published on 5 November by Éditions Gallimard and Les Livres du Futur. Having previously illustrated *Terre des hommes*, Riad Sattouf now invites readers to discover *Night Flight*. On every page, his illustrations reveal the profound beauty of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's text.

During his visit, Riad Sattouf officially launched the pop-up exhibition and presented *L'Envol des Pionniers* with a signed copy of his illustrated edition of *Night Flight*. This unique collaboration bridges the gap between the new works published by Gallimard, which, in 1931, published Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's novel *Night Flight*. The edition of *Night Flight* illustrated by Riad Sattouf will be available at the L'Envol des Pionniers shop from 5 November.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY IN TOULOUSE

From 17 October 2026 to 3 January 2027
During the opening hours of L'Envol des Pionniers*

Access to this exhibition is included in the admission ticket for *L'Envol des Pionniers*

COMMENT VENIR ?

L'Envol des Pionniers
6 rue Jacqueline Auriol, Toulouse

Bus : Linéo 12 (stop Auriol) / Linéo 8 (stop Piste des Géants) / Lines 23, 27 et 80 (stop Latécoère)
TER : Take the Toulouse–Carcassonne–Narbonne line (get off at Montaudran station)

*If the Salle des Pionniers is being used for private events, the temporary exhibition may, on certain dates, be closed to visitors. For further information, visitors are invited to enquire at the reception desk at L'Envol des Pionniers or by telephone on 05 67 22 23 24

ABOUT 'L'ENVOL DES PIONNIERS'

Dedicated to the early days of aviation, the founding of the Lignes Aériennes Latécoère and the Compagnie Générale Aéropostale, and the birth of Air France, 'L'Envol des Pionniers' is situated in Toulouse Montaudran, on the historic site from which, between 1918 and 1933, the Aéropostale aircraft set off for Africa and South America. 'L'Envol des Pionniers' brings to life this human adventure, which contributed to the birth of civil aviation and ultimately made Toulouse one of the world's aviation capitals. 'L'Envol des Pionniers' is a facility run by Toulouse Métropole, which opened in late 2018 with the support of the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region and the ERDF, and with the involvement of the Ministry of National Education and partners Altran, Ailes Anciennes de Toulouse and the INA.

L'Envol des Pionniers, like the Cité de l'espace, is managed by SEMECCEL, a semi-public company established on the initiative of Toulouse City Council, whose shareholders are Toulouse Métropole, Toulouse City Council, the Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region, the CNES, Airbus Defence and Space, Météo-France (founding members of the Cité de l'espace), as well as Thales Alenia Space, the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations and the Caisse d'Epargne de Midi-Pyrénées. L'Envol des Pionniers counts among its partners MGEN, Banque Populaire Occitane, the Latécoère Foundation, Aura Aero, Delair, Latecoere, OpenAirlines and Ascendance, and is also supported by the association Les Amis de L'Envol des Pionniers.

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