



LEFT The front cover of the souvenir brochure sent to the Editor by John W. Jones in 2025. The brochure, 9in x 13in (23cm x 33cm), is bound with blue ribbon by means of two punched holes in the spine.

MAIN PICTURE
Handley Page
H.P.42W G-AAXC
Heracles of Imperial
Airways at Basle,
Switzerland, in the
mid-1930s; it may
even be a later
group of tourists
on one of the
"Poly's" excursions
to Europe in
association with
Imperial Airways.

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By Heracles To Basle

THE POLYTECHNIC
TOURING ASSOCIATION LTD

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS' FIRST ESCORTED AIR TOUR TO SWITZERLAND, MAY 1932

In 2025 reader **JOHN W. JONES** contacted the TAH Editor regarding a souvenir brochure he had inherited from his mother, detailing a guided tour to Switzerland organised by the Polytechnic Touring Association with Imperial Airways in May 1932. Intrigued, **NICK STROUD** set about uncovering the story behind this delightful artefact

"**D**EAR SIR," RAN the opening to an e-mail received at TAH HQ in September 2025, "I have been given this souvenir programme by my mother, who was given it by an elderly gentleman she used to clean for in the 1970s. Might it be of interest to your readers?" Signed by John W. Jones of Henllan in Denbighshire, north-east Wales, the mail had several digital images attached of an attractive 1930s brochure, roughly foolscap size, slightly foxed at the edges but in remarkably good condition, notwithstanding the ravages of time and a few errant ink splats here and there.

Bound with sapphire-blue ribbon tied into a bow at the two holes punched in the spine, the brochure had a cover featuring a pencil sketch of the Handley Page H.P.42 airliner prototype G-AAGX, named *Hannibal* in Imperial Airways Ltd (IAL) service, awaiting its next load of passengers beneath a bank of fluffy clouds. Beneath the sketch in

