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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Tampa International Airport Creates an Inaugural Collection of Burgert Brothers Historic Images**

**TAMPA, Fla. (November 4, 2004)** -- An historic photography collection is the newest art and cultural greeting for patrons using Tampa International Airport. The Airport's Public Arts Committee is pleased to "unveil" its new Burgert Brothers Photographic Collection for the Tampa Bay community to enjoy.

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority (HCAA) and the Tampa – Hillsborough County Public Libraries created a loan agreement to reproduce a collection of the Burgert Brothers' Cirkut and standard-size images. These nearly 50 selected images were produced to film and mounted on quarter-inch thick clear plexi-glass.

Starting in 1899 until 1963, the brothers took more than 80,000 photographs, including numerous Cirkut negatives (from which prints have not been made to date), recording a unique pictorial history of the social and urban growth of Tampa and Florida's West Coast.

"This exhibit is a great collaboration between the Airport, the Library and the History Center, stated Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, Aviation Authority. "The Art Committee deserves credit for bringing back this historic project."

The Airport project was originally in the Aviation Authority's Fiscal Year

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2001/2002 budget which was amended post September 11, 2001. The Art Committee voted unanimously to bring this one-of-a-kind project back in 2003 at a cost of \$250,000.00. Now some of these never-before-viewed by the public images are on permanent display at the Airport.

The exhibit is located in the main terminal building, ticket level, across from the Delta Air Lines and United Airlines ticket counters. It is 180 linear feet long, covering two 90 feet walls. There are 28 panoramic photos produced with a Cirkut camera which was developed in the early 1900s and approximately 20, 8 x 10 inch images. Photos range from a team photo of the New York Yankees (1927) in St. Petersburg featuring Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig; the Gasparilla Invasion (1922); the Josiah Richardson Home (1923) in Sulphur Springs; to the Tin Can Tourist Camp (date unknown) in Central Florida.

The Airport's Public Art Committee includes:

Al Austin, HCAA Chairman – Austin Companies

Ken Anthony, HCAA Secretary – Ken Anthony Insurance Agency Inc.

Robin Nigh, Administrator - Art in Public Places, Tampa Museum

Jan Stein, Coordinator - Hillsborough County Public Art Program

Kelly Taaffe Noto – Kelly Taaffe Design Inc.

Stella Thayer, MacFarlane, Ferguson & McMullen – past HCAA board member

Arthenia Joyner, State Representative (District 59) – past HCAA board member

Louis Miller, Executive Director, HCAA

Brenda Geoghagan, Public Art Coordinator, HCAA

Established in July 1998, the Airport Art Committee was created for the purpose of launching a Public Art Program to enhance the appearance of the Airports under the Aviation Authority's control and to present a Florida, historical and cultural theme for the users of the Airport System.

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[Louis E. Miller](#) Executive Director

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Peter O. Knight Airport Plant City Airport Vandenberg Airport