WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stowage carousel (110, 210) for handling cargo (158) aboard an aircraft (100), the stowage carousel comprising:

a revolving conveyor (120, 220) configured to rotate about a fuselage (102) of the aircraft, the revolving conveyor having a rotatable inner ring (122) arranged to face a passenger cabin (104) of the aircraft and a rotatable outer ring (124) arranged to face the fuselage (102); and

stowage compartments (160, 170, 240, 242) associated with the revolving conveyor, the stowage compartments being configured to receive the cargo, the stowage compartments being arranged to be rotatable within the aircraft, and the stowage compartments (170) being mounted to the revolving conveyor (120) and movable with the revolving conveyor, wherein:

the revolving conveyor is arranged to be situated within the aircraft partially in the passenger cabin and partially in at least one of an upper crown (106) and a lower lobe (108) of the aircraft;

each stowage compartment (160, 170) includes a plurality of compartment walls (162, 172) including a bottom wall; and

each stowage compartment is hingedly coupled to a respective mounting bracket (176) extending from the inner ring (122) to the outer ring (124) such that each bottom wall remains at a bottom (178) of the respective stowage compartment as the revolving conveyor and the stowage compartments are rotated about the fuselage (102).

2. The stowage carousel (110) of claim 1, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is at least partially vertically oriented and defines a walkway (136) interior of the inner ring (124).

3. The stowage carousel (110) of claim 1 or 2, wherein the outer ring (124) of the revolving conveyor (120) is arranged to have an outer radius (134) approximately equal to a sidewall radius dimension of the fuselage (102).

4. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is open inside the inner ring (122) and dimensioned for passengers to walk through the revolving conveyor.

5. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is configured to be positioned in the aircraft (100) such that at least one stowage compartment (160) is positioned along a side of a passenger seat, at least one stowage compartment is positioned vertically above a passenger seat, and at least one stowage compartment is positioned vertically below a passenger seat.

6. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is arranged to pass through a floor (112) of the passenger cabin (104) at or near a first sidewall (128) of the fuselage (102) and at or near a second sidewall (130) of the fuselage opposite the first sidewall.

7. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is continuous and configured to revolve 360° within the fuselage (102).

8. The stowage carousel (110) of claim 7, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is arranged to be provided in both the upper crown (106) and the lower lobe (108), the revolving conveyor being arranged to be rotatable such that the stowage compartments (160, 170) are rotatable from the passenger cabin (104) into the upper crown and from the passenger cabin into the lower lobe.

9. The stowage carousel (110) of claims 7 or claim 8, wherein the stowage compartments (170) are configured to be loaded and unloaded in the lower lobe (108) of the aircraft (100) and are configured to be loaded and unloaded in the passenger cabin (104) of the aircraft.

10. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the revolving conveyor (220) is discontinuous and is arranged to be positioned above a floor (112) of the passenger cabin, optionally wherein the revolving conveyor includes a first segment (220) arranged to be along a first side wall (224) of the fuselage and a second segment (226) arranged to be along a second side wall (228) of the fuselage opposite the first side wall, the first and second segments being arc shaped, the first and second segments each having a bottom end (230, 234) near the

floor and a top end (232, 236) in the upper crown (106), the top ends of the first and second segments facing each other.

11. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 10, further comprising a lining (126) covering an inside of the revolving conveyor (120) and arranged to face the passenger cabin (104), the lining having a closable opening providing access to the stowage compartments (160, 170), wherein the stowage compartments are configured to receive the cargo (158) through the closable opening.

12. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the stowage compartments (160, 170) are sized, shaped and dimensioned to receive aircraft standard size carry-on luggage or to receive aircraft standard galley containers (174).

13. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 12, further comprising a control system (150) operably coupled to the revolving conveyor (120), the control system having an actuator (152) causing the revolving conveyor to rotate, the control system arranged to control a position of the revolving conveyor with respect to the fuselage (102),

optionally wherein the control system comprises a user interface (156) for controlling operation of the revolving conveyor, the user interface arranged to be accessible within the passenger cabin (104), and

optionally wherein the control system comprises a scanner (154) configured to scan passenger identification of a passenger to operate the revolving conveyor to rotate to a position for the passenger to retrieve the cargo (158).

14. The stowage carousel (110) of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the revolving conveyor (120) is configured to be positioned in line with a row of passenger seats such that the revolving conveyor is positioned between the fuselage (102) and at least one passenger seat.