

L'Aerophile Collection

Finding Aid Prepared By Science, Technology, &
Business Division



Science, Technology, & Business
Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Call. No.: Unclassed ST&B, TRS

Title: L'Aerophile Collection

Span Dates: 1876-1949

Bulk Dates: (1893-1949)

Contents: 152 boxes ; 15,000 items

Location: Science, Technology, & Business Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Correspondence, blueprints and manufactures information for early French and foreign aircraft and dirigibles, reports of accidents involving flyers and balloonists, World War I aerial photographs and intelligence reports, a series of French cartoons, drawings, graphs, charts, diagrams of equipment, maps, newspapers, printed material, and photographs. The materials in the collection were evidently assembled by staff of the magazine L'Aerophile which was published by Georges Besançon in collaboration with Union Aérophile de France. Subjects include aeronautics chiefly in Europe and the U.S., aeronautics corporations, air shows, aviators, balloons, bombs and missiles, commercial airlines, dirigibles, gliders, hydroplanes, medical aviation, military aeronautics, model aircraft, parachutes, propellers, record flights, and research and testing of aircraft. Individuals represented include Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold, Georges Besançon, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, and William "Billy" Mitchell.

Languages: English, French

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Arnold, Henry Harley, 1886-1950.

Besançon, Georges, 1866-1934.

Earhart, Amelia, 1897-1937.

Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974.

Mitchell, William, 1879-1936.

Organizations

Union aérophile de France.

Subjects

Aerial photography.

Aeronautics in medicine.

Aeronautics, Commercial.

Aeronautics, Military.

Aeronautics--Caricatures and cartoons.

Aeronautics--Europe.

Aeronautics--Flights.

Aeronautics--France--Periodicals.

Aeronautics--Research.

Aeronautics--United States.

Aeronautics.

Air pilots.

Air shows.

Aircraft accidents.

Aircraft industry--Equipment and supplies.

Aircraft industry.

Airplanes--Design and construction.

Airplanes--Models.
Airplanes--Testing.
Airplanes.
Airships--Design and construction.
Airships--Testing.
Airships.
Ballooningists.
Balloons--Design and construction.
Balloons--Testing.
Balloons.
Blueprints.
Bombs.
Gliders (Aeronautics)
Hydroplanes.
Parachutes.
Projectiles, Aerial.
Propellers, Aerial.
World War, 1914-1918--Military intelligence.

Titles

Aérophile.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Collection purchased by Library of Congress in 1969.

Processing History

The materials in the collection were evidently assembled by staff of the magazine *L'Aerophile* which was published by Georges Besançon in collaboration with Union *Aérophile* de France.

Location

Unclassed ST&B, TRS (Science, Technology, and Business Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)

Access

Request in Science, Technology, & Business Division reference desk, Adams Building, 5th Floor (ask for Tech Reports 202 707-5655)

Restrictions

Inquire at Science, Technology, & Business Division reference desk, Adams Building, 5th Floor, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Electronic Format

An enhanced Web presentation of the *L'Aerophile* Collection is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/trs/trslaerophile.html>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: The *L'Aerophile* Collection, Science, Technology, & Business Division, Library of Congress.

Background

In January 1893 the French journalist and balloonist Georges Besançon (1866-1934), in collaboration with the Union Aérophile de France, began publishing a monthly illustrated revue , *L'Aerophile* (published 1893-1947). Quickly, *L'Aerophile* became one of the premier journals of the early history of aviation. The first years were devoted to balloonists and the importance of meteorology on ballooning (for example, atmospheric effects on equipment, instruments, and humans). In later years, as artificial wings, gliders, man- and engine-powered planes were developed, the magazine brought their stories to the public. The materials in the collection were evidently assembled by staff of the magazine *L'Aerophile*.

Scope and Content Note

The fifteen thousand or so items contained in the 152 boxes of the Library of Congress collection include blueprints and manufactures' information of early French and foreign aircraft and dirigibles, reports of accidents involving flyers and balloonists, aerial photographs from World War I, and a series of French cartoons from the period 1909 - 1912 related to aviation. The collection also contains hundreds of photographs of early aviators and designers, including pictures of Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne Morrow being feted in Paris during their European trip of 1933. A large number of *L'Aerophile* images appeared in the National Air and Space Museum's major exhibition in 2003 celebrating the centennial of the Wright brothers' first flight, titled the Wright Brothers & the Invention of the Aerial Age.

Series Description

The *L'Aerophile* Collection is arranged in six Series:

- Publications and Reports
- Corporations, 1920s-1940s
- Photographs
- Types of Aircraft
- Motors and Engines
- Aviators and Designers

<http://lccn.loc.gov/2003682042>

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-22	<u>Publications and Reports</u> Early photographs, handbooks, catalogs, newspaper articles, blueprints, intelligence reports, and other publications relating to the early years of aviation, including balloon flight, airplanes and aviators. Arranged in boxes, folders, and envelopes.
BOX 23-44	<u>Corporations, 1920s-1940s</u> Contains guides, studies, drawings, publicity, books, and albums relating to early aviation companies and aviation-related events. Arranged alphabetically by aviation company.
BOX 45-74	<u>Photographs</u> Photographs, drawings, and charts pertaining to early aviation in the first half of the twentieth century. Arrangement generally by type of material, arranged alphabetically within type.
BOX 75-117	<u>Types of Aircraft</u> Aircraft information arranged by country of origin and specific type of aircraft. Generally arranged by country of origin, and by type (balloons, dirigibles, gliders, hydroplanes, and model aircraft).
BOX 120-129	<u>Motors and Engines</u> Information on companies that produced aircraft motors and engine. Alphabetically, by company.
BOX 130-150	<u>Aviators and Designers</u> Photographs and publications on aviators and aircraft designers. Arranged alphabetically, by nationality.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-22	Publications and Reports Early photographs, handbooks, catalogs, newspaper articles, blueprints, intelligence reports, and other publications relating to the early years of aviation, including balloon flight, airplanes and aviators. Arranged in boxes, folders, and envelopes.
BOX 1	Henry H. (Hap) Arnold Collection.
ENVELOPE 1	A miscellaneous collection of black and white photos of the first aviation designers, philanthropists, test-pilots and first American aviators - Wilbur and Orville Wright, Thomas DeWitt Milling, Howard Hughes, etc. Pictures of first female aviators - Harriet Quimby, Amelia Earhart are also included. Early pictures of the U.S. Army Air Service (chiefs, pilots, crews and group pictures) and U.S. Army Air Corps in California, with Major Henry H. Arnold.
ENVELOPE 2	A New York Times article (1926) about young Henry H. Arnold, who later became the commanding general of the Army Air Forces (AAF) during World War II (includes photographs). 1926.
ENVELOPE 3	A booklet: "The H. H. Arnold Collection" (3 copies), along with photos of airplanes in the air.
BOX 2	Auction catalogs for ballooning-related items; 1934, 1935, 1940.
ENVELOPE 1	Collection dite "Au ballon" by M.Leon Bartou, Paris. 8-9-10 Mai 1935.
ENVELOPE 2	Aerostation: a catalogue of books and engravings illustrating the evolution of the airship and the aeroplane to 1938. Maggs Bros.Ltd, London. 1940
ENVELOPE 3	Aeronautik: auction catalog in German illustrating items such as coins, porcelain, small books, fans, etc., with images related to aviation. Luzern, Schweiz. 26-27 June 1934.
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Publications and Reports

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ITEM 3	Tigre river and Baghdad city. Dubrovnik in Croatia. Pompeii amphitheater in Italy.
BOXES 9- 9A	Publications, USA: A-E; Publications, USA: F-N.
ITEM 1	Liberty Engine Service Bulletins. November, 1918.
ITEM 2	Notes on Liberty Engine Ignition System. 1919.
ITEM 3	Manual for Balloon Cutters. October, 1918.
ITEM 4	History of the 96th Aero Squadron - First American Day Bomb Bardment.
ITEM 5	Ercoupe, the instruction manual. June 1946.
ITEM 6	The Ambassador, a brochure about the first modern civil aircraft, its features and specifications. Hampshire, England. July, 1948.
ITEM 7	Civil Aviation: Industry Studies - Report of the Air coordinating committee, Washington DC. 1947.
ITEM 8	Civil Aviation: Industry Studies - Analysis of Air Transportation Industry by Henry Beecken. October, 1942.
BOX 10	French intelligence reports on WWI German airplanes, translated into English for US intelligence; Loessel paper (critique).
BOX 11	Publications, USA: T-Z.
BOX 12	French aeronautical publications (Ae-Av), misc., some prior to WWI.
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- BOX 25 Bleriot, Bloch, Brequet, Brewster, Bronzavia, Burnelli, Campbell, Caudron-Renault, Cellon, Centre d'Aviation Populaire, Centre d'Information du Nickel, Centro Studi et Esperience per il Volo a Vela, Cessna, Chamoy Chantiers, Le Chimiste, Compteurs Montrouge, Concorde, Consolidated Aircraft, Consolidated Vultee, Controleur ACDFK Corben.
- BOX 26 Cunliffe-Owen, Curtiss-Wright, Reichsverband der Deutschen Luftafahrt Industrie, Devoitine, Dispostif Cinematique Perfetti, Douglas, Electric Auto-liter, L'Epopée Aerienne, Fairchild.
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- BOX 30 Lincoln Arc Welding, Lockheed, Loire Nieuport, Lorenz, Luscombe, Martin, Material Telephonique, Maubousin, Moulet & Cie.
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- BOX 37 Books
- ITEM 1 Album: drawings of Montgolfiere-type balloons which ascended from Tarragona (Spain) in 1876.
- ITEM 2 Variable Pitch propellers Log Book, London: HMSO. 1949.
- ITEM 3 Instructions on Setting up, Adjusting, and Care of Clerget Rotary Engine, Washington, GPO. 1920.
- ITEM 4 L'Ecole' d'Ader.
- ITEM 5 DERULUFT - "German-Russian Aeronautical Company."
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