

# Henri Giffard Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

2008

Revised 2010 April

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008108>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm85061819>

Prepared by Michael Spangler

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Henri Giffard Papers

**Span Dates:** 1852-1910

**ID No.:** MSS61819

**Creator:** Giffard, Henri, 1825-1882

**Extent:** 65 items ; 1 container plus 1 oversize ; 0.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in French

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Engineer and aeronaut. Correspondence, notes, design drawings, broadsides, newspapers, printed illustrations, articles about Giffard, and newspaper clippings relating chiefly to Giffard's balloon designs and ascents.

## 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

Giffard, Henri, 1825-1882.

### Subjects

Ballooning.

Balloons, Captive.

Balloons--Design and construction.

Balloons.

Hydrogen.

### Occupations

Balloonists.

Engineers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Henri Giffard, engineer and aeronaut, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1985.

### Processing History

The papers of Henri Giffard were arranged and described in 1996. The register was revised in 2008.

### Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Henri Giffard Papers.

### Related Material

The Manuscript Division's [Tissandier Collection](#) of early aeronautic material includes other items pertaining to Giffard and his captive balloon exhibition of 1878.

### Copyright Status

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Henri Giffard are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Henri Giffard Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Henri Jacques Giffard (1825-1882) span the years 1852-1910 and contain correspondence, notes, design drawings, broadsides, newspapers, printed illustrations, articles about Giffard, and clippings. Giffard was a pioneer in the design of airships and is recognized by many as having devised the first steam-powered steerable airship in 1852. This collection of papers focuses primarily on his activities associated with the large captive balloon he exhibited in the courtyard of the Tuileries in Paris in 1878. Also included are Giffard's holograph notes on hydrogen gas and his design drawings for balloons. The material is in French.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Articles re Giffard, 1882-1910, undated
BOX 1	Broadsides, 1878 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Clippings
BOX 1	Illustrations, 1852-1904, undated
BOX 1	Text, 1868-1888, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1868-1881, undated
BOX 1	Handbill, 1868
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1882-1883, undated
BOX 1	Newspapers, 1872, 1878 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Notes and designs, 1876, undated
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Broadsides, 1878
BOX OV 1	Newspapers, 1872, 1878