

L'Aerophile Collection

**Finding Aid Prepared By Science, Technology, & Business
Division**



**Science, Technology, & Business Division, Library of
Congress**

Washington, D.C.

September 2006

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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

Repository: 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

Key Subjects

Subject terms and names are listed as they appear in the Library of Congress catalog.

Aeronautics--Flights

Air pilots--Biography

Ballooning--History

Women air pilots--Biography

World War, 1914-1918--Aerial operations

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations

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

Description of Series

Container

Series

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 23-44

Corporations, 1920s-1940s

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

Photographs

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.

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Types of Aircraft

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).

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Motors and Engines

Information on companies that produced aircraft motors and engine.

Alphabetically, by company.

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Aviators and Designers

Photographs and publications on aviators and aircraft designers.

Arranged alphabetically, by nationality.

Container List

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Publications and Reports

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ITEM 4	History of the 96th Aero Squadron - First American Day Bomb Bombardment.
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.
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