

A. Hildebrandt Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
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Prepared by Jack Crawford, Wesley T. Brandhorst, and Fred Hershey

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Collection Summary

Title: A. Hildebrandt Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1826-1943

Bulk Dates: 1910-1930

ID No.: MSS25916

Creator: Hildebrandt, A. (Alfred), 1870-1949

Extent: 9,000 items

Extent: 98 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 40 linear feet

Language: Collection material in German with some English and French

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81025916>

Summary: German author on aeronautical subjects, pioneer in aviation, and the first European to support the experiments of the Wright Brothers, full name: Alfred Louis Heinrich Hildebrandt. Correspondence, notes, diaries, clippings, scrapbooks, pamphlets, periodicals, books, maps and charts, pictures and photographs, and other material collected by Hildebrandt on the history and development of aviation, with the focus on Germany, including personal papers relating to his career as a pioneer and advocate of aeronautics.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Albert, Prince of Schleswig-Holstein-Glücksburg--Correspondence.

Alexander, Patrick Young, 1867-1943--Correspondence.

Chanute, Octave, 1832-1910--Correspondence.

Damm, Ernst A.--Correspondence.

Feldhaus, Gilbert W.--Correspondence.

Grade, Hans, 1879-1946--Correspondence.

Hildebrandt, A. (Alfred), 1870-1949.

Ravenstein, Hans--Correspondence.

Scheimpflug, Karl--Correspondence.

Zeppelin, Ferdinand, Graf von, 1838-1917--Correspondence.

Subjects

Aeronautical sports.

Aeronautics, Commercial.

Aeronautics, Military.

Aeronautics--Germany.

Aeronautics--Law and legislation.

Aeronautics--Societies, etc.

Aeronautics.

Inventions.

Meteorology.

Occupations

Authors.

Aviators.

Acquisition Information

The papers of A. Hildebrandt, German writer on aeronautical subjects, pioneer in aviation, and the first European to support the experiments of Wilbur and Orville Wright, were received in two collections. The first was purchased for the Aeronautics Division of the Library of Congress in 1932; the second was received as a gift in 1947. The collection was transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Aeronautics Division in 1954.

Processing History

The papers of A. Hildebrandt were described in 1958. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

Additional Guides

The Hildebrandt Papers were described at the time of the second acquisition in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 4, no. 4 (August 1947): 25-26; and mentioned in the *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 12, no. 3 (May 1955): 121.

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 A. Hildebrandt 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, A. Hildebrandt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1870	Born, Wittingen, Kreis Isenhagen, Germany Educated: Kriegsschule; Universität (Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät); Technische Hochschule; Bergakademie; received doctor of philosophy degree
1893	First association with aeronautics Artillery officer
1898	Commander of airship detachment Teacher of aviation in Officer's Institute Member, editorial board of Moedebeck's <i>Illustrierte Aeronautische Mitteilungen</i>
circa 1902	Edited <i>Die Königlich preussische Luftschiffer Abteilung Berlin</i>
1907	Made trip to United States Member, Kriege International Kommission für wissenschaftliche Luftschiffahrt President, International Kommission zur Herstellung von aeronitischen Landkarten Published <i>Die Luftschiffahrt nach ihrer geschichtlichen und gegenwärtigen Entwicklung</i> (translated into English and Spanish)

1908	Published <i>Graf Ferdinand von Zeppelin</i>
1909	Published <i>Aviatik</i> Published <i>Die Brüder Wright; enine Studie über die Entwicklung der Flugmaschine von Lilienthal bis Wright</i>
1910	President, International Kommission für Luftschifferkarten
1911	Published <i>Flugwesen</i> Published <i>Vergleich der Temperatur suf dem Brocken und in der gleichen Höhe der freien Atmosphäre auf grundneuerer Ballon-und Drachenaufstiege</i>
1914	Edited <i>Die Arbeiten der "Rostocker Luftware" in Friedrichshöle bei Rostock im Jahre 1913</i>
1918	Published <i>Deutsches Flugwesen</i>
1930	Joined National Socialist Party
1938	Dropped from membership in National Socialist Party
1949	Died in Germany

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alfred Louis Heinrich Hildebrandt (1870-1949) extend from 1826 to 1943, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1910-1930. A pioneer in aviation, Hildebrandt was a German author on aeronautical subjects and the first European to support the experiments of the Wright Brothers. His collection focuses on the history of aviation in Germany from the time of balloon experiments to the development of airplanes in World War II. Included is material on aviation sports, inventions, laws, meteorology, aviation societies, transportation, and other activities, both national and international, in addition to personal papers on his career and aeronautics. The papers consist of correspondence, notes, diaries, clippings, scrapbooks, pamphlets, periodicals, books, maps and charts, pictures and photographs, and indexes.

Correspondents include Albert, Prince of Schleswig-Holstein-Glücksburg, Patrick Young Alexander, Octave Chanute, Ernst A. Damm, Hans Grade, Hans Ravenstein, and Graf Ferdinand von Zeppelin.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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