A. Hildebrandt Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81025916

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014043

Prepared by Jack Crawford, Wesley T. Brandhorst, and Fred Hershey

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2022 July
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.
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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Born, Wittingen, Kreis Isenhagen, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educated: Kriegschule; Universität (Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät);</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technische Hochschule; Bergakademie; received doctor of philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>First association with aeronautics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Artillery officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Commander of airship detachment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher of aviation in Officer's Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member, editorial board of Moedebeck's *Illustrierte Aeronautische</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mitteilungen</td>
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<tr>
<td>circa 1902</td>
<td>Edited <em>Die Königlich preussische Luftschiffer Abteilung Berlin</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Made trip to United States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member, Kriege International Kommission für wissenschaftliche Luftschiffahrt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>President, International Kommission zur Herstellung von aeronitischen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Landkarten</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Published *Die Luftschiffahrt nach ihrer geschichtlichen und</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gegenwärtigen Entwicklung* (translated into English and Spanish)</td>
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1908  Published Graf Ferdinand von Zeppelin
1909  Published Aviatik
      Published Die Brüder Wright; eine Studie über die Entwicklung der Flugmaschine von Lilienthal bis Wright
1910  President, International Kommission für Luftschifferkarten
1911  Published Flugwesen
      Published Vergleich der Temperatur auf dem Brocken und in der gleichen Höhe der freien Atmosphäre auf grundneuerer Ballon-und Drachenaufstiege
1914  Edited Die Arbeiten der "Rostocker Luftware" in Friedrichshöle bei Rostock im Jahre 1913
1918  Published Deutsches Flugwesen
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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| BOX 2     | II) From 1 July 1928 until 1 Jan. 1929  
*R 101* (British), its fall on 5 Oct. 1930 (as told in newspaper clippings)  
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| BOX 3     | General  
1926 (organized first according to commercial, military and private; then according to country)  
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| BOX 4     | Aerodynamics  
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Work of special institutes |
| BOX 5     | Africa (including Hildebrandt's correspondence to Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg)  
Airlines  
Advertisements |
| BOX 6     | Luft Hansa  
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| BOX 7     | Air mail  
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Aircraft industry  
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BMW-Bavarian Motor Works  
Dietrich-Gobiet Airplane Works  
Dornier  
Focke-Wulf  
Gustav Otto Works  
Hannover Wagon Works |
| BOX 8     | Heinkel  
Junkers I and II and Junkers private |
| BOX 9     | Rhine Aero Works GMBH Dusseldorf-Ober Rassel  
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Catalogues of industries from A-H  
Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America |
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| BOX 11    | Airports  
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  Essen-Mulheim  
  Hamburg  
  Observatories  
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  *LZ 127*  
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<td>Correspondence about maps</td>
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<td>Dr. Peuker</td>
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<td>Zeppelin, Grad Ferdinand von, urges the importance of maps, and miscellany</td>
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<td>Dreams and flying</td>
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<td>Meteorology</td>
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### 1911-1912
#### Articles
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- Weser Zeitung

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<td>1920-1925 <em>See Container 63, 1925-1928</em></td>
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<td>Alexander, Patrick Young</td>
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<td>Americans: U.S. War Department, aviation clubs, etc., 1900-1915</td>
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<td>Chanute, Octave, including letter of introduction to Wilbur Wright for Hildebrandt</td>
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<td>Hildebrandt's World War I diary, photographs and souvenir</td>
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<td>Flag dropped from Zeppelin</td>
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