

Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures



**Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2003653215>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/eadpnp.pp020008>

Prepared by the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Kristen Sosinski, August 2020

Revised November 2020

Collection Summary

Title: Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures

Span Dates: ca. 1908-1941

Call No.: LOT 6108 (F) (H)

Extent: ca. 800 items (photographs, reproductions, drawings)

Language: Collection material in German, French, and English.

Location: Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2003653215>

Summary: Images show model airplanes; sailplanes; motorless hydroplanes; gliders; civilian and military airplanes; rotary wing aircraft; aircraft engines and parts; parachutes; armaments; competitions and air shows; aviators and aerobatic champion pilots; manufacturing; airships and balloons; etc. Also some technical material (design, structural, and analytical drawings) relating to aerodynamics, theory of flight, and aircraft construction; catalogs, advertisements, and magazine covers; etc. Mostly German subject matter.

Online Content: To see already digitized images from this collection, search our [Online Catalog](#) by call number or descriptive words.

Provenance

Transfer; [Library of Congress] Aeronautics Division; 1953.

Processing History

The Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures was processed by Prints and Photographs Division Staff in 1978. Changes have been made to the subdivisions since the first processing. A copy of the original list and subdivisions made by Peter Riedel can be found in the Supplementary Reference File. Finding aid prepared by Julie Stoner in December 2016. Formerly served by appointment; material labeled and rehoused in 2016 for regular service. Identifications sleeved with some items and some items must be unfolded for service. This finding aid contains unverified data from old container lists transcribed by Erin Ebert in 2020. Finding Aid encoded by Kristen Sosinski in August 2020.

Transfers

Materials were transferred from the Manuscript Division to the Prints and Photographs Division. A portion of the collection is still located in the Manuscript Division and can be identified as part of the Oskar Ursinus papers, 1908-1943. An inventory of this material is available in their [finding aid](#). More information about the division can be found at the [Manuscript Division Homepage](#) and [Contact Page](#).

Online Content

To see already digitized images from this collection, search our [Online Catalog](#) by call number or descriptive words.

Rights Restrictions

Rights status of individual images not evaluated. For general information see: "[Copyright and Other Restrictions...](#)"

Access Restrictions

The Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures is open to research. Some materials must be unfolded for service.

Requesting Materials

For information about service in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, including obtaining copies, see "[Information for Researchers](#)."

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures, LOT 6108, and item or reproduction number, if available [e.g., LOT 6108, no. 1 or LC-DIG-ppmsca-12345]

Bibliography

Flugsport. Frankfurt am Main : [publisher not identified], 1908-1944.

Guide to the Special Collections of Prints and Photographs in the Library of Congress / compiled by Paul Vanderbilt. Washington, D.C. : 1955, no. 733 (Available in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room and [HathiTrust](#))

Biographical Note

Carl Oskar Ursinus, pioneer of German aviation, was born in Weissenfels, Germany, March 11, 1877, and died July 6, 1952. After graduating from a technical college, Ursinus worked for the Borsig company on locomotives and mining machinery. In 1908, he began publication of *Flugsport*, an aviation enthusiasts' magazine, and later became prominent as an organizer of Germany's first international airshow. Ursinus was noted for his contributions to sailplane designs and the sport of gliding. He founded Germany's first gliding club at the Wasserkuppe in the Rhön Mountains in 1920.

As a conscript in the German Army in World War I, Ursinus was posted to Gothaer Waggonfabrik to design warplanes. The Gotha bombers used by the German air corps during the war were based on his design. After the war, with Germany prohibited from building powered aircraft, he focused on gliding but returned to experimenting in human-powered flight before World War II.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of material related to aeronautics and aviation. The material was collected by Oskar Ursinus for use in the aeronautical periodical *Flugsport* ("Sports Flying"), published 1908-1944, of which he was editor. The collection is comprised of material that was confiscated by American Armed Forces in Frankfurt, Germany in 1945. The images show model airplanes; sailplanes; motorless hydroplanes; gliders; civilian and military airplanes; rotary wing aircraft; aircraft engines and parts; parachutes; armaments; competitions and air shows; aviators and aerobatic champion pilots; manufacturing; airships and balloons; etc. Also, some technical material (design, structural, and analytical drawings) relating to aerodynamics, theory of flight, and aircraft construction; catalogs, advertisements, and magazine covers; etc. Mostly German subject matter.

Arrangement

The Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures is subdivided by subject and fall within 2 different sizes: (F) and (H).

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

Ursinus, Oskar

Subjects

Aeronautics--1900-1950.

Air pilots--1900-1950.

Air shows--1900-1950.

Aircraft industry--1900-1950.

Aircraft--German--1900-1950.

Airplane equipment--1900-1950.

Parachutes--1900-1950.

World War, 1914-1918--Air operations--German.

Form/Genre

Drawings--1900-1950.

Group portraits--1900-1950.

Photographic prints--1900-1950.

Portrait photographs--1900-1950.

Reproductions--1900-1950.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures

Call No.: LOT 6108 (F) (H)

Container List

Container	Contents
	Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures ca. 800 items (photographs, reproductions, drawings) Call No.: LOT 6108 (F) (H)
	Model airplanes with propellers; photographs, drawings, and sketches Call No.: LOT 6108-1A (F)
	Model airplanes with propellers (rubber string, compressed air, or gasoline motors), 1908-1918 Call No.: LOT 6108-1B (F)
	Model airplanes with propellers, 1919-1939 Call No.: LOT 6108-1C (F)
	Model airplanes, motorless gliders and sailplanes; Contests on Wasserkuppe; International contest in Berne, Switzerland, May 1938 Call No.: LOT 6108-1D (F)
	Large size drawings, printed and handwritten material regarding model airplanes with or without motor Call No.: LOT 6108-1E (H)
	Sailplanes built in serial production, flown by famous pilots, or with outstanding design features (ex. Akaflieg Darnstadt windspiel) Call No.: LOT 6108-2A (F)
	Sailplanes, unidentified one time models Call No.: LOT 6108-2B (F)
	Sailplanes, odd type training gliders for beginners Call No.: LOT 6108-2C (F)
	DFS or RRG sailplanes, Zögling thru Falke to OBS and Weihe Call No.: LOT 6108-2D (F)
	Silesian sailplanes, built by clubs or Edmund Schneider Co. Call No.: LOT 6108-2E (F)
	Foreign (non-German) sailplanes: Austria, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Dutch East Indies (Sumatra), Poland, Portugal, South Africa, South West Africa (Namibia), Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and USSR Call No.: LOT 6108-2F (F)
	Göppingen built sailplanes, Foreign (non-German) sailplanes Call No.: LOT 6108-2G (F)
	Motor-less hydroplanes, flying boat sailplanes Call No.: LOT 6108-2H (F)
	Launching methods for sailplanes: shock chord (rubber), auto tow, winch tow, airplane tow, other methods) Call No.: LOT 6108-2I (F)
	Material and construction details for building sailplanes Call No.: LOT 6108-2J (F)
	Trailers for transporting motor-less planes (sailplanes) Call No.: LOT 6108-2K (F)
	Rhön-soaring contest on the Wasserkuppe mountain, 1920-1939 Call No.: LOT 6108-2L (F)

Soaring in the United States

Call No.: LOT 6108-2M (F)

Vintage gliders in Germany, 1908-1926

Call No.: LOT 6108-2N (F)

[no subdivision LOT 6108-2O, call number not assigned]

One time model sailplanes, 1927-1939

Call No.: LOT 6108-2P (F)

Odd soaring sites (beside the Wasserkuppe) in Germany & abroad

Call No.: LOT 6108-2Q (F)

Soaring (motorless flying) planes; drawings, detail drawings of airplane tour for sailplanes; illustrations; flight rules while slope soaring; launching methods for sailplanes

Call No.: LOT 6108-2R (H)

Single engine civilian airplanes

Call No.: LOT 6108-3 (F)

Single-engine air and cargo liners, aerobatic and special planes

Call No.: LOT 6108-4A (F)

Multi-engine air and cargo liners with fixed wings

Call No.: LOT 6108-4B (F)

Unidentified images of military airplanes, ca. 1930's

Call No.: LOT 6108-5 (F)

Military airplanes to be broken down as to single engine planes, manufacturer, type and nationality

Call No.: LOT 6108-5A (F)

Military airplanes to be broken down as to single engine planes, manufacturer, type and nationality (WWI military airplanes)

Call No.: LOT 6108-5B (F)

Military airplanes, 1919-1939

Call No.: LOT 6108-5C (F)

German military planes-contour sketches for antiaircraft identification purposes, Arado types, Heinkel types

Call No.: LOT 6108-5D (H)

Rotary wing aircraft

Call No.: LOT 6108-6 (F) (H)

Czechoslovakia: air cooled a/c engines in line and radial

Call No.: LOT 6108-7A (F)

USA: air cooled a/c engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7B (F)

Unidentified: liquid and air cooled a/c engines and engine diagrams

Call No.: LOT 6108-7C (F)

Italy: air cooled a/c engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7D (F)

World War I aircraft engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7E (F)

Germany: BMW, Junkers JUMO, Siemens & Halske

Call No.: LOT 6108-7F (F)

Germany: air cooled a/c engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7G (F)

France: aircraft engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7H (F)

England: aircraft engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7I (F)

England: air cooled aircraft engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7J (F)

England: air cooled aircraft engines

Call No.: LOT 6108-7K (F)

Unidentified photos, cartoons, and drawings related to German aviation, ca. 1930's

Call No.: LOT 6108-7L (F)

Aircraft engines, heavy, above 200 HP and jet engines; Czechoslovakia: Aircooled 2 cyl. PRAGA a/c engine

Call No.: LOT 6108-8 (F)

Airplane Engine Parts and Test Results

Call No.: LOT 6108-8 (H)

Airplane and airplane engine construction details

Call No.: LOT 6108-9 (F)

Propellers and their construction details, as to nationality; Propeller test stands

Call No.: LOT 6108-10 (F)

Aerobatic champion pilots of the time before 1939-1945

Call No.: LOT 6108-11A (F)

Personalities of German aviation; High and low brass of the 3rd Reich

Call No.: LOT 6108-11B (F)

Foreign (non-German) airmen or German pilots in foreign countries

Call No.: LOT 6108-11C (F)

German aviation personalities, but not big brass, after WWI

Call No.: LOT 6108-11D (F)

Italian aviation personalities, before WWII

Call No.: LOT 6108-11E (F)

Pre-1914 aviation personalities

Call No.: LOT 6108-11F (F)

World War I aviation personalities, 1914-1918

Call No.: LOT 6108-11G (F)

Aerodynamics- pure, not connected with airplanes or airplane parts

Call No.: LOT 6108-12 (F) (H)

Theory of flight - aerodynamics applied to airplanes (see also subdivision 27)

Call No.: LOT 6108-13 (H)

German aerial reconnaissance pictures taken during World War I (eastern front), 1914-1918

Call No.: LOT 6108-14A (F)

German aerial reconnaissance pictures taken during World War I (western front), 1914-1918

Call No.: LOT 6108-14B (F)

Airline operation

Call No.: LOT 6108-15 (F)

Airplane blind landing systems, cockpit instruments, radio equipment

Call No.: LOT 6108-16A (F)

Airplane oxygen equipment, meteorological instruments, barographs, etc.

Call No.: LOT 6108-16B (F)

Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures

Container

Contents

Airplane workshops, factories, manuf. devices and methods

Call No.: LOT 6108-17 (F)

Lighter-than-air airships and balloons

Call No.: LOT 6108-18 (F)

Catalogs, advertisements of aviation products, magazine covers

Call No.: LOT 6108-19 (F)

Parachutes

Call No.: LOT 6108-20 (F)

Airplane armaments: MG and cannon, rickets etc., bombs

Call No.: LOT 6108-21 (F)

Anti-aircraft defenses - defenses against air attacks

Call No.: LOT 6108-22 (F)

Pairs Air Show (Paris Air Salon), between WWI and WWII

Call No.: LOT 6108-23A (F)

International Air Show in Milano, Italy, 1935

Call No.: LOT 6108-23B (F)

Other airplanes shows (exhibitions) in Berlin, Brussels, etc.

Call No.: LOT 6108-23C (F)

Aerial views, Not military reconnaissance pictures

Call No.: LOT 6108-24 (F)

Rocket motors for airplanes and gliders

Call No.: LOT 6108-25 (F)

Reports, letters, pamphlets regarding aviation matters

Call No.: LOT 6108-26 (F)

Aerodynamics/Theory of flight: data on drawing paper

Call No.: LOT 6108-27A (F)

Wind tunnels, pictures of testing and test results

Call No.: LOT 6108-27B (F)

Maps related to aviation, record flights, airline systems etc.

Call No.: LOT 6108-28 (F) (H)

Flight medical pictures

Call No.: LOT 6108-29 (F)

War propaganda pictures for building up the morale at home

Call No.: LOT 6108-30 (F)

Navigation aids

Call No.: LOT 6108-31 (F)

Flight by human muscle power

Call No.: LOT 6108-32 (F) (H)

Airplane structure: stress analysis and material strength tests

Call No.: LOT 6108-33 (F)

Airport and seaplane base-buildings; Streamers carrying airplanes; Club houses of Aero Clubs or Gliding Clubs in Berlin, Argentina, and Poland

Call No.: LOT 6108-34 (F)

Odd pictures of subject matters little related to aviation: Racing car, propeller-driven speed boats, propeller-shaped wind mill, kites, propeller driven sled

Call No.: LOT 6108-35 (F)

Oskar Ursinus collection of aeronautical pictures

Container

Contents

Emblems, prizes, monuments, insignia, factory name plates, stamps related to aviation and aviators

Call No.: LOT 6108-36 (F)

Flags for aviation events

Call No.: LOT 6108-37 (F)

Sport-plane contests and rallies in Europe and in the USA

Call No.: LOT 6108-38 (F)

Flying schools and training material for aviation personnel

Call No.: LOT 6108-39 (F)

Cameras, air-borne and mounted on the ground for a/c speed tests

Call No.: LOT 6108-40 (F)

Air-attack shelters, "passive" anti-aircraft protection

Call No.: LOT 6108-41 (F)

Airplane ground servicing equipment, starters, fuel trucks, etc.; in flight fueling methods

Call No.: LOT 6108-42 (F)

Ornithopter flight (bird-like with flapping of wings or similar)

Call No.: LOT 6108-43 (F) (H)

Cartoons, artists sketches or aviation people and airplanes

Call No.: LOT 6108-44 (F)

Oddly driven airplanes or oddly shaped airplanes (not ornithopters)

Call No.: LOT 6108-45 (F)

Un-categorized

Call No.: LOT 6108-46 (H)