

Oskar Ursinus Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011124>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78043745>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Oskar Ursinus Papers

Span Dates: 1908-1943

ID No.: MSS43745

Creator: Ursinus, Oskar

Extent: 4,500 items ; 14 containers ; 6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and German

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

Summary: Aviator, engineer, and journalist. Correspondence, notes, articles by Ursinus and others, charts, maps, sketches, blueprints, photographs, printed matter, and clippings relating to the development of German aeronautics during the first half of the twentieth century.

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

Ursinus, Oskar.

Subjects

Aeronautical instruments.

Aeronautical sports.

Aeronautics--Germany.

Aeronautics--Societies, etc.

Aeronautics.

Airplanes--Motors.

Airplanes.

Airships.

Flight.

Rocketry--Germany.

World War, 1914-1918--Aerial operations.

Occupations

Aviators.

Engineers.

Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Oskar Ursinus, aviator, engineer, and journalist, were confiscated by the American army in Europe after World War II. The material was transferred to the Aeronautic Division of the Library of Congress from the Wright Field in 1948 and to the Manuscript Division in 1954.

Processing History

The papers of Oskar Ursinus were arranged and described in 1954 and 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Oskar Ursinus is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Oskar Ursinus 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, Oskar Ursinus Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

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

The papers of Carl Oskar Ursinus (1877-1952) span the years 1908-1943. The collection consists of correspondence, notes, articles by Ursinus and others, charts, maps, sketches, blueprints, photographs, and clippings while Ursinus was a participant and an observer of developments in German aeronautics during this period. There are particularly valuable files of printed matter, memoranda, and notes dealing with the technical side of aeronautics such as altitude flying, engines, instruments, the German aircraft industry, maps and charts, and rockets. Ursinus was also interested in and kept records relating to military aviation in World War I, aeronautical societies, and aeronautical sports events. Photographs, designs and sketches of hypothetical and real aircraft, newspaper accounts and other printed matter round out the collection. The collection is organized into the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence, 1909-1943](#)
- [Subject File, 1909-1939](#)
- [Miscellany, 1908-1943](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-3

General Correspondence, 1909-1943

Letters and memoranda received with attached reports, charts, photographs, clippings, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 4-11

Subject File, 1909-1939

Correspondence, reports, writings, notes, charts, photographs, blueprints, clippings, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 12-14

Miscellany, 1908-1943

Writings, clippings, sketches, photographs, and other miscellaneous papers.

Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	General Correspondence, 1909-1943 Letters and memoranda received with attached reports, charts, photographs, clippings, printed matter, and other material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1909-1927 (20 folders)
BOX 2	1928-1939 (11 folders)
BOX 3	1940-1943, undated (10 folders)
BOX 4-11	Subject File, 1909-1939 Correspondence, reports, writings, notes, charts, photographs, blueprints, clippings, printed matter, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 4	Accidents, 1912-1933
BOX 4	Aerodynamics, 1910-1931
BOX 4	Air lines, 1923-1936
BOX 4	Air mail, 1926-1931
BOX 4	Airports, 1912-1939, undated
BOX 4	Air ships, 1929
BOX 4	Altitude flying, 1931-1938
BOX 4	Aviators, 1911-1939
BOX 4	Awards, 1922-1930
BOX 4	Blueprints, 1914-1936 (2 folders)
BOX 5	(1 folder)
BOX 5	Designs, 1912-1939, undated (7 folders)
BOX 5	Education and propaganda, 1926-1935, undated
BOX 6	Engines
BOX 6	General articles, 1911-1935
BOX 6	German engines until 1910-1913 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Special makes, 1911-1938, undated (3 folders)
BOX 7	Exhibitions, 1911-1936
BOX 7	Explorations, 1925-1926, undated
BOX 7	Flight of animals, 1930-1933
BOX 7	Fuel, undated

Subject File, 1909-1939

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 7	Gliding, 1912-1934 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Hangers, 1924, undated
BOX 7	History, 1911-1936
BOX 7	Humor and poetry, undated
BOX 7	Industry
BOX 7	German
BOX 7	General, 1912-1939
BOX 7	Specific, 1912-1939 (1 folder)
BOX 8	(1 folder)
BOX 8	Non-German, 1924-1939
BOX 8	Instruments, 1925-1939
BOX 8	Insurance, 1912-1928
BOX 8	International, 1914-1939
BOX 8	Inventions and patents, 1914-1939
BOX 8	Japan, 1931-1939
BOX 8	Laws and government, 1920-1933
BOX 9	Literature, manuscript on flying, undated
BOX 9	Materials, clothing, 1933, undated
BOX 9	Medicine, undated
BOX 9	Meteorology, 1926-1928
BOX 9	Military
BOX 9	General, 1912-1939
BOX 9	Orders issued to flyers during World War I, 1915-1918
BOX 9	Models, 1926-1939
BOX 9	Newspapers and periodicals, 1912-1926
BOX 9	Photography, 1928-1938
BOX 9	Records, 1926-1937
BOX 9	Rockets, 1928-1933
BOX 10	Rotor planes, 1939
BOX 10	Safety equipment, 1924-1938
BOX 10	School, 1911-1939
BOX 10	Sport, 1909-1939 (5 folders)
BOX 11	(1 folder)
BOX 11	Societies
BOX 11	Frankfurt Model Club, minutes, 1913-1914
BOX 11	General, 1912-1935 (4 folders)
BOX 11	Terminology, 1911-1912
BOX 11	Transportation, 1924-1938
BOX 12-14	Miscellany, 1908-1943 Writings, clippings, sketches, photographs, and other miscellaneous papers. Arranged by type of material.

Miscellany, 1908-1943

Container

Contents

BOX 12	Manuscripts and sketches, 1926-1938, undated
BOX 12	Printed matter, 1908-1940 (4 folders)
BOX 12	Newspaper clippings, 1913-1943, undated (3 folders)
BOX 13	(4 folders)
BOX 13	Sketches, undated
BOX 14	Photographs, undated
BOX 14	General miscellany, 1913, undated