

Clara Adams Collection
History of Aviation Collection

Biographical Sketch

Clara Adams (Mrs. George Lincoln Adams)
Maiden Name: Clara Grabau

Her father's mother was Augusta von Hindenburg
Maiden), a distant relative of Paul von Hindenburg,
President of Germany

Her cousin was Colonel Arthur C. Goebel, winner of the
Dole Prize 1927

Born: Cincinnati, Ohio 1884

Died: 1971

Education: Conservatory of Music in Leipzig, Germany where her father
Walter Grabau was a Professor of Music. Her mother lived next door to
Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin in Baden-Baden.

Aviation Background:

March, first flight in a Thomas flying boat with 1914
Captain Walter E. Johnson, pilot, at Lake Eustis, Florida.

February, flew 1,000 feet at San Antonio, Texas, 1917
with pilot Lt. Marjorie Stinson of the Aviation Corps
of the United States Army.

A letter of introduction from Paul von Hindenburg led 1924
to a visit and friendship with Dr. Higo Eckener and his
associate, Dr. Ludwig Duerr. Became a guest passenger
on a test flight of AR III (became United States Navy
dirigible Los Angeles with Dr. Eckener. While in
Friedrichshafen, Germany, home of the Zeppelins,
met Dr. Claude Dornier, designer and builder of the flying boat DO-X.

October, purchased first ticket for feminine passenger 1928
to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Only woman who flew
from the United States to Germany on the
Graf Zeppelin (LZ-127) on pioneer round trip originating

in Germany. Flight lasted 71 hours.

April, visited with President Hoover to obtain credentials 1930
to fly on British dirigible R-101 from England to the
United States, but the airship crashed in France before the flight.

Flew as the only paying woman on Dornier DO-X from 1931
Rio de Janeiro to New York. To meet the flight, she flew
from the U.S. to Rio via Pan American Airways.

May, flew on maiden flight of the Hindenburg (LA-129) 1936
from Germany to the United States as one of eleven women on board.

Flew on Pan American's China Clipper, inaugural commercial
passenger flight across the Pacific Ocean. The 8200 mile
flight from San Francisco to Manila took six days with stops
at Honolulu, Midway, Wake Island, and Guam.

Flew on Pan American's Hawaii Clipper, first scheduled
passenger flight to Hawaii.

Flew on first round trip of Bermuda Clipper from 1937
New York to Bermuda.

June 18 - July 15, set new passenger record for 1939
round-the-world flight by regular air lines (16 days, 19 hours)
and covered 24, 609 miles by air. Flew from New York to
Marseille in the Dixie Clipper, first commercial
transatlantic clipper flight. Then flew to Leipzig, Athens,
Basra, Jodhpur, Rangoon, Bangkok, Manila, Guam, Wake,
Honolulu, San Francisco, and New York.

July, flew inaugural coast to coast flight 1940
(New York to Los Angeles) on Transcontinental and
Western Air Stratoliner in 14 hours and 8 minutes.

September, flew inaugural passenger flight on
Boeing 314 Flying Boat from San Francisco to
New Zealand (8000 miles) with overnight stops in Hawaii,
Canton Island and New Caledonia.

Flew with five of the original passengers and officers 1966
to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first passenger
flight across the Pacific.

Was one of fifty honored guests at the Explorers Club 1968

dinner tribute to the aviation industry.

Honors:

Dubbed "Historic First Flighter" and "Perennial First Flighter" for commercial first passenger flights with 150,000 miles in maiden voyages.

Lecturer on her flights in the United States, Germany, and New Zealand.

Honorary member of the "Bund der Auslandsdeutschen," one of few women extended the privilege.

Flew on balloons, gliders, auto-gyros with pilots such as Fitz-Maurice, Huenfeld, Koehl, Thea Rasche, Elinor Smith, Clarence Chamberlain, Roger Williams, Bert Acosta.

Honorary Citizen of New Orleans (1957)

Member Advisory Committee and New York branch of the Women's International Association of Aeronautics.

Medal of the Month featuring Captain Edwin C. Musick dedicated to her memory in History of Aviation Collection, UT/D.

Civic Activities:

Member Jolly Troubadours Musical Group

Provenance

This collection was given to the History of Aviation Collection in two gifts, the first in 1967 from George Haddaway and the second in 1977 from Vice Admiral Charles E. Rosendahl. It consists of papers, photographs, and newspaper clippings generated by, for and about Clara Adams. An avid philatelist, Mrs. Adams collected First Flight and First Day Covers, a chronological list of which follows. Because of her association with many aeronautical figures of inter-national distinction, mainly early women aviators, her photographic collection (1 box) merits a subject index in the register. A personal friendship with Dr. Hugo Eckener of Germany as well as passage on experimental and inaugural Zeppelin flights, such as the Graf Zeppelin and Hindenburg, led to her becoming a proponent of lighter-than-air travel. While in Germany, she obtained monographs on Zeppelins that are listed with these materials.

The personal papers include a box of biographical items such as a personal clipping file, the itinerary of her around the world flight, speaking engagements, and memorabilia. Manuscript materials relating to lighter-than-air flights are held in one box, while other speeches, broadcasts, and notes relating to powered flight are housed in another. Most, though not all, of her personal flight records and observations, particularly those of inaugural clipper flights, are stored with oversize materials. Because these are extensive, the journals and records are arranged in a separate list. Other materials in the papers include two boxes of folders, arranged alphabetically about aeronautical organizations such as Early Birds and Women's International Association of Aeronautics, aeronautical designers such as Earle S. Eckel (autogiro), and aeronautical events such as the dedication of the Floyd Bennett Airport.

The correspondence, contained in one box, is divided into incoming correspondence arranged alphabetically by writer, outgoing correspondence (1 folder) arranged chronologically, and correspondence about Adams (1 folder) arranged chronologically. Incoming letters comprise the bulk of correspondence.

Also among the personal papers are four boxes of associated printed materials. The newspaper clipping file is housed in two boxes, one arranged by subjects and the other by dates (1929-43, mainly 1939). The two remaining boxes hold articles from periodicals, journals, and newsletters. The subject of one box is aviation, which includes the newsletter of various airlines, whereas the subject of the other relates to the geography and inhabitants of the Pacific and South Pacific Islands.

The materials in the Clara Adams Collections span the years 1919 to 1967.

Newsletters

Pan American Air Ways Newsletters

November/December	1934
February/March/April	1935
September/October	1935
March/April 1936	
May/June 1936	
July/August 1936	
September/October	1936
May 1937	

Medals

Medal of the Month
Captain Edwin C. Musick

Bronze 19 x 31 inches

The medal on the left of the plaque is a picture of Edwin C. Musick. Around the medal it says, Captain C. Musick - 1912 Flying Jubilee 1937.

The medal on the right has the following written on it:

Captain Edwin C. Musik; Born - August 13, 1894; St. Louis, Missouri; Trail Blazer South America - China - New Zealand; Harmon Trophy 1935; lost at Pago Pago January 11, 1938.

Inscribed on brass plate is the following dedication:

In memory of Clara Adams - Passenger who made famous first flight; Donors: Olga & Otto Schlaetter, Freda V. Simpson, Olga & Louis Michitsch, Marion C. King, 10/25/72 Medal of the Month.

Oversize Materials
Manuscripts, Notes, Speeches

1	MS. <u>DO-X</u>	1931
2	Lecture & Notes <u>Hindenburg</u>	1936
3	Notes <u>Hindenburg</u>	1936
4	German Speech <u>Hindenburg</u>	1936
5	Speech <u>China Clipper</u>	1936
6	Notes <u>Hawaii Clipper</u>	1936
7	<u>Dixie Clipper</u>	1939
8	Notes Around The World Flight	1939
9	Broadcast	1939
10	MS. Book Notes	n.d.

Graphics:

11	Photograph Helen L. Boudreau
12	Print Hugo Eckener signed by artist

First Flights:

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 13 | The First Passenger Flight Across Atlantic (first leg of round-the-world trip): <u>Dixie Clipper</u> , Observations, Personal Flight Records, Newspaper clippings, Hotel receipts | 1939 |
| 14 | Around-the-World Flight, personal flight record, notes | |
| 15 | Observations, receipts, and newspaper clippings | |
| 16 | <u>New York Times</u> Photographic section, Around-the-World Flight | |

New Zealand Flight:

- | | | |
|-------|--|------|
| 17-21 | Personal flight records, observations, receipts telegrams menus, and newspaper clippings | 1940 |
| 22 | Return flight: personal flight records, observations & newspaper clippings | |
| 23 | Human interest stories | |
| 24 | Typed MS., weather report, observations & map | |

Associated Periodical & Newspaper Clippings:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|------|
| 25 | <u>Graf Zeppelin</u> | 1929 |
| 26 | <u>Hawaii Clipper</u> | 1936 |
| 27 | <u>China Clipper</u> Hawaii | 1936 |
| 28 | <u>Brandenburg</u> | 1938 |
| 29 | Clipper Stories | 1939 |
| 30 | First Scheduled Overseas Flight | 1940 |
| 31 | Admiral Rosendahl | 1941 |

Maps:

- 32 Routes P.A.A. Flying Clippers
- 33 New Zealand, Middle East, & U.S.S.R.

Photographs**Portraits and Snapshots:**

- 1 Clara Adams

Photographs:

- 2 G.L. Adams (husband) & family
- 3 Zeppelin & Zeppelin Raid 1923-1924
- 4 Graf Zeppelin
- 5 Travels & dignitaries
- 6 Zeppelin flight
- 7 Clara Adams & DO-X
- 8 Boeing Clipper
- 9 Hawaii Clipper 1936
- 10 Bermuda Clipper 1937
- 11 Clippers & Clipper interiors
- 12 Cleveland Air Races 1938-1939
Clara Adams with Early Birds 1941
- 13 Airmen/Women of International Repute
- 14 German Airplanes
- 15 Clara Adams with Women Aviators

- 16 Augustus Post
- 17 Dr. Hugo Eckener
- 18 Warren D. Shipp's photographs of people, places, planes
- 19 Portrait of G.M. Vassetta
- 20 Friends of Clara Adams

Philatelic Materials

These two boxes of philatelic materials are kept in the safe

Box 1

First Flight First Day Covers

1928 (2)	1946 (1)	Illegible postmark (1)
1929 (2)	1947 (2)	
1931 (1)	1955 (1)	
1932 (1)	1957 (1)	
1935 (1)	1960 (1)	
1936 (7)	1963 (2)	
1939 (5)	1965 (1)	
1941 (1)	1967 (2)	
Number of envelopes (32)		

Box 2

Special Covers (without cachets) (10)

1931 (1)	1939 (4)	Illegible postmark (1)
1936 (1)	1940 (4)	

Postcards: Philatelic, autographed, photographic (5)

Stamps: Loose, Rare, or Special (4)

Additional Philatelic Items and Information (6)

PAA Guidelines for Transatlantic first flight covers 1939

Envelopes addressed to Zeppelins and to Friedrichshafen/Bodensee
National Coin Journal and Hobby News features Clara Adams

Memorabilia:

One box of rare items Mrs. Adams collected on her travels is housed in the safe. This box of 13 folders and 11 envelopes contains wine lists (some autographed), dinner menus, a radiogram, baggage stickers, and travel brochures from the Graf Zeppelin, the Hindenburg, and DO-X.

Zeppelin Books in German

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Kleffel, Walter, and Wilhelm Schulze <u>Die Zeppelin</u> 1928
<u>Fahrt</u> . Berlin: Berlag Ullftein | |
| | <u>50 Jahre Luftschiffbau Zeppelin</u> . Friedrichshafen AM
Bodensee: Luftschiffbau-Zeppelin G. m.b.n. | 1958 |
| | "Woche." <u>Zeppelin Fahrt um die Welt</u> . Berlin: August
Scherl B. m.b.n. | 1929 |
| | <u>Graf Zeppelin</u> . Juvenile book | |
| | <u>Zeppelin-Weltfahrten</u> . 2 vols.
Texts tipped-in photographs (from cigarette packages).
2 copies of vol. 1 | 1932,1933 |

Box 1

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| 1 | First Flight Travelogs of the Air, DO-X Graf Zeppelin
First Flight Travelogs of the Air
Correspondence
"Flight Record"
Memorabilia | 1937 |
| 2 | Biographical Clipping file | 1919-1966 |
| 3 | Speaking Engagements | |
| 4 | Around-the-World Flight Itinerary | 1939 |
| 5 | Around-the-World Flight: <u>New York Times</u> | 1939 |
| 6 | Honorary Citizen certificates, New Orleans | 1957 |

- 7 Memorabilia
- 8 Raymond J. Jefreys
- 9 Scrapbook: Correspondence and autographs

Box 2

- 1 History of Aviation photo reproductions
- 2 Clippings: Landmarks in aviation
- 3 Around-the-World Flights
- 4 *The Air Pilot* 1933
- 5 *Collier's/The National Weekly, The Story of American Aviation* 1948
- 6 *Contact/Aviation's National Newspaper* 1948
- 7 *Life, Acceleration of Science* 1950
- 8 *The United States Naval Air Station Skyscrapers* 1965
- 9 *National Aerographic Magazine* 1952
- 10 *Pan American Air Ways* 1934
- 11 *The TWA Skyliner* 1940
- 12 United Air Lines Transport Corporation annual report 1939

Box 3

- 1 German newspapers, photographs, aircraft 1936
- 2 Hawaii Clipper
- 3 John F. Kennedy International Airport

4	25th Celebration: LaGuardia	1964
5	Dedication: LaGuardia Marine Base Clipper Service	1940
6	Miami Goodyear Flights	1950
7	New York Municipal Airport	1939
8	New York to California: 1st Flight	1940
9	OX 5	1960, 1965
10	Augustus Post	1942
11	Royal Dutch Airlines	
12	Sheet music: "God Give Us Wings" and "The Aviator"	
13	Stratoliner: New York to California	1940
14	Women Pilots (Americans)	
15	Women Pilots (British - WWII)	
16	Women Pilots (German)	
17	Women Pilots: Anne Morrow Lindbergh	1934
18	Women's International Association of Aeronautics, Inc.	

Box 4

1	MS + notes: Graf Zeppelin 1st Flight, Atlantic	1928
2	MS + notes: Graf Zeppelin Flight	1928
3	MS + notes: Graf Zeppelin Flight	1928
4	Notes: Zeppelins	nd
5	Graf Zeppelin: German press notices hand-copied	1928
6	Graf Zeppelin: German press notice of Adams' speech	1929

in Baden-Baden

7	Zeppelins: German materials, Graf & Hindenburg	1936
8	MS: Description of Hindenburg flight	1936
9	MS: Notes (CA + others), lectures - Hindenburg Labeled as Clara Adams' best	
10	MS: Lecture notes: Hindenburg	1936
11	Hindenburg: LZ 129 Translation of Erik Hildesheim from German	
12	MS Notes: Hindenburg	1936
13	MS Notes: Hindenburg	1936
14	MS Notes: Hindenburg	1936
15	Hindenburg: Louis B. Locher's article	1936
16	Clippings: Hindenburg	
17	Paul von Hindenburg	1935
18	Hindenburg disaster	1937
19	Zeppelins	

Box 5

1	Correspondence - Outgoing	1932-1967
2	Correspondence about Clara Adams	1966-1967
3	Correspondence - Incoming	1936-1963
4	Correspondence - Incoming	1932-1967
5	Correspondence - Incoming	1931-1966
6	Correspondence - Incoming	1929-1967

7	Correspondence - Incoming	1939-1962
8	Correspondence - Incoming	1939

Box 6

1	Graf Zeppelin: First flight over Atlantic	1928
2	MS + notes: Graf Zeppelin Flight	1928
3	MS + notes: Graf Zeppelin Flight	1928
4	Notes: Zeppelins	nd
5	Graf Zeppelin: German press notices hand-copies	1928
6	Graf Zeppelin: German press notice of Adams' speech in Baden-Baden	1929
7	Zeppelins: German materials Graf & Hindenburg	1936
8	MS: Description of Hindenburg Flight	1936
9	MS: Notes (Clara Adams and others), lectures Hindenburg, Clara Adams' best	nd
10	MS: Lecture notes: Hindenburg	1936
11	Hindenburg: LZ 129, Translation Erik Hildesheim from German	
12	MS: Incomplete, Hindenburg	1936
13	MS: Notes: Hindenburg Flight	1936
14	MS: Notes: Hindenburg	1936
15	Hindenburg: Louis B. Locher's article	1936
16	Clippings: Hindenburg	
17	Paul von Hindenburg	

18	Hindenburg disaster	1937
19	Zeppelins	

Box 7

1	Zeppelin baggage stickers	1936
2	Graf Zeppelin: Stationery	nd
3	Graf Zeppelin: Brochure + time table, Regulations for passengers and baggage	
4	Graf Zeppelin: Luftschiffbau, Liste der Reisenden	
5	Graf Zeppelin: Wine List	
6	Graf Zeppelin: Breakfast and luncheon menus	
7	Graf Zeppelin: Dinner menu	
8	Graf Zeppelin: Street music	1928
9	Hindenburg: Travel brochures + reception	
10	Hindenburg: 1st Transatlantic crossing	1936
11	Clara Adams: Soviet Flight: 2nd Trans Polar	1937
12	Clara Adams: Sheet music "The Aviator" (autographed)	
13	Clara Adams: Music "God Give Us Wings" (autographed)	

Envelope

1	Picture frame made from wood of Zeppelin LZ-42	
2	Original fabric: Graf Zeppelin	1928
3	Zeppelins: Post cards and stickers	
4	DO-X Flight	1931

5	Graf Zeppelin: Brochures	
6	U.S. Flag worn during around the world flight (silk)	1939
7	Mementos: Zeppelins. To Clara Adams from Lambrecht, Germany	1948
8	Pass to Lake Hurst and Hindenburg air stations from Admiral Rosendahl	1936
9	Descriptive notes about airships, Major Engle	
10	Augustus Post poetry, (autographed)	
11	Envelope of Dr. Hugo Eckener	

Box 8

1	Dedication of Air Lines Terminal, NY	
2	Around the World Flight	1939
3	Bermuda Clipper: <u>The Bermudian</u>	1937
4	China Clipper	1936
5	Clippers disasters: Hawaii Clipper - Sinking Samdan Clipper	1938 1938
6	Clippings: Dixie Clipper	1939
7	Clippings: Dirigible - Macon	1939
8	Clippings: DO-X Clippings	
9	Dornier-DO-X Flight	1931
10	Early Birds	
11	Early Birds - German	
12	Earle S. Eckel: Autogiro Flight	1941

13	Dr. Hugo Eckener	1938
14	F.I.S.A. Congress, NY	1966
15	Germany: Floyd Bennett Airport	

Box 9

	Book: <u>Zeppelin-Weltfahrten - German (2 copies)</u>	1932
	Book: Zeppelin-Weltfahrten II. Buch - German	1933
	Book: Children's book - German	nd
	Book: Zeppelin Fahrt um die Belt - German	nd
	Book: Zeppelin - German	1908-1958
	Book: Zeppelin - Fahrt - German (paperback)	1928

Box 10

1	Clippings	1936-1937
2	Clippings	1929-1934
3	Clippings	1938-1939
4	Clippings	1939
5	Clippings	1939
6	Clippings	1939
7	Clippings	1940-1942
8	Clippings	1943...
9	Clippings	1939

Box 11

1	National Intercollegiate Flying Association: TCU	1955
2	National Aeronautic Association: TX Chapters Conf.	1944
3	Long Island Early Fliers Club Award Dinner	1966
4	Richard E. Byrd Banquet - World's Fair	1939
5	Clippings: Amelia Earhart to Fred Noonan	1937
6	Airline insignia	
7	Code of Signals	
8	National Coin Journal and Hobby News	
9	Clippings: Edward Dean Adams + wife	1911
10	Clippings of Catapult	1936
11	Clippings: Clara Adams	
12	Clippings: Clara Adams in German	
13	Clippings: Donier DO-X Flight	1931
14	Brazilian Clipper: PAA	1934
15	Clippings: Karachi, India Airport Inauguration	1938
16	Clippings: Kitty Hawk to Smithsonian	
17	Clippings: Around the World Flight	1939
18	Clippings: Atlantic Clipper Transpacific	
19	Women's National & International Federation of Aeronautical Associations, Inc.	1934
20	Clippings: Clipper Ships	
21	Autographs of famous flyers	
22	Autographs of famous flyers	

7	Photograph: Boeing Clipper	
8	Photograph: Hawaii Clipper	1936
9	Photograph: Bermuda Clipper	1937
10	Photograph: Interiors of Clippers	1939
11	Photographs: Cleveland Air Races	1938
12	Photographs: Women of International Repute	
13	Photographs of German Airplanes	
14	Photographs: Clara Adams with women aviators Photographs: Warren D. Shipp, People, places, planes	
15	Photographs: Augustus Post	
16	Dr. Hugo Eckener	
17	Warren D. Ship	
18	Photograph: Portrait: Guiseppe Mauro Vassetta	
19	Photographs: Clara Adams' Friends	

Box 14

1	Items given to Charles Rosendahl by Clara Adams
2	Miscellaneous brochures and memorabilia
3	Miscellaneous records of Clara Adams flights

Envelope

1	Doorplate: Clara Adams
2	Clara Adams: Tangential materials
3	Duplicate photo postcard, autographed

