

Clara Adams Collection History of Aviation Collection

Biographical Sketch

Clara Adams
(Mrs. George
Lincoln Adams)
Maiden Name: Clara Grabau
Born: Cincinnati, Ohio
Died: at Honolulu, Midway, Wake Island, and Guam.
Education: Flew on Pan American's Hawaii Clipper, first scheduled passenger flight to Hawaii.
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.

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: at Honolulu, Midway, Wake Island, and Guam.	1971
Flew on Pan American's Hawaii Clipper, first scheduled passenger flight to Hawaii.	
Flew on first round trip of Bermuda Clipper from New York to Bermuda.	1937
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MS DO X 1021

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

round-the-world by regular air (16 days, 19 hours) and covered 24, 609 by air. Flew New York to Marseille in the Dixie Clipper, commercial transatlantic clipper flight. Her father's mother was Augusta von Hindenburg Maiden), a distant relative of Hindenburg, President of Germany Her cousin was Colonel Arthur C. Goebel, winner of the Dole Prize Born: Cincinnati, Ohio Died: 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 New York to Bermuda. Then flew to Leipzig, Athens, Basra, Jodhpur, Rangoon, Bangkok, Manila, Guam, Wake, Honolulu, San Francisco, and New York.

1927
1884 miles from
1971
first

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

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Her cousin was Colonel Arthur C. Goebel, winner of the Dole Prize 1927
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| 4 | German Speech Hindenburg | 1936 |
| 5 | Speech China Clipper | 1936 |
| 6 | Notes Hawaii Clipper | 1936 |
| 7 | Dixie Clipper | 1939 |
| 8 | Notes Around The World Flight | 1939 |
| 9 | Broadcast | 1939 |
| 10 | MS. Book Notes | n.d. |
| 13 | The First Passenger Flight Across Atlantic (first leg of round the world trip); Dixie Clipper. Observations, Personal | 1939 |

Graphics:

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

First Flights:

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Observations, receipts, and newspaper clippings 16 New York Times Photographic section,

Around-the-World Flight

New Zealand Flight:

17-21 Personal flight records, observations, receipts telegrams 1940 menus, and newspaper clippings 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 Graf Zeppelin 1929 26 Hawaii Clipper 1936 27 China Clipper Hawaii 1936 28 Brandenburg 1938

29 Clipper Stories 1939 30 First Scheduled Overseas Flight 1940 31 Admiral Rosendahl 1941

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 - 13 The First Passenger Flight Across Atlantic (first leg of round-the-world trip): Dixie Clipper, Observations, Personal Flight Records, Newspaper clippings, Hotel receipts 1939
 - 14 Around-the-World Flight, personal flight record, notes
- 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

Box 2

Special Covers (without cachets) (10)

1931 (1) 1939 (4)

1936 (1) 1940 (4)

Illegible
postmark (1)

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

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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

Kleffel, Walter, and Wilhelm Schulze Die Zeppelin 1928 Fahrt. Berlin: Berlag Ullftein

50 Jahre Luftschiffbau Zeppelin. Friedrichshafen AM 1958 Bodensee: Luftschiffbau-Zeppelin G. m.b.n.

"Woche." Zeppelin Fahrt um die Welt. Berlin: August 1929 Scherl B. m.b.n.

Graf Zeppelin. Juvenile book

Zeppelin-Weltfahrten. 2 vols. 1932,1933 Texts tipped-in photographs (from cigarette packages). 2 copies of vol. 1

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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 1948 Aviation 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.

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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 1929 in Baden-Baden 7 Zeppelins: German materials Graf
& Hindenburg 1936 8 MS: Description of Hindenburg Flight 1936 9 MS: Notes
(Clara Adams and others), lectures nd Hindenburg, Clara Adams' best 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

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round-the-world trip): Dixie Clipper, Observations, Personal Flight Records, Newspaper clippings, Hotel receipts

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Maps:

32 Routes P.A.A. Flying Clippers

33 New Zealand, Middle East, & U.S.S.R.

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4 Graf Zeppelin

5 Travels & dignitaries

6 Zeppelin flight

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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

5 Graf Zeppelin: Brochures 6 U.S. Flag worn during around the world flight
(silk) 1939 7 Mementos: Zeppelins. To Clara Adams from 1948
Lambrecht, Germany 8 Pass to Lake Hurst and Hindenburg air stations
1936 from Admiral Rosendahl 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: The Bermudian 1937 4 China Clipper 1936 5 Clippers disasters: Hawaii Clipper - Sinking 1938 Samdan Clipper 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: Zeppelin-Weltfahrten - German (2 copies) 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

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1936 (1) 1940 (4)

Postcards: Philatelic, autographed, photographic (5)

Stamps: Loose, Rare, or Special (4)

23 Addresses and acquaintances 24 Autographs: Los Angeles to San Francisco 1940

Box 12 Clara Adams' story "I Am Known as Clara Adams"

1 The Guam Eagle

2 The Guam Recorder 1936-1939

3 The Maori

4 National Geographic

5 Duplicates: "Pan American Airways" and TWA's "The Skyliner"

Box 13

1 3 envelopes of photographs of Clara Adams

(1) Snapshots of Clara Adams

(2) Photographs of Clara Adams' early years

(3) Photographs of Clara Adams & Jolly Troubadours 2 Photographs: G.L. Adams (husband) & family 3 Photographs: Zeppelin & Zeppelin Raid 1924 4 Photographs: Graf Zeppelin 5 3 envelopes of photographs

(1) Canton Island, PAA South Pacific Route 1939

(2) Around the World Flight 1939

(3) Around the World Flight 6 Photographs: German Flugschiff DO-X

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. Shipp 18 Photograph: Portrait: Guiseppe Mauro Vassetta 19
 Photographs: Clara Adams' Friends

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Clara Adams photographs