Biographical Sketch

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

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 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) 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, 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 Schlagetter, Freda V. Simpson, Olga & Louis Michitsch, Marion C. King, 10/25/72 Medal of the Month.

Oversize Materials Manuscripts, Notes, Speeches

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
at Honolulu, Midway, Wake Island, and Guam.
Flew on Pan American's Hawaii Clipper, first scheduled passenger flight to Hawaii.
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1 MS. DO-X 1931
2 Lecture & Notes Hindenburg 1936
3 Notes Hindenburg 1936
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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12. 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) Illegible
1936 (1) 1940 (4) 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
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

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<td>4</td>
<td>German Speech Hindenburg</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Speech China Clipper</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<td>Notes Hawaii Clipper</td>
<td>1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dixie Clipper</td>
<td>1939</td>
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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


"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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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

18 Hindenburg disaster 1937 19 Zeppelins
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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
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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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 Flugsschiff DO-X
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