

Guide to the
Karl Baur Collection
(1911-1963)

4.8 linear feet

Prepared by

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Special Collections Department
McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas

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Biographical Sketch:

Karl Baur was born November 13, 1911 in Wurttemberg, Germany. In 1927 he attended a summer camp for young boys interested in aviation, and it was here that Baur developed his desire to fly. He became involved in the world of glider flying during the 1930s, where with the F1 Fledermaus glider he completed the necessary distance, height, and acrobatic flying requirements to earn an International Silver C Badge in 1934. (Only 19 of these were awarded that at year, and Baur was one of 15 Germans who received the badge.) Baur also worked with powered aircraft and earned a private pilot license in 1931.

In 1935 Baur accepted an opportunity to go to Japan and serve as instructor at a Japanese glider school. He also did some acrobatic flying at various points around Japan. Upon his return to Germany in 1936, Baur completed his master's degree in engineering and went to work for the German Aviation Research Institute testing aircraft designs and instructing German pilots.

Baur was called to military duty and attempted to join the Luftwaffe in 1938, but because of problems with his eyesight he could not pass the physical to be certified as a military pilot. He stayed with the German Aviation Research Institute until 1939, when he received an offer to become the chief test pilot for the Messerschmitt Company. At Messerschmitt he test piloted such famous aircraft as the Me-109, the Me-262 jet fighter, and the Me-163 rocket plane. On April 29, 1945 the allies captured the German city of Augsburg, where Baur was working on Messerschmitt aircraft. Baur and his crew were required by the American forces to repair the Me-262's that had been damaged and instruct some American pilots in their operation. Along with other German experts in the field of aeronautics and rocketry, Baur was sent to the United States in fall of 1945. He spent several months in the United States demonstrating the Me-262 providing technical help to American test pilots, and explaining about the aeronautic work he had done in Germany. In December 1945 Baur was able to return to Germany and reunite with his family.

Baur worked several odd jobs after the war including serving as an interpreter to the commander of an American Army Air Force Base in Germany, and as a sales representative for a company that manufactured car batteries. Baur accepted a job as an engineer at the Chance Vought Aircraft Corporation in Dallas, Texas in August 1954. Baur worked for Chance Vought until his death on October 12^t, 1963. His widow, Isolde Baur still lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Sources

Baur, Isolde. *A Pilot's Pilot: Karl Baur, Chief Test Pilot for Messerschmitt*. JJ. Fedorowicz Publishing Inc, Canada, 2000.

Karl Baur Papers, Box 5, Folder 6, Special Collections Department, History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Additional Sources

Additional material about Karl Baur's work for Messerschmitt can be found in *Messerschmitt Me-262: Development, Testing, Production* by Willy Radinger and Walther Schick; translated from the German by David Johnston and *Top Secret Bird: The Luftwaffe's Me-163 COMET* by Wolfgang Spate. The History of Aviation Collection also maintains a library of books on aviation which holds many volumes on World War II aircraft. Please consult the McDermott Library Catalog for more information.

Series Description

The Karl Baur Collection contains one of series of seven boxes of material totaling 4.8 linear feet. The collection holds loose material in folders and several bound log books. There is also a large amount of three-dimensional material stored in envelopes. Boxes 5 and 6 of the collection are stored in the safe due to the value of their contents. The collection is described at the folder level. See container list for the titles of individual folders.

Scope and Content Note

The Karl Baur Collection spans the years 1930-1968 and includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, military records, identification cards, photographs, and three dimensional materials. The collection also contains several bound logbooks which cover Karl Baur's test flights for the Messerschmitt Company during World War II.

Provenance Statement

The Karl Baur Collection was obtained by the History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library Special Collections from Isolde Baur, widow of Karl Baur, in 2001.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish, copy, reprint, digitize, orally record for transmission over public airways, or use in any and all current or future developed in methods or procedures, must be obtained in writing from the Special Collections Department, History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Container List

Begins on page 5.

Karl Baur Collection: Container List

Box 1

Titles, Dates, and Description

Folder

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Documents Relating to Baur's Arrival in America |
| 2 | Copy of US Army Intelligence Background Check on Baur |
| 3 | Diary Entries from Karl Baur's Arrival in America |
| 4 | Program from Reception during Baur's 1935 Trip to Japan |
| 5 | Plans for D-Fledermaus Glider |
| 6 | Copy of Messerschmitt Aircraft Report |
| 7 | Copy of Me-109 Flight Report |
| 8 | Copy of Me-109/209 Report |
| 9 | Copy of Me-110 Report |
| 10 | Copy of Me-163 Report |
| 11 | Copy of Me-210 Report |
| 12 | Copy of Me-261 Report |
| 13 | Copy of Me-262 Flight Report |
| 14 | Copy of Me-262 Report |
| 15 | Copy of Me-264 Report |
| 16 | Copy of Me-321/323 Report |
| 17 | Certificate and Diplomas |
| 18 | Medical Certificate for Pilots License |
| 19 | Second Place Certificate; 1935 Cross Country Derby |
| 20 | Mathematical Exercise Book |

Karl Baur Collection: Container List

Box 2

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions

Folder

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Mathematical Workbooks (Folder A) |
| 2 | Mathematical Workbooks (Folder B) |
| 3 | Maps |
| 4 | Newspaper Clippings (Folder A) |
| 5 | Newspaper Clippings (Folder B) |
| 6 | Taschenbuch Fur Die - 1961 |
| 7 | Sketches and Drawings |

Box 3

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions

Folder

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Photographs (Folder A) |
| 2 | Photographs (Folder B) |
| 3 | Federation Aeronautique Internationale – Code de General Sportif – 1951 |
| 4 | Jahrbuch der Luftahrt – 1952/1953 |
| 5 | Differential and Integral Calculus |

Box 4

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions

Folder

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Pair of Boots |
| 2 | Pair of Boots |

Karl Baur Collection: Container List

Box 4

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions

Folder

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 3 | Pair of Winter Gloves |
| 4 | Pair of Pants |

Box 5

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions (Box Located in Safe)

Folder

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Logbook Nr. 1, 1931 – 1934 |
| 2 | Logbook Nr. 2, 1934 – 1937 |
| 3 | Logbook Nr. 5, 1940 – 1943 |
| 4 | Logbook Nr. 6, 1943 – 1944 |
| 5 | Logbook Nr. 7, 1944 – 1945 |
| 6 | Handwritten Notebook, 1940 – 1941 |
| 7 | Diary from Expedition to Japan, 1935 – 1936 |
| 8 | Certificates and Awards |
| 9 | Pilot Licenses |
| 10 | Identification Documents |
| 11 | Miscellaneous Logs and Books |

Box 6

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions (Box Located in Safe)

Folder

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Photographs (Including Signed picture of Herman Goering) |
|---|--|

Karl Baur Collection: Container List

Box 6

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions (Box Located in Safe)

Folder

2	Parachute Knife
3	Plaque: Nationalsozialistischer Fliegerkorps (NSFK) 1937
4	1934 German Cross Country Derby Medal
5	Slide Rule
6	Unidentified Medal
7	Navigational Tools
8	Unidentified Medal
9	Miscellaneous Plaques
10	2 Cigarette Cases
11	Messerschmitt Company Security Badge
12	Large Pins
13	Small Pins
14	Medal: 25 th Anniversary of the First Flight at Cannstatter Wassen, Stuttgart, 1936
15	Medal: 1936 International Cross Country Race to Olympiad in Berlin
16	Plaque: City of Breslau
17	Plaque: City of Riesa
18	Universal Pocket Knife
19	Pocket Watch
20	Two Wrist Watches

Karl Baur Collection: Container List

Box 6

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions (Box Located in Safe)

Folder

- | | |
|----|--|
| 21 | Unidentified Plaque |
| 22 | Plaque: For Acrobatic Flying – City of Gmund, 1934 |
| 23 | Old Records (78 RPM) Envelope A |
| 24 | Old Records (78 RPM) Envelope B |
| 25 | Old Records (78 RPM) Envelope C |
| 26 | Old Records (78 RPM) Envelope D |

Box 7

Titles, Dates, and Descriptions

Folder

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Record Player: Prize Bot Speedwell, Cross Country Derby, 1939 |
|---|---|