



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Hindenburg Memorabilia Collection [von Meister]

Allan Janus

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Hindenburg Memorabilia Collection [von Meister]
<b>Date:</b>	1925-1969 (bulk 1934-1937)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1996.0002
<b>Creator:</b>	von Meister, F.W. "Willy", 1903-1978
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 Cubic feet (6 folders)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of material relating to Friedrich Wilhelm. "Willy" von Meister and his activities with the airship industries of Germany and the United States.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Gerda Carmichael, Gift, 1995, NASM.1996.0002

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Allan Janus, 2018.

### Preferred Citation

Hindenburg Memorabilia Collection [von Meister], Acc. 1996.0002, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Friedrich Wilhelm "Willy" von Meister (1903-1978) was the representative of the Zeppelin organization's activities in the United States: Luftschiffbau Zeppelin, Deutsche Zeppelin-Reederei GmbH, American Zeppelin Transport, Inc., and Maybach-Motorenbau GmbH, from 1928 until 1938. After the crash of the Hindenburg in 1937, he assisted Dr. Hugo Eckener, head of the Zeppelin organization, in his attempts to obtain helium from the United States for the company's airships.

## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of material relating to F. W. "Willy" von Meister and his activities with the airship industries of Germany and the United States. The collection includes Christmas cards, including one with a written note to von Meister from Thomas G. W. "Tex" Settle, USN, 1937; seventeen black and white photo prints and postcards of the Hindenburg and Hugo Eckener, the head of Luftschiffbau Zeppelin; five Hindenburg envelopes; eighteen Hindenburg baggage labels; a printed passenger list for the first crossing of the Hindenburg from Lakehurst, New Jersey to Frankfurt; newspaper and magazine articles on airships; a Maybach Motor Company brochure written by von Meister; and several letters. Also included are fifteen black and white photographs and two sets of postcards of the Dornier DO-X flying boat, and Dornier DO-X baggage labels.

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## Arrangement

This collection has been arranged by general subject and content.

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## General

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airships
- Dornier Do X
- Zeppelin LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin
- Zeppelin LZ 129 Hindenburg

### Types of Materials:

- Christmas cards
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Printed ephemera
- Publications

### Names:

- LZ 129 Hindenburg (Airship)
- Zeppelin-Reederei Co.
- von Meister, F.W. "Willy", 1903-1978

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## Container Listing

### Documents

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Christmas cards</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Hindenburg baggage labels</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Photographs and postcards - lighter than air</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Hindenburg articles, passenger list, envelopes</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Dornier Do X - photographs, baggage labels</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Letters, articles, brochure</a>

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