



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Elsbeth and Margarete Grosse Balloon Ascension Collection

Allan Janus

2012

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Elsbeth and Margarete Grosse Balloon Ascension Collection
Date:	1910
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.1171
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	German .
Summary:	On March 27 and 28, 1910, sisters Elsbeth and Margarete Grosse of Meisen, Germany made an ascent in the "Graf Zeppelin" balloon that was piloted by Karl Hackstetter. This collection consists of a logbook and three letters written by the Grosse sisters to Hackstetter.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Elsbeth and Margarete Grosse Balloon Ascension Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Unknown, Gift, Unknown, NASM.XXXX.1171

Processing Information

Arranged and described in 2012 by Allan Janus. Encoded in 2020 by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

Elsbeth and Margarete Grosse Balloon Ascension Collection, NASM.XXXX.1171, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

On March 27 and 28, 1910, sisters Elsbeth and Margarete Grosse of Meisen, Germany made an ascent in the "Graf Zeppelin" balloon. The balloon was piloted by Karl Hackstetter (1876-1932), a balloonist, aeronaut, and designer of airships and airplanes. Margarete Grosse later wrote a book, *Frauen auf Ballon- und Bergfahrten* (*Women in Balloons and Mountain Climbing*), dedicated to her sister and published in 1951.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a logbook entitled "Dresdener Wallfahrt 1910 - Wallfahrt des sächsischen ballon 'Graf Zeppelin', 27 u. 28 März 1910" ("Dresden Pilgrimage 1910 - Pilgrimage of the Saxon balloon 'Graf Zeppelin', March 27-28 1910"). The log contains entries (written in German Sütterlin script) written from 5:57 AM, March 27 to 3:23 AM, March 28. It is not known if the log was kept by Hackstetter or by either of the Grosse sisters. Also included in the collection are three letters written by the Grosse sisters to Hackstetter, dated April 4, 19 and 20, 1910, with an account of their balloon ascent.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by type of material, with the letters in chronological order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Balloons

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Logbooks

Names:

- Grosse, Elsbeth
- Grosse, Margarete
- Hackstetter, Karl