Descriptive Summary

Creator: Reissner, Hans
Title: Hans Reissner Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1881-1984
Extent: 4.00 linear feet (6 archives boxes and 5 oversize folders.)

Abstract: Papers of Hans Reissner (1874-1967), aeronautical engineer, physicist, professor, and researcher. Reissner designed the first successful aircraft with all-metal wing and tail surfaces and the first controllable-pitch propeller. He began his career in Germany, working with Ferdinand Zeppelin, Hugo Junkers and also teaching. He immigrated to the United States in 1938 and taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology (1938-1944) and the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (1944-1954). Materials include correspondence, much of it relating to German aviation development in the early twentieth century; published and unpublished articles documenting Reissner's work in Germany and the United States; propeller patents (1919-1946); an aerial bombing chart (1915); teaching materials dated after 1937; photographs of early German aircraft; and, photographs of Hans Reissner. The Hans Reissner Papers are arranged in eight series: 1) BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL, 2) CORRESPONDENCE, 3) WRITINGS BY HANS REISSNER, 4) WRITINGS OF OTHERS, 5) LECTURES AND TEACHING MATERIAL, 6) PATENTS, 7) SUBJECT FILES, and 8) ORIGINALS OF PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPIES.


La Jolla, California 92093-0175

Collection number: MSS 0030
Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access
Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information
Not Available

Preferred Citation
Hans Reissner Papers, MSS 0030. Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD.

Publication Rights
Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Biography
Hans Jacob Reissner was born on January 18, 1874, in Berlin, Germany. He earned a degree in civil engineering from Berlin’s Technische Hochschule in 1897, then spent a year in the United States working as a structural draftsman. Reissner returned to Germany to study physics with Max Planck at Berlin University. In 1900 he changed direction and attended the Technische Hochschule, where he studied under Heinrich Mueller-Breslau and completed one of the first engineering doctorates in 1902. His dissertation was on vibrations of framed structures. Reissner joined the faculty at Berlin's Technische Hochschule, but he also worked on outside projects, including structural analysis for Count Zeppelin. In 1904, he was awarded a fellowship to study the use of iron in construction in the United States.

In 1906, Reissner returned to Germany and was appointed professor of mechanics at the Technische Hochschule in Aachen. Up until this time his research had dealt with topics at the intersections of mechanics and physics, but his attention now focused upon the new field of aviation. By 1908 he was familiar enough with the basic areas of aircraft stability, control and propulsion to deliver a seminal paper published as "Wissenschaftliche Fragen aus der Flugtechnik," the first of many articles on these topics. Hugo Junkers, also on the faculty at Aachen, and Reissner designed and constructed the first successful all-metal and tail-first airplane, the "Ente."

After seven years in Aachen Reissner was invited to return to Berlin's Technische Hochschule in 1913 as professor of mathematics in the civil engineering department. During World War I he was responsible for the structural analysis of the Staaken four-engine bomber and designed the first controllable-pitch propellers for this aircraft. He was awarded the Iron Cross for civilians for his work.

In 1938, Reissner immigrated to the United States, where he taught first at the Illinois Institute of Technology (1938-1944) and then at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (1944-1954). For his seventy-fifth birthday in 1949 he was honored with the presentation of a festschrift, the REISSNER ANNIVERSARY VOLUME, at a dinner in New York.

Reissner retired from professional life in 1954 and died in 1967.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Hans Reissner Papers document the career of a professor, researcher and aeronautical engineer during the development of early-twentieth century German aviation. The materials include correspondence, reprints, manuscripts, personal documents, patents, mechanical drawings, and photographs. Most of the material dated prior to 1938 is in German.

The papers are arranged in eight series: 1) BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL, 2) CORRESPONDENCE, 3) WRITINGS BY HANS REISSNER, 4) WRITINGS OF OTHERS, 5) LECTURES AND TEACHING MATERIAL, 6) PATENTS, 7) SUBJECT FILES, and 8) ORIGINALS OF PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPIES.

SERIES 1: BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL

The BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL series contains photographs, awards, memorabilia, and articles summarizing Reissner's career that were published on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday and following his death in 1967. Eric Reissner's article entitled "Hans Reissner, Engineer, Physicist and Engineering Scientist" provides a narrative of his father's life and intellectual achievements. For additional biographical materials see also Series 2B: General Historical Files.

The "personal documents" folder is arranged chronologically and includes academic, health, residence, travel, and work records for Reissner, as well as birth and death certificates for family members. There are also two documents from the German war department, dated December 19, 1913, and July 3, 1914.

SERIES 2: CORRESPONDENCE

The CORRESPONDENCE series is arranged in two subseries: A) Hans Reissner Correspondence, A-Z and B) Eric Reissner, Reference Correspondence.

A) The first subseries is arranged alphabetically by correspondent and contains correspondence with colleagues and those involved with the patenting and construction of aircraft. There is a long exchange with Moritz Straus (1929-1946) and three letters from Erwin Schrodinger written in 1926. The correspondence with Ludwig Durr, Ernst Uhland and Ferdinand Zeppelin dates from the period when he worked as a structural analyst for Zeppelin. Photographs and mechanical drawings of early biplane construction are located in the "Deutsche Versuchsanstalt fur Luftfahrt" file.

B) The second subseries consists of Eric Reissner's reference correspondence files on topics associated with his father's work and role in aviation history. The materials are arranged alphabetically by subject. The "General Historical" files document the contributions of Reissner, Hugo Junkers and Ludwig Prandtl to aircraft development and include photographs of the "Ente," the first successful all-metal and tail-first airplane.

SERIES 3: WRITINGS BY HANS REISSNER

The WRITINGS BY HANS REISSNER series is arranged in three subseries: A) Published, B) Unpublished and C) Notebooks.

A) The Published subseries largely contains Reissner's journal articles and technical writings arranged according to a numbered publication list that begins the subseries. Publications not on the list are interfiled by date. The subseries contains 54 of the 97 listed works, of which 42 are in German and 12 are in English. Although some article files include drafts, computations and notes, most of the articles are in printed form.

B) The Unpublished subseries contains manuscript papers and analytical reports arranged alphabetically. Included is Reissner's highly detailed structural analysis of Count Zeppelin's airship entitled "Erlauterungsbericht zu dem Entwurf eines Luftschiffes - System Sr. Excellenz, des Grafen von Zeppelin."

C) Notebooks contain reports, calculations and design specifications and are arranged alphabetically by title.

SERIES 4: WRITINGS OF OTHERS

The WRITINGS OF OTHERS series includes articles by Ferdinand Zeppelin and others about his airship, two dissertations for which Reissner served as adviser, a collection of reviews of Reissner's publications, and reviews of the REISSNER ANNIVERSARY VOLUME, a festschrift presented to him on his seventy-fifth birthday.

SERIES 5: LECTURES AND TEACHING MATERIAL

This series contains material in English for lectures Reissner gave at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the 1943 lecture entitled "Aviation Technology of Two Wars," in which Reissner reviews technical aspects of the development of aircraft and his own contributions to aircraft structure and propeller design. The materials are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 6: PATENTS

The PATENTS series, arranged by date, comprises Reissner's German, British and American patents for controllable pitch propellers. The last folder in this series contains patent documentation and notes.

SERIES 7: SUBJECT FILES

This series contains mechanical drawings for airplane wings, propellers and bridges. There are brochures and accounting information for propeller manufacturers, a 1915 ballistics chart for aerial bombing, Reissner's scrapbook of propeller photographs, and material relating to curriculum reform for Germany's Technische Hochschule system in 1919.
SERIES 8: ORIGINALS OF PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPIES
This series contains the originals of brittle or high-acid content documents that have been photocopied.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Reissner, Hans, -- Archives
Propellers, Aerial -- Design and Construction
Aeronautics -- Germany -- History -- 20th century
Aeronautics -- Technological innovations
Mechanical engineering
Engineering -- Germany -- History -- 20th century
Airplanes -- Design and Construction

Contributors
Zeppelin, Ferdinand, -- Graf von, 1838-1917, -- correspondent
Straus, Moritz, -- correspondent

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL
box 1, folder 1  Articles about Hans Reissner 1964 - 1977
box 1, folder 2  Awards, certificates and diplomas
box 1, folder 3, oversize MC03503  Awards, certificates and diplomas - Oversize
box 1, folder 4  Personal documents 1881 - 1938
box 1, folder 5  Photographs - Hans Reissner
box 1, folder 6, oversize FB21002  Seventy-fifth Anniversary Dinner [Scrapbook], January 18, 1949, in Honor of Dr. Hans Reissner... 1949
   Note
   Includes guest list, correspondence and press clippings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hans Reissner Correspondence, A-Z
box 1, folder 7  A - Miscellaneous
box 1, folder 8  Aeroquip Corporation 1941
box 1, folder 9  Albatroswerke G.m.b.H. 1914
box 1, folder 10  Argus Motoren Gesellschaft m.b.H. 1935 - 1941
box 1, folder 11  Aviation Manufacturing Corporation 1936
   Note
   Includes three British patents on propellers.
box 1, folder 12  B - Miscellaneous
box 1, folder 13  Bruckmann, Wilhelm 1909
box 1, folder 14  Curtiss-Wright Corporation. Curtiss Propeller Division 1942
box 1, folder 15  D - Miscellaneous
box 1, folder 16  Deutsche Versuchsanstalt fur Luftfahrt, e.v. 1914
   Note
   Includes "Bericht uber den Prufungsauftrag P.49 - Erprobung der Tragwirkung des Schraubenwindes auf Flugel und Flossen eines Albatros-Doppeldeckers," with mechanical drawings and photographs of biplane construction.
**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Hans Reissner Correspondence, A-Z**

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<td>1, 36</td>
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<td>Reissner, Josephine, (wife) 1914</td>
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<td>1, 39</td>
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**Eric Reissner, Reference Correspondence**

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<td>Includes issue of FLUGSPORT (January 1928) and a festschrift for Hugo Junkers entitled HUGO JUNKERS: PIONIER DER INDUSTRIELLEN FORSCHUNG.</td>
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**Hans Reissner Papers**

MSS 0030
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<td>General Historical - Photographs of early aircraft</td>
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<td>2, 16</td>
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<td>Includes biographical sketch and list of Hans Reissner's publications published in DER STAHLBAU, 1959.</td>
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<td>List of Hans Reissner's publications 1967</td>
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<td>Published in JAHRBUCH 1967 DER WGLR.</td>
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<td>Unnumbered. &quot;Eine neue Fahrbahnanordnung fur eiserne Strafenbrucken&quot; 1897</td>
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<td>3. &quot;Schwingungsaufgaben aus der Theorie des Fachwerks&quot; 1902</td>
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<td>6. &quot;Schwingungsaufgaben aus der Theorie des Fachwerks&quot; 1903</td>
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<td>10. &quot;Eine Bemerkung uber Gravitations- und Elektronische Masse&quot; 1905</td>
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<td>12. &quot;Amerikanische Eisenbauwerkstatten&quot; 1906</td>
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<td>14. &quot;Uber die Spannungsverteilung in Zylindrischen Behalterwandens&quot; 1908</td>
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<td>15. &quot;Wissenschaffliche Fragen aus der Flugtechnik&quot; 1908</td>
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<td>16. &quot;Uber die Knicksicherheit ebener Bleche&quot; 1907</td>
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<td>19. &quot;Die Seitensteuerung der Flugmaschinen&quot; 1910</td>
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<td>22. &quot;Theorie des Erddrucks&quot; 1910</td>
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<td>3, 13</td>
<td>Unnumbered. &quot;Das Propeller-Problem&quot; 1911</td>
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<td>25. &quot;Spannungen in Kugelschalen (Kuppeln)&quot; 1911</td>
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<td>29. &quot;Einige Bemerkungen zur Seitenstabilitat der Drachenflieger&quot; 1912</td>
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38. "Uber die Eigengravitation des Elektrischen Feldes nach der Einsteinschen Theorie" 1916
39. "Festigkeitsberechnung der Flugzeugholme" 1916
   Note
   With E. Schwerin.

40. "Uber die Biegungsbeanspruchung von Schraubenpropellern und die Entlastende Wirkung der Zentrifugalkraft" 1917 - 1918
41. "Die Biegungslinie des Vollkommen Elasticen Stabes Infolge Langskraft und Querbelastung in der Nahe..." 1918
43. "Wirkungsweiser und Anwendungsgebiet von Verstellbaren Luftschrauben" 1920
46. "Bemerkungen zur Abferderung der Motorwagen" 1921
47. "Stationarer Bewegungszustand Einer Schraubenformigen Wirbelflache" 1922
48. "Uber die Kraftschlussigkeit von Zahnradgetrieben, Insbesondere fur Schiffspropeller" 1924
49. "Zum Erddruckproblem" 1924
   Note
   Includes galleys and uncut page proofs.

51. "Energiekriterium der Knacksicherheit" 1925
53. "Beitrag zur Theorie des Elektrons" 1925
54. "Uber eine Moglichkeit, die Wesentlichen Eigenschaften von Kern und Elektron..." 1925
Unnumbered. Book review of DIE ELASTISCHEN PLATTEN by A. Nadai 1926
Unnumbered. "Die Grundlagen der Elasticitatstheorie. A. Spannungen" 1926
58. "Augenstabproblem und Verwandte Aufgaben" 1928
60. "Uber den Einfluss der Inneren Reibung auf die Stabilitat Rotierender Wellen" 1929
Unnumbered. Book review of DIE KRAFTFELDER IN FESTEN ELASTISCHEN KORPERN UND IHRE PRAKTISCHEN ANWENDUNGEN 1929
   Note
   By Th. Wyss.

65. "Warum ich den 'Enten' Flugzeugtyp nicht Weiter Forderte" 1930
67. "Eigenspannungen und Eigenspannungsquellen" 1931
Unnumbered. Review of DIE RELATIVITATSTHEORIE by Dr. Ludwig Hopf 1931
68. "Theorie der Biegungsschwingungen Frei Aufliegender Rechteckplatten Unter dem Einfluss Beweglicher..." 1931
   Note
   (Bemerkung zur Arbeit von H. Schmidt.)

71. "Ringplatte und Augenstab" 1933
   Note
   With Fr. Strauch.

72. "Formanderung, Spannung und Kleine Schwingungen von Staben mit Anfanlicher Krummung und Verwindung..." 1933
   Note
   Erste Mitteilung.
73. "Formanderung und Spannungen Einer Dunnwandigen, an den Randern Frei
    Aufliegenden, Beliebig Belasteten..." 1933
    Note
    Eine Erweiterung der Navierschen Integrationsmethode.

74. "Spannungsverteilung in der Gurtplatte einer Rippendecke" 1934
75. "Ebene und Raumliche Stromung Zaher, Inkompressibler, Tragheitsfreier
    Flussigkeiten Zwischen..." 1935
    Note
    Mitteilung 1.

76. "Ebene und Raumliche Stromung Zaher, Inkompressibler, Tragheitsfreier
    Flussigkeiten Zwischen..." 1936
    Note
    Mitteilung 2.

77. "Ubergangsbogen fur Eisenbahnen und Autorennbahnen" 1937
79. "On the Relation Between Thrust and Torque Distribution and the Dimensions
    and Arrangement of Propeller" 1937
    Note
    Includes typed draft.

80. "Senkrechte und Schrage Durchtritt Einer in Einem Flussigen Medium
    Erzeugten Ebenen Dilatations..." 1938
81. "Elastic Instability of Tubular and Panel Shaped Cylindrical Shells" 1938
82. "Generalized Vortex Theory of the Screw Propeller and Its Application" 1940
83. "Wing of Minimum Total Resistance" 1940
84. "On Lubrication Flow with Periodic Distribution Between Prescribed
    Boundaries" 1941
85. "Theory of Propellers" 1942
86. "Graphical Statics" 1942
87. "Aerodynamic Center, Control and Stability of Airplanes" 1943
88. "Oscillations of Suspension Bridges" 1943
89. "Aeronautical Engineering Courses for Undergraduate and Graduate Curricula" 1943
90. "Systematic Analysis of Thermal Turbojet Propulsion" 1947
93. "Aeronautical Engineering Courses for Undergraduate and Graduate Curricula" 1943
94. "Systematic Analysis of Thermal Turbojet Propulsion" 1947

Unpublished

Belastung des Turmes
Belicht Reissner: uber II Internat. Kongress fur Tech. Mechanik -- Zurich, 12-17
September 1926
Clairautsches Problem
Erlauterungsbericht zu dem Entwurf Eines Luftschiffes - System Sr. Excellenz, des
Grafen von Zeppelin 1903
Note
Analytical report, computations and mechanical drawings for an airship.

Formanderung, Spannung und Kleine Schwingugen von Rotierenden Staben,
Insbesondere Luftschraubenflugen mit...
Note
Abhandlung 2.
Hauptpunkte des Referats u. der Discussion des Technischen Pubs

Lubrication Flow of Periodic Distribution Between Prescribed Boundaries

Praktische Schraubenberechnung 1917

Propeller Design 1941

Propellertheorie 1933 - 1935

Note

Includes graphs.

Satz: Masse und Gewicht des Ausschusses für Einheiten und Formelgrossen 1931

SPpee Report 1939

Note

Engineering Education and Teaching on Vibration (and Oscillation) Phenomena in Undergraduate Courses.

Tech. Eindrucke vom [?] Kriegschaupl

Theoretischen Untersuchungen von Schrauben

Theory of Dynamic Balancing of Propellers 1943

Über den Festkeitsnachweis des Albatros-[?]... 1914

Viscous Flow of Periodic Distribution in Narrow Channels

Unidentified titles (2)

Notebooks

Berichts 1917

Protokollbuch 1 1907

Protokollbuch 1a (Reinschrift von Prot.buch.1) 1907

Untersuchung der Stabilität von Aeroplanen. Heft 2

WRITINGS OF OTHERS

Bandholz, J. H. "Amerikanische Eisenbauwerkstatten" 1907

Bartsch von Sigsfeld. "Anlagen zur Eingabe des Grafen von Zeppelin"

Gehlen, K. "Querstabilität und Seitensteuerung von Flugmaschinen" 1913

Note

Referent: Professor Dr. Ing. H. Reissner.

Helmbold, H.B. "Die Grenze des Luftschraubendurchmessers"

Note

Includes mechanical drawings.

Kober, T. "Lenkbares Luftschiff nach den Ungaben Seiner Excellenz General Graf von Zeppelin" 1894

Note

Includes mechanical drawing and notes.

Kubler, Hugo. "Das Zeppelin'sche Luftfahrzeug" 1901

REISSNER ANNIVERSARY VOLUME, 1949 -- Reviews

Reviews of Hans Reissner's publications by various authors

Schwerin, E. "Über Spannungen in Symmetrisch und Unsymmetrisch Belasteten Kugelschalen (Kuppeln)..." 1918

Note

Referent: Professor Dr.-Ing. Reissner.
box 5, folder 13
Thalau, K. "Bericht der Deutschen Versuchsanstalt fur Luftfahrt E.V., Berlin-Adlershof." 1925
Note
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box 6, folder 1
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1944, March 14: "Aircraft Propeller Construction"
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1944, May 8: "Propeller Construction for Aircraft or the Like"
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Patent documentation and notes

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box 6, folder 17, oversize MC03504
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box 6, folder 18, oversize MC03502
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box 6, folder 21
Propeller manufacture - Miscellaneous brochures
box 6, folder 22
Propellers - Scrapbook of photographs
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ORIGINALS OF PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPIES

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Originals of Preservation Photocopies