

Original: nicht genannt

Transkript: Otto-Lilienthal-Museum

June 20, 1897

My dear M Means

I received yesterday yours of 5 inst. and I envy you the good time you are about to enjoy.

I am beginning to receive clippings about the Annual. They are mostly snippy notices about an inch long, but I am saving them to send to you in case you have not arranged to be supplied.

Some two weeks ago I made an arrangement with M Herring to go to work for me on three investigations which I mentioned to you in my letter of May 31, but I regret to say that it has already come to an end. I thought there would be a greater chance of control by engaging him to do specific things, instead of working on the general investigation as formerly and so I first started him on the soaring bird's wing, asking him to continue N Wenham's experiments as to texture of surfaces. To this he demurred, 1st. that it would be inferior to the which we had already used, and 2d. that a proper experiment could only be done by pasting feathers on the surface. After a few days spent over the microscope and in drawings and discussions, I concluded to postpone for a time a line of work to which he seemed hostile, and I directed him to make gliding models of various forms of wing, after Lilienthal's method, as recommended by you in the note on page 97. He first proposed to change the dimensions, but on my insisting on the 4 x 20 inch sizes, we agreed upon the shapes to be tried, and drawings were made. Next he proposed a totally different way of testing, by exposing the surfaces to the wind while fastened to a frame free to swing. I insisted on the gliding method. Then he proposed inserting the models in an outer frame, and made a drawing. I insisted on the Lilienthal construction. He told me that it could not be done because there was no way to fasten securely the central spar carrying the adjustable weight. This was so palpably absurd that I lost patience and told him we would not go on with the experiments. He now desires to go to Maxim, and I have given him a good letter to the latter, who, if there is an opening may control him better for a while than I can. I do not think there is bad intent, but that is mind naturally revolts at following other man's ideas. As I said before, I regret it very much.

Yours very truly

O. Chanute