

Oct. 21, 1902

Dear Major Moedebeck

I thank you for your kind letter of 7th, for your abstract of the able introduction to Chapter XI, and for your welcome portrait.

I have not had mine taken lately, but I send you one of 1896 in the Casler's [?] Magazine for March 1898.

I have just returned from North Carolina where I went to witness Wright's experiments. He has made a great advance over last year's practice. His machine is 9.76 m. from tip to tip, 1.52 m. breadth of wing, and under complete control. He is gliding at angles of descent of 6° to 7° and shows 56 to 73 kg. to be sustained per computed horse-power. This is coming pretty close to the performance of the gull, which I computed to glide at 5° and to sustain from 81 to 93 kg. per horse power. (Aeronautical Annual 1897, page 118 & 119). As soon as practice has been obtained to learn all the tricks of the wind, I believe that soaring flight will be performed, under favorable conditions, and that the time has nearly come to introduce a motor. I am glad that this type (type "Chanute" as Captain Ferber is good enough to call it) is likely to prove one of the types of machines with which safety will be achieved. As improved by Wright it is very steady. My multiple wing machine did not perform as well as in 1896. I had the wings rebuilt by M Herring* and he introduced some improvements (?) in the construction which lightened the weight and proved a failure. My oscillating wing machine (built by Lamson) which carries out my third proposed method of obtaining stability, promises great steadiness when the springs have been thoroughly adjusted, and practice gained with it. I could test it only one day before coming back to my business here, but I have left it with Wright, who is still in camp carrying on the experiments.

I regret that you have had to re-write the translation of my contribution. Please make sure that the formulae are correctly printed, and let me know when the book will be out. I have a copy of the article in English but will not let it go out of my hands, even to friends, before the book is out. Have you found a translator to put the whole into English, with a view to publication? I am endeavoring to get the Carnegie Institute (the Smithsonian Institute refused) to bring out a translation of Lilienthal's book.

Yours very truly

O. Chanute

*If you make a paragraph of this for publication do not mention Mr. Herring.