

Sept. 30, 1896

Captain Moedebeck
Strassburg

My dear Sir

Please accept my thanks for your letter of Aug. 14~, giving particulars of Lilienthal's accident, and for the returned pamphlets which I have also received.

I have just returned from the wilderness, where I have been camping five weeks to make some experiments with gliding machines. I began (in July) with a Lilienthal apparatus, but found it "cranky" and difficult to manage. I abandoned it, and then tried two machines of my own, in each of which the stability is obtained by different method. I have found both, steadier, safer and more manageable in a wind that the Lilienthal, and we have take hundreds of glides of 50 to 100 metres without the slightest accident. We got some of our best results in winds of 14 metres per second.

I also experimented a "soaring" machine invented by a Russian-American, but this proved a failure, being too heavy and cumbrous to be properly launched. I will send you whatever I may publish on the subject.

Yours Truly

O. Chanute