

August 17, 1901

Dear Major Moedebeck

I wrote you July 22~ in reference to the additions to Lilienthal's chapter in your book, and expect to receive your answer in due time.

I have just returned from North Carolina where Messrs. Wright are making experiments in gliding flight. They have been bold enough to place the man flat on his belly in a two surfaced machine of 28 square metres area, and thus far without accident. Their angles of descent have not thus far been flatter than mine, but I think they will do better and be pretty near to soaring flight.

I write principally to tell you that we have not found the "lift" to be any where near as great as that indicated by Lilienthal in his table on page 106 of you book, but more nearly to conform to the lift of planes as indicated by the Duchemin formula; I would ask you therefore:

1. Whether Lilienthal's co-efficients in the table on page 106 have been confirmed by other experimenters and are now generally accepted?
2. Whether you desire that the additions to the Chapter VIII shall contain indications for estimating the "other resistance," which Lilienthal says (on page 107) have to be separately considered?

In my experiments with the man upright these latter other resistances were so great as to obscure the discrepancies we have now found in the lift and drift at various small angles.

3. Have you say knowledge how Lilienthal calculated the lift, drift and head resistance resulting in his own flights? He states in a number of his writing that this was no longer a mystery to him.

The Wright experiments are still in progress, my engagements only permitting my witnessing part of them. I have however an assistant on the ground. I think the Wrights will improve upon my own performances.

Yours truly
O. Chanute