Letter from Otto Lilienthal to T.J. Bennett in Oxford

Berlin, May 4th, 1895
SO., Köpenicker-Strasse 113.

Mr. T.J. Bennett Oxford

Your sailing apparatus was dispatched here on March 1st and you should gain possession of it in these days. The parts of the apparatus are tied together by thin twine. The stronger cord must not be loosened at the attachment points.

The snap hooks [sketch] have to be released from the eyelets, the wings unfolded and the snap hooks then hooked into the eyelets on the front edge of the bail. Then the spreaders [tensioning towers] set up on each wing and the apparatus stretched upwards. Then the tail is to be attached with the cross steering. This is possible without loosening the cords. Horizontal tailplane with its slots placed over the vertical tailplane and through a pin "a" connected [sketch].

The tail is suspended by the cords "b" so that the rear end is adjusted about 10 ° upwards. The shaft is attached by means of pin "c" and pin "d". The hook "e" has finally to be attached to the upper ends of the spreaders. The profile bars are inserted from the front and then through the locks "f" fixed [sketch].

To protect against impact, a bumper is attached to the front edge of the frame according to the sketch attached. The bumpers should be directed somewhat downwards.

The first exercises must be done very carefully by going downhill by running against the wind. The apparatus shold be held horizontally when jumping, but always raised when landing. All movements must be made in such a way that the device remains directed against the wind. Longer jumps are only allowed to be made if more praxis is acquired by experience . If you have any further questions, please send me a message. I will send the next device to Prof. Dr. Fitzgerald in Dublin in a few days.

By wishing the best success for your experiments, I remain your most devoted

Otto Lilienthal