
Guide to the Papers of Arthur L. Klein, 1928-1974

Archives

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Pasadena, California

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Descriptive Summary

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Biographical Sketch

Arthur L. Klein (1898-1983) was born in Los Angeles and educated in local schools. In 1916 he entered Throop College, the predecessor of Caltech. There he acquired the nickname "Maj," from his tenure as a cadet major. After beginning his studies in mechanical engineering, he changed to physics to work under Robert A. Millikan and earned his bachelor's degree in 1921 and his PhD in 1925. Thereafter hired by Millikan as a research fellow in physics, Klein soon became involved in the activities of the new Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at Caltech, familiarly known as GALCIT. He became assistant professor of aeronautics at Caltech in 1929 and full professor in 1954.

The history of GALCIT and its relationship to the birth and development of the aerospace industry in Southern California are well documented. Theodore von Kármán, the brilliant Hungarian-born engineer and aerodynamicist, was appointed the lab's first director in 1930. Maj Klein became a member of the original GALCIT team, along with Clark B. Millikan, Arthur Raymond, the mathematician Harry Bateman, and a bit later, Ernest E. Sechler. Klein designed much of the lab's new wind tunnel, which went into operation in 1929, and was responsible for many aspects of the design and testing of important aircraft, including Douglas's revolutionary DC-3. In 1932 Klein began consulting for Douglas Aircraft and by 1937 he was spending half his time there and half at Caltech. He retired from Caltech in 1968.

Scope and Content

The Papers of Arthur L. Klein (1928-1974) represent a small collection divided between correspondence, teaching files, technical material relating to wind tunnels and airplane design, and personal data. Researchers should also consult the following related collections: the Papers of Theodore von Kármán; the oral histories of Arthur L. Klein and other participants in GALCIT; the Caltech Historical Files under Aeronautics and Arthur L. Klein; and the Archives' photo database, PhotoNet (available online at www.caltech.edu/~archives).

General correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1.1	1945-1948
Folder 1.2	1949-1956
Folder 1.3	1957-1966
Folder 1.4	1967-1975, 1979
Folder 1.5	1970-1971, Karl Brauer

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Box 1, Folder 1.6	California Institute Research Foundation 1948-1950, 1961
Folder 1.7	AE 104 (Douglas Caltech Lecture Series)
Folder 1.8	AE 276 notes
Folder 1.9	Lecture notes, examinations, etc.
Folder 1.10	CIT printed matter

Wind tunnels

- Box 1, Folder 1.11 **List of wind tunnel reports, 1930-1937**
- Folder 1.12 **Cooperative wind tunnel specifications, 1952**
- Folder 1.13 **Wind tunnel misc. [including photos, drawings, blueprints]**
- Folder 1.14 **General Motors wind tunnel program, 1966**

Technical data, bulletins, reports

- Box 1, Folder 1.15 **Air Transport Association of America: aircraft service information bulletins, 1950-1951**
- Folder 1.16 **Bound volume of blueprints: Fuselage Analysis. XNO-1. Douglas Company, 1928**
- Folder 1.17 **D Airplane. Catapulting from Pontoon. Douglas Company, 1928**
- Box 2, Folder 2.1 ***Douglas Airliner Specification Model DC-2*. Douglas Company, 1928 [bound volume of blueprints]**
- Folder 2.2 ***Development of the Douglas Transport*. Douglas Aircraft Co., Engineering Dept., technical data SW-157A, n.d.**
- Folder 2.3 **Manuscript on aircraft construction (author unknown), n.d.**
- Folder 2.4 **Sounding ballon data, 1930**
- Folder 2.5 **S. Kyropoulos, *Fundamentals and Problems of Worm Gear Lubrication*. VARD, Inc. [2 binders]**
- Folder 2.6 **Miscellaneous reports, manuals, technical bulletins**

Printed matter

- Box 2, Folder 2.7 **Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, Facility Building Cmte., misc. material re: the construction of a Los Angeles facility, 1945**
- Folder 2.8 **International Aeronautical Federation, 1968- 1970**
- Folder 2.9 **"Metalworking News," 20 March 1961 [newspaper]**
- Folder 2.10 **A. L. Klein and Kenneth P. Gow, *A Dial Reading Translator for Digital Machine Inputs*, 1951**
- Folder 2.11 **Reprints and preprints**

Personal and biographical

Box 2, Folder 2.12 1951-1974

Miscellaneous

Box 2, Folder 2.13 **NBC program outline, Aug. 1941; UCLA Extension course outline; exam notes [handwritten]; aircraft photos**

General correspondence

Box 3, Folder 3.1	Prior to 1933
Folder 3.2	1933-1934
Folder 3.3	1935-1936