

The latest Chanute Glider Replica

Carsten Brinkmeier from Weinheim a.d. Bergstrasse, Germany, decided to build a full-size replica of the original 1904 Chanute glider, the first American aeroplane exported, on display at the Musée de l'Air & Espace in Paris, France. To build his model as authentic as possible, Brinkmeier went to Paris and took many detailed photos of the craft hanging high in the former entrance hall of the Le Bourget Airport building.

His first glider replica was a model, the second, which was full-size, was donated to the Wasserkuppe Museum in late 2014. Building the third replica, Brinkmeier decided to keep track of each step and



document the process of building the various parts with photos and many notes. The goal was to publish each step in a manual-like textbook, so that others could use it as a guide when building early wooden aircraft.

When the third glider was done, the Brinkmeier family and several friends tried to replicate the flights made by Chanute's team 120+ years earlier. Much to

their disappointment, they could not get airborne; the wind in their part of the world was not strong and steady enough to lift the glider with the pilot when running down a hill.

To make space for his next project, a Wright 1902 glider, Brinkmeier looked for a home for the Chanute glider. He contacted Andreas Hempfer, Curator (for aircraft built prior to 1945) at the Deutsches Museum in Munich. They were happy to accept the replica.



The 1904 Chanute glider, Musée de l'Air. Jean-Luc Claessens photo.

In late January Peter Ocker, vice president of the VGC, informed me that the Chanute glider was installed in Munich. The director of the Flugwerft Schleißheim, the aviation section of the Deutsches Museum, Gerhard Filchner, then e-mailed some photos of their "Early Flight Gallery" showing the Chanute glider proudly standing between the Lilienthal and Wolfmüller gliders.

The Brinkmeier book is available as a hard copy or paperback through amazon <www.amazon.de/Chanute-Gleiter-von-1904-Nachbauanleitung/dp/3981858700>. This large-size book is attractive and brings much useful information. We recommend adding it to your library.

Simine Short



Replica at the Flugwerft Schleißheim, Deutsches Museum photo.