

# Caricatures and Cartoons

Caricatures and cartoons dealing with the Wright brothers appeared primarily in the years 1908-10, first on the postcards which were popular following Wilbur's successful public flight at Hunaudières, France, on August 8, 1908, and later in the European press and in the American press when the Wrights were honored after their return from Europe in 1909.

One of the earliest caricatures of Wilbur in France, by Charles Lucien Leandré. Wilbur is depicted as composed of mechanical parts, sitting on a cloud held up by a cone inscribed "aide-toi et Dieu t'aidera," holding in his right outstretched hand a model of the Wright airplane.

**Le Rire, journal humoristique, Sept. 5, 1908, No. 292:**  
colored lithograph on cover

Caricature of Wilbur at Camp d'Auvours by Daniel T. de Losques. Wilbur, giant-size, bare-headed, wearing trousers, high collar, and tie. is in shirtsleeves, a launching derrick in background to his right.

**GCDCA 110; Le Figaro, Oct. 4, 1908**

Caricature of group pulling rope to raise weight to top of derrick, side view of Wright airplane in background, Wilbur at extreme right looking on, by Leo Maix.

**GCDCA 110**

French toy resembling "Little God Billiken," a caricature of Wilbur by C. Giris. Wilbur is seated in simplified Wright airplane, head projecting above it. The toy was shown at the Salon des Humoristes, Paris, spring 1909.

**Allg Auto Zeit, v. 9, Nov. 22, 1908: 36; Dayton Journal, Dec. 8, 1908; CCDCA 110**

Promotional item entitled "L'Aéro-cap; chapeau extra léger," a caricature of Wilbur dressed in his customary flying cap and jacket, signed P. Narco. Wilbur is seated at controls of a frail wingless flying device supported by four French hats, another hat below seat, buildings seen in background below.

**COCKDH following 168**

Caricature of Wilbur by Mich. Wilbur, head and shoulders, at left, wears a checkered cap, cigarette in mouth, and an attractive smiling woman close by at his right gazes at him admiringly.

**ADAMSF 85; Vie parisienne, v. 46, Nov. 14, 1908: cover**

Caricature of Wilbur by Mich. Wilbur, three-quarter length, wears a checkered cap, hands in pockets, at left, and an attractive smiling woman, wearing large hat and carrying parasol, approaches him from right.

**ADAMSF 95; Vie parisienne, v. 46, Nov. 28, 1908:857**

Cartoon entitled "For the Conquest of the Air" by Charles Lupin depicts competition between the French school of aviation and the American school. Wilbur stands with spear in hand and Wright airplane on back, while Lazare Weiller represents the Americans attacking from right and Henri Farman and one of the Voisin brothers, bearing a French type airplane, attack from left.

**GCDCA 159; Revue aérienne, v. 1, Dec.10,1908: 128**

Caricature of Wilbur sitting on ground holding and working on airplane wing above, Leon Bollée at left looking on, Orville, Hart O. Berg, a workman, and several guards behind him and at right. One of many postcard caricatures of Wilbur popular in France in the winter of 1908-9.

**MCFWP 174**

Caricature of Wilbur by Leo Maix, Wilbur looking up to his left at Wright airplane tied to string he holds. This particular postcard caricature was sent from France by Wilbur during Orville's flights at Ft. Myer with written message, "I'll Tie a String to You Next Time to Keep You from Going Too High or Too Far. It's Too Much Trouble to Break Your Records. Will."

**KELMKH b. 238-239**

Caricature of Wilbur at the Paris Automobile Show by Mich. Wilbur, broad smile, is seated at controls of airplane and a woman, head only, beams a bright light at exhibit area below.

**Vie parisienne, v. 46, Nov. 28,1908: 662-663**

Cartoon of Wilbur and Orville, flying, their wings attached, an eagle on land screaming. Caption: "Let the Eagle Scream. She Hatched 'Em."

**New York Herald, Paris, Dec. 22, 1908**

Caricature of Wilbur by Yves Marevery.

**Allg Auto Zeit, v. 10, Mar. 5, 1909: 35; Revue aérienne, v. 2, Jan. 25, 1909: facing 97**

Caricature of Wilbur, facing left, wearing checkered cap, low white collar, black jacket (his hand is in the pocket), white trousers, and French style shoes. Pen-and-ink drawing by Fox, 1909.

**BIAFW 3**

Caricature of Orville, facing left, black moustache, hair visible beneath howler hat, wearing two-button longcoat, hand in pocket, and French style shoes. Pen-and-ink drawing by Fox, 1909.

**BIAFW 4**

Caricature of Wilbur by M. Lourdey. Wilbur is seated at controls of airplane, and a woman wearing lacy hat and carrying parasol faces him.

**GCDCA 110; Journal amusant, Apr. 10, 1909**

Caricature of Wilbur and Léon Bollée by Maresco. Wilbur, attired in boxing togs and gloves, faces Bollée, similarly attired.

**Vie grand air, v. 15, May 22, 1909: 340**

Caricature statuette of Wilbur, who sits astride abbreviated airplane skids with tail at end, with wings projecting from his shoulders.

**SBNA 107**

Cartoon of Wilbur in shirt sleeves, hammer in hand, sitting on high stool, and Orville in business suit, derby hat, seated at table. Both, airplane parts in hands, are repairing a propeller with old wooden preserve boxes.

**Revue aérienne, v. 2, June 25, 1909: 363**

Caricature of Wilbur by Mich entitled "The Man and the Machine." Wilbur, three-quarter length, wearing coat, hand in pocket, faces right, and both his head and Wright airplane are encircled.

**Aero Manual, 1909: 34; Aero Manual, 1910: 34**

Caricatures of the leading aviators in France by Robert Dick, dated Paris, 1910. Wilbur and Orville appear first in a column of 13 flyers.

**CHAHA 53**

Caricature of well-known people in France helping to pull up the weight to the top of the starting derrick, Wilbur standing at the far right in his usual cap.

**GSPA 33**

Caricature entitled "Aviators and Their Machines" showing Wilbur with elongated cap, Count Charles de Lambert, and Paul Tissandier, each encircled. Wright airplane is in flight above them.

**Aero Manual, 1910: 79; Motor, v. 17, Mar. 8, 1910: 161**

Fans bearing caricatures of Wilbur.

**Fachzeitung für Automobilismus, v. 3, Mar. 21, 1909: 21**

Humorous sketch of Wilbur in flight with J. L. Breton, deputy for the department of Cher, Pau, France, March 20, 1909, by A. de Broca.

**L'Aérophile, v. 17, Apr. 15, 1909: 171**

Caricature of Wilbur by Mich. He wears a high collar, tie, and cap and has his left hand in his trouser pocket.

**PEPHO facing 98**

Silhouette of Wilbur, head and shoulders, high collar, cap, facing right.

**PEPHO facing 106**

Cartoon of Wilbur and Orville in Wright airplane flying over Ocean on return to the United States, Uncle Sam at right, cane in hand, hat thrown in air, extending welcome.

**ADAMSF 107**

Cartoon of Orville and Wilbur as birds of the air, by Homer Davenport, drawn in 1909. They are escorted by a giant-sized, smiling gentleman wearing striped trousers and with star-covered vest, who represents the United States.

**KELMKH b. 238-239**

Cartoon entitled "Howdy, Brother!" by Jay Norwood Darling. Wright brothers in two airplanes approach the United States on their return from Europe. in May 1909, Wilbur, in the first, doffing his cap to two eagles perched near their nest, one exclaiming "Great Heavens! What Kind of a Bird Is That!"

**Des Moines Register, May 9, 1909**

Cartoon of Orville and Wilbur, shown with wings attached being welcomed back to nest by eagle portrayed as Uncle Sam. Caption: "Back to the Eagle's Nest."

**Dayton Daily News, June 15, 1909 (from Columbus Dispatch)**

Cartoon of Wright airplane flying overhead, top of a ladder shown below. Caption: "For him who ascended Fame's ladder so high, From the round at the top he has stepped to the sky."

**ACAWMB; New York World, June 11, 1909**

Cartoon of the Wright brothers in Wright airplane, smiled upon by sun, moon, and heavenly bodies, by Fred Morgan. Caption: "Monarchs of the Air."

**ACAWMB; Philadelphia Inquirer, June 10, 1909**

Orville and Wilbur, bedecked with medals and ribbons, standing before President William Howard Taft, to receive Aero Club of America gold medals at the White House, June 10, 1909. Caption: "Now, If I Can Only Find Room to Hang Them on These Two Birds."

**Detroit Post, June 11, 1909. Similar: Washington Star, June 10, 1909**

Wright brothers bedecked with medals and ribbons, standing before President William Howard Taft at the White House, June 10, 1909. Young boy watching medal presentation at right comments: "Gee! I'd Rather be Wright than be President."

**ACAWMB; Cleveland Leader, 1909**

Wright brothers astride a Wright airplane, Wilbur carrying rolled up "Govt Contract," Uncle Sam below doffing his hat saying "My Hat Off to the Wright Records," Washington Capitol and Eiffel Tower pictured on either side of the Atlantic Ocean.

**Aeronautics, v. 5, Sept. 1909: facing 81**

Cartoon of Orville and Wilbur as birds, atop the walls of Fort Myer, about to fly down, soldier below extending welcome.

**Ill Aero Mitteil, v. 13, Sept. 1909: 846**

Cartoon with earth peering into mirror at Wright airplane perched on top of her with caption "I Always Buy my Hats of Wright Bros.," by Briggs, Chicago *Tribune*.

**Literary Digest, v. 39, Sept. 11, 1909: 374**

Cartoon of Wright airplane in flight being welcomed to Germany by a German officer holding onto rope dangling from the German airship *Zeppelin II*.

**New York Herald, Paris, Aug. 31, 1909**

Cartoon of Wilbur in airplane flight over Hudson River, crown over him and the airplane, with caption "King of the Air!"

**New York Evening Journal, Oct. 5, 1909**

Cartoon of Wright brothers by W. A. Rogeit. Wall Street is in the background as Wilbur and Orville fly an airplane bearing legend "Million Dollar Aeroplane Company," and caption reads "Going Some."

**New York Herald, Nov. 29, 1909**

Cartoon of Wilbur, with an elongated neck, wearing a business suit and cap, his hands in his pockets, peering up at an airplane overhead, 1910. Caption reads, "A Forecast of the Future: The Aeroplane Neck!"

**ASHWB 58**

Caricature of Wilbur by Mich. Pictured as an American with Indian feathers and tomahawk, Wilbur is shown as the French see him in connection with the Wright-Paulhan patents action.

**Flight, v. 2, May 14, 1910: 378 (originally published in L'Auro)**

"Continental" caricatures showing tall figure of Wilbur facing short Santos Dumont at the Paris International Air Show, 1910, by Mich.

**Flight, v. 2 Dec. 10, 1910: 104; LVTNA 284**

Cartoon of Wright brothers by W. A. Rogeit. Wilbur and Orville are being presented with gold medals for their achievements by Uncle Sam, who wears a ball and chain with legend "Indifference of Congress." Wright airplane is shown tied to Washington Monument in background, American eagle at right, and caption reads: "Honored, if not Rewarded."

**ACAWMB; New York Herald, 1910**

Caricature of Wilbur, head and shoulders, by Fabius.

**La Revue aéroenne, v. 4, Aug. 10, 1911: 395**

Caricature by Mich of Wilbur, three-quarter length, hare-headed, wearing buttoned coat and high collar, cap in left hand at his side, facing left.

**Ana, v. 1, Mar. 15, 1912: 295**

Cartoon of the Wright brothers, Uncle Sam pointing to Smithsonian Institution, its roof tilted open, as Wright airplane approaches.

**Collier's, v. 82, Dec. 8, 1928: 28**

Cartoon of Orville, enlarged head, hat surrounded by numerous airplanes, coat bedecked with medals. Caption: "What a Difference Twenty Five Years Make."

**Washington Evening Star, Dec. 18, 1928**

Caricature with caption "Dinner with Billions" drawn from life by Oscar Berger at National Pioneers Banquet sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers in New York, February 27, 1940. Orville, with elongated head and smiling, is depicted as the tallest at the banquet table. Berger identifies the guests as "The Honoured Pioneers, as I Saw Them: George Eastman (photography), Orville Wright (aviation), Henry Ford (motor cars), Thomas A. Edison (invention), Harvey S. Firestone (rubber), Julius Rosenwald (merchandising), Charles M. Schwab (iron and steel)."

**BERFF 66**