

Medals and Trophies

After the successful flights of the Wrights in France, where Wilbur won many cups and trophies, numerous awards and honors were conferred on Wilbur and Orville for their achievements, first in France and then in Great Britain. On their triumphant return from Europe in 1909, national, state, and city medals were awarded them in the United States.

Photographs of 15 of the numerous medals and trophies awarded to Wilbur and Orville in 1908 and 1909 in recognition of their invention and development of the airplane.

The Wright Company vs. Herring Curtiss Co. and Glenn H. Curtiss, Complainant's Record-Appendix, New York, 1912, p. 17

Obverse and reverse of gold medal voted to the Wright brothers "in recognition of their distinguished service to Aeronautical Science" by the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain on November 9, 1908.

Aero J, v. 13, Jan. 1909: facing 2; Daily Graphic, May 4, 1909; R Aero Soc J, v. 57, Dec. 1953: 781; SMIN 30,953-F

Bronze art object, representing the Muse of Aviation, designed by Louis Carvin, presented to Wilbur by Aero-Club de la Sarthe, Le Mans, May 1, 1909.

L'Aérophile, v. 17, Jan. 15, 1909: 39; Allg Auto Zeit, v.9, Dec. 13, 1908: 19; Autocar, v. 22, Jan. 23, 1909: 123; The Car, v. 27, Jan. 13, 1909: 398; 1908: 19; Vie grand air, v. 15, May 29, 1909: 356

Front view of Muse of Aviation as displayed on a table in Orville's home, Hawthorn Hill, Dayton.

LC-W86-167; LC-W86-173

Rear view of Muse of Aviation as displayed in Orville's home.

LC-W86-168; LC-W86-172

Front view of Muse of Aviation displayed in a specially constructed niche in Orville's home.

LC-BECK

Front view of Michelin Cup, the work of Paul Roussel, offered for the first time in 1908, won by Wilbur on December 31, 1908, at Camp d'Aouvours, Le Mans.

L'Aérophile, v. 17, May 15,1909: 234; Fachzeitung für Automobilismus, v. 3, May 16,1909: 24; SMIN 37,774-B;Vie grand air, v. 15, May 22,1909: 340

Aero Club of America gold medals voted Wrights at a meeting of the Aero Club, November 2, 1908, and presented to them at a White House ceremony on June 10, 1909. The medals were designed by sculptor Victor D. Brenner and were struck at the Philadelphia Mint. The obverse side bears busts of Wilbur and Orville with their names and the dates and places of their most successful individual flights. The reverse shows one of the Wright airplanes in flight with the seal of the Aero Club at the bottom.

LC-BAIN; ACAWMB; L'Aérophile, v.17, June 1, 1909: 255; Ill Aero Mitteil, v.13, July 14,1909: 628; MILWA, v. 2: 104-105; Numismatist, v. 22, May 22, 1909:134; SMIN 5678-D;SMIN 5678-E; World's Work, v. 56, Sept. 1927:526

Congressional Medal awarded to the Wrights on March 4, 1909, and presented to them at a ceremony in Dayton, June 18, 1909. The obverse of the gold medal, designed by Charles E. Barber and George T. Morgan of the United States Mint, shows busts of the Wright brothers, their names, and the inscription "in recognition and appreciation of their ability, courage, and success in navigating the air." The reverse shows a winged figure with a torch, the Genius of Aviation, in flight and the inscription "shall mount up with wings as eagles."

LC-JONES; ACAWMB; FAHAMUSM 245; Harper's, v. 53, July 3, 1909: 7; MILWA, v. 2: 180; Numismatist, v. 22, Aug. 1909: 231-232;SMIN 31,299-B

The Langley Medal designed by J. C. Chaplain and awarded the Wrights by the Smithsonian Institution, February 10, 1909, "for advancing the science of aerodromics in its application to aviation by their successful investigations and demonstrations of the practicality of mechanical flight by man" and presented to them in a ceremony at the Smithsonian Institution, February 10, 1910. Obverse has names of Wilbur and Orville in center, the year 1909, and "Aerodromics." The reverse has words "per Orbem."

LC-JONES; MILWA v. 2: 180;SMIN 23,967; SMINAR 1910: facing 104; USAF 3570 A.S.

The Wright brothers' medals—nation, state, and city.

Dayton Daily News, June 16,1909; MOORKH 160

State of Ohio medal designed and executed by A. Newslat, presented to the Wrights, June 18, 1909, by Gov. Judson Harmon. **Greater Dayton, July 1909: 17; MOORKH 160**

City of Dayton medal presented to Wrights by Mayor Edward E. Burkhart, June 18, 1909.

LC-BAIN; Dayton Herald, June 10,1909: MOORKH 160

Collier Trophy awarded to Orville for the year 1913 “for the development of the automatic stabilizer,” announcement made in Dayton, February 5, 1914.

Flying, v. 3, Feb. 1914:6; MILWA, v. 2: 231

National Aeronautic Association 20th anniversary of flight medal, presented to Orville in Dayton, December 17, 1923.

Nat Aero Assn Rev, v. 2, Jan. 1, 1924: 1

Wright brothers medal in Hall of Fame series, designed by Paul Fjelde, issued on May 7, 1967, when commemorative tablets and busts of Orville by Paul Fjelde and of Wilbur by Vincent Glinesky were installed in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University.

HFGAUBTW 21

Wright brothers coin-medal issued by National Commemorative Society. Sculpted by Albino Manca. Obverse shows busts of Orville and Wilbur in center with their names and dates around outer edges. Verso has airplane with inscription, “First flight, Kitty Hawk, Dec. 1903.”

FAHAMUSM 11



Aero Club of America gold medals, designed by sculptor Victor D. Brenner, were presented to the Wright brothers at the White House on June 10, 1909.

Wright Brothers' Medal awarded by the Society of Automotive Engineers "for meritorious contribution to aeronautic engineering." Obverse has Wright airplane in center and reverse has space for name of awardee.

SMIN 31,187-A

Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, to be awarded annually in memory of the Wright brothers by the National Aeronautic Association, is presented for the first time on December 17, 1948. The trophy is a miniature silver replica of the Wright brothers' 1903 powered airplane, mounted on a replica of the commemorative boulder at Kitty Hawk that marks the takeoff point for the Wrights' first flights.

SMIN 38,920