



Royal Aeronautical Society - Munich Branch

John Brown

Aviation Historian, Examiner, Educator

Examination and Evaluation of competing First Flight claims

There are competing claims to who made the first powered flight. Santos-Dumont (1906) and Curtiss (1908) made public, expert-witnessed flights. But what is the actual evidence in support of earlier claims? Until 1948, The Smithsonian claimed it was Samuel Langley (1903) before switching to the Wrights (later in 1903) and backing it up with a controversial, once-secret contract. Then there are the even earlier claims by Gustave Whitehead (1901) and others. This lecture applies evidentiary standards to examine the issue.

Programme:

- 17:30 Welcome Address Munich University of Applied Sciences
Prof. Dr. Sonja Munz, Vice President Research MUAS
- 17:45 Welcome Address Royal Aeronautical Society
Brian Phillipson, Chairman Royal Aeronautical Society Munich Branch
- 18:00 Lecture by John Brown
- 19:00 Motivation, Overview and Status of Whitehead Projects at
Munich University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klemens Rother
- 19:45 Discussion
- 20:00 Refreshments and Networking

Thursday 26th February, 2026

Please register via the QR Code or link



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17:30 – 20:00

**“Rote Würfel”
Hochschule München
Lothstraße 64
80335 München**

Directions to “Rote Würfel” attached