



Royal Aeronautical Society - Munich Branch

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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

17:30 – 20:00

Please register via the QR Code or link



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Directions to “Rote Würfel” attached