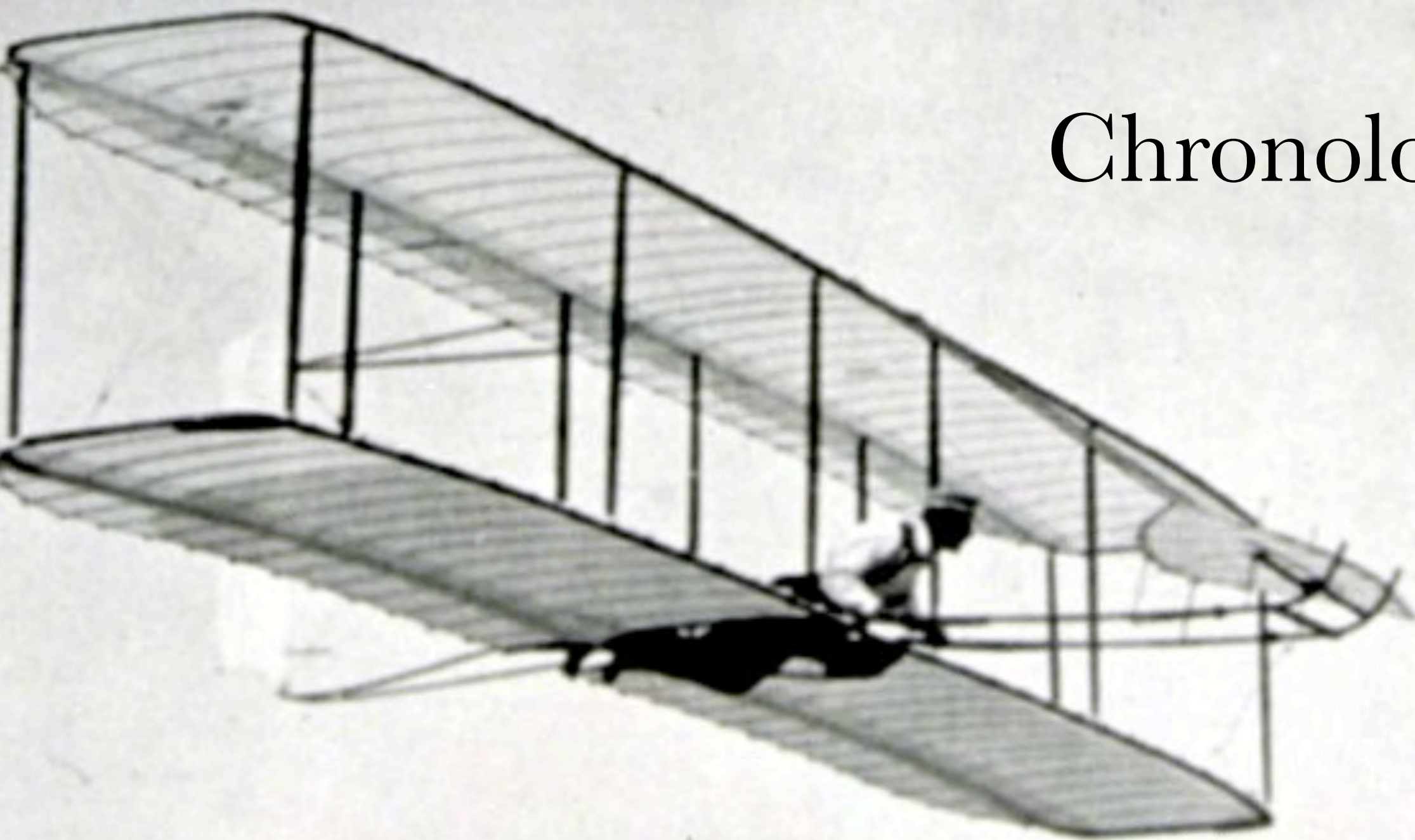


Chronology

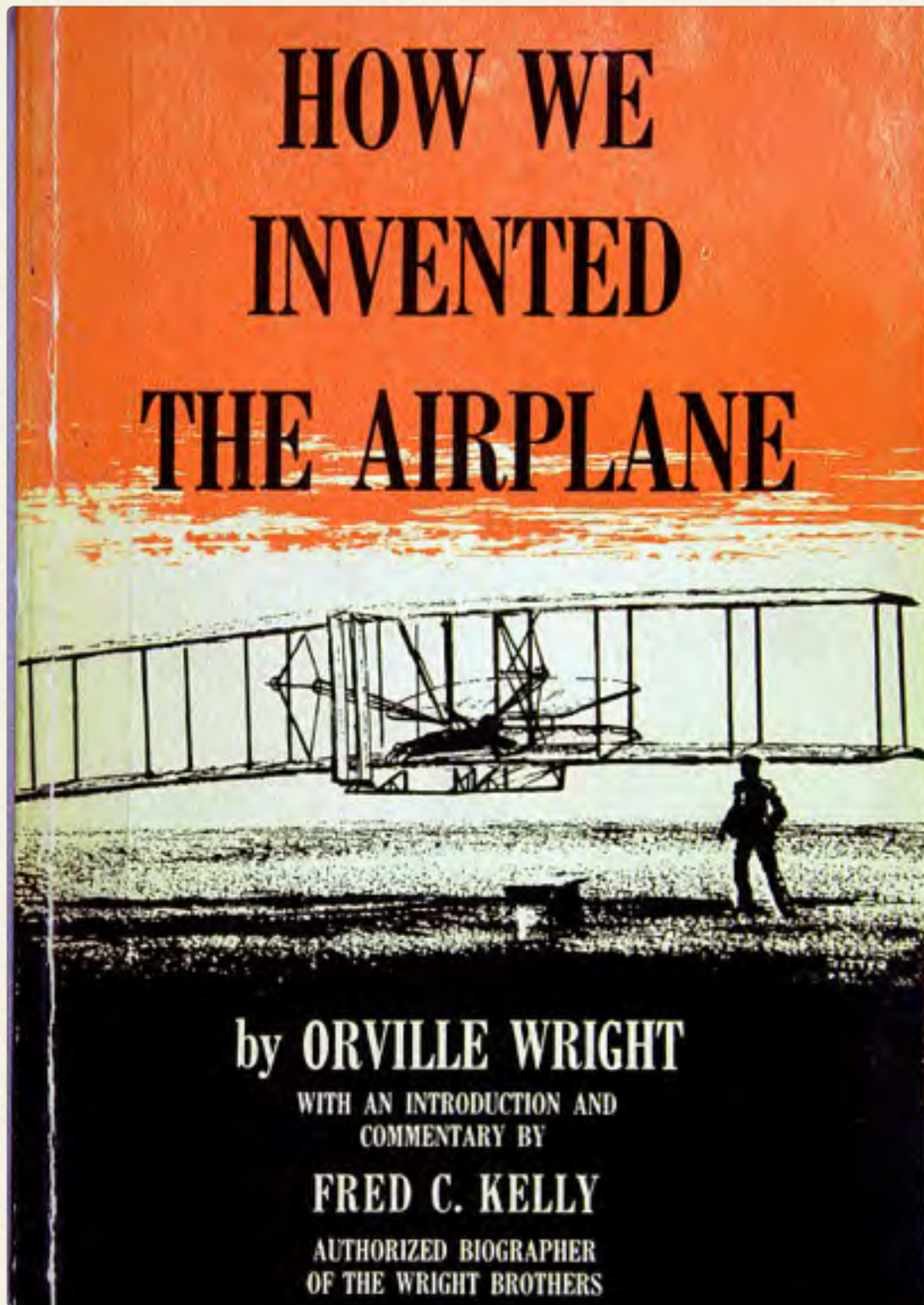


The Genesis of Flight

The Aeronautical History Collection of Colonel Richard Gimbel

At the United States Air Force Academy

Chronology of Flight



- 852 B.C.E. King Bladud of England allegedly killed attempting to fly
- 1250 C.E. Roger Bacon theorizes about mechanical flight
- 1326-27 Kite and aerial bomb first illustrated in the Western world
- 1495-97 First powered airplane designed by Leonardo da Vinci
- 1638 Bishops Godwin and Wilkins publish fictional accounts of moon travel
- 1670 Lana's *Prodromo* published
- 1680 *De Moto Animalium* published by Borelli

1709 Glider version of Gusmão's flying machine designed and possibly tested

1782 The Montgolfiers fly their first model hot-air balloon

1783 First unpiloted public demonstration of a Montgolfier hot-air balloon
Montgolfier hot-air balloon carries animals aloft, Versailles
Hot-air jet propulsion from a balloon suggested by Joseph Montgolfier
Pilâtre de Rozier and d'Arlandes make the first hot-air balloon ascent in history, Paris
First ascent in a hydrogen balloon, Paris

1784 Lunardi makes first hot-air balloon flight in Britain

Blanchard makes first attempt to propel a balloon with an airscrew, London

1785 Blanchard and Jeffries make the first crossing of the English Channel by balloon

1794 French army makes first military aerial reconnaissance from a balloon

1799 Cayley designs the first airplane with a modern fixed-wing configuration

1809-10 Cayley paper on aviation lays the foundation for modern aerodynamics

1837 Dihedral parachute, designed by Cayley, kills Cocking

1847 Henson tests first steam-powered, airscrew-propelled, fixed-wing airplane

1848 Steam-powered model airplane tested by Stringfellow

1849 First bombing raid by hot-air balloons against Venice

1852 Giffard flies first manned full-size airship powered by steam engine

1853 First man-carrying flight by glider

1857-58 Du Temple flies first successful clockwork-powered model airplane

1858 Nadar takes first aerial photo from balloon over Paris

1861 First use of balloons in U.S. Civil War

1863 *Five Weeks in a Balloon* published by Jules Verne

1864 *L'Aeronaute* journal founded by Nadar

1868 Stringfellow tests first powered model triplane

1870 Twisted rubber power for models introduced by Pénaud
First balloon sent aloft during Siege of Paris

1871 Pénaud flies stable, powered model monoplane

1872 Airship first powered by internal combustion engine using envelope's gas

1874 First powered man-carrying airplane takes off but does not fly

1881 *L'Empire de l'Air* published by Mouillard

1883 Tissandier's airship propelled by electric motor in flight

1888 Wolfert's airship powered by petrol engine in flight

1889 *Der Vogelflug als Grundlage der Fliegekunst* published by Lilienthal

1891 First steam-driven, tandem-wing model aircraft tested in U.S. by Langley

1891-96 Lilienthal makes several piloted glider flights, including first biplane

1894 *Progress in Flying Machines* published by Chanute

1895-97 First three editions of the *Aeronautical Annual* published in U.S. by Means

1896 Lilienthal killed gliding

1898 Aéro-Club de France founded

1899 Glider crash kills Pilcher

1900 First Wright glider flown at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

1901 Second Wright glider flown at the Kill Devil Hills, near Kitty Hawk, N.C.
Airship flown around the Eiffel Tower by Santos-Dumont

1903 Full-sized Langley Aerodrome crashed on takeoff
Wright brothers make the first powered, sustained, and controlled airplane flights

1904 Wilbur Wright makes the first circular route flight

1905 Voisin incorporates the box-kite concept in an airplane
Wright *Flyer III*, the first fully-practical airplane, flies
Orville Wright makes the first flight of over half-an-hour

La Vaulx founds the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

1906 Vuia tests the first tractor monoplane
First powered hop-flights made in Europe by Santos-Dumont

1907 Farman makes the first flight in Europe of over one minute
First man-carrying helicopter rises vertically in free flight

1908 *Scientific American* trophy for first U.S. public flight goes to Glenn Curtiss
Wilbur Wright flies first practical two-seat airplane in public
Orville Wright flies in public for the first time at Ft. Myer, Va.
The first person killed in a powered flight accident, Thomas Selfridge, is killed flying with Orville Wright

1909 Blériot flies across the English Channel

1910 First flights made in Spain, Switzerland, Argentina, Brazil, Indo-China, China
Zeppelin airship passenger service begins in Germany
Grahame-White makes the first night flight in Europe
Glenn Curtiss makes the first bombing tests in the U.S.
Belmont Park aviation meet; first in the U.S.

1911 First airmail flights by airplane in several countries
U.S. Army conducts the first live bombing tests
First takeoff and landing on a ship in the U.S.

1914 First zeppelin raid of World War I on Antwerp