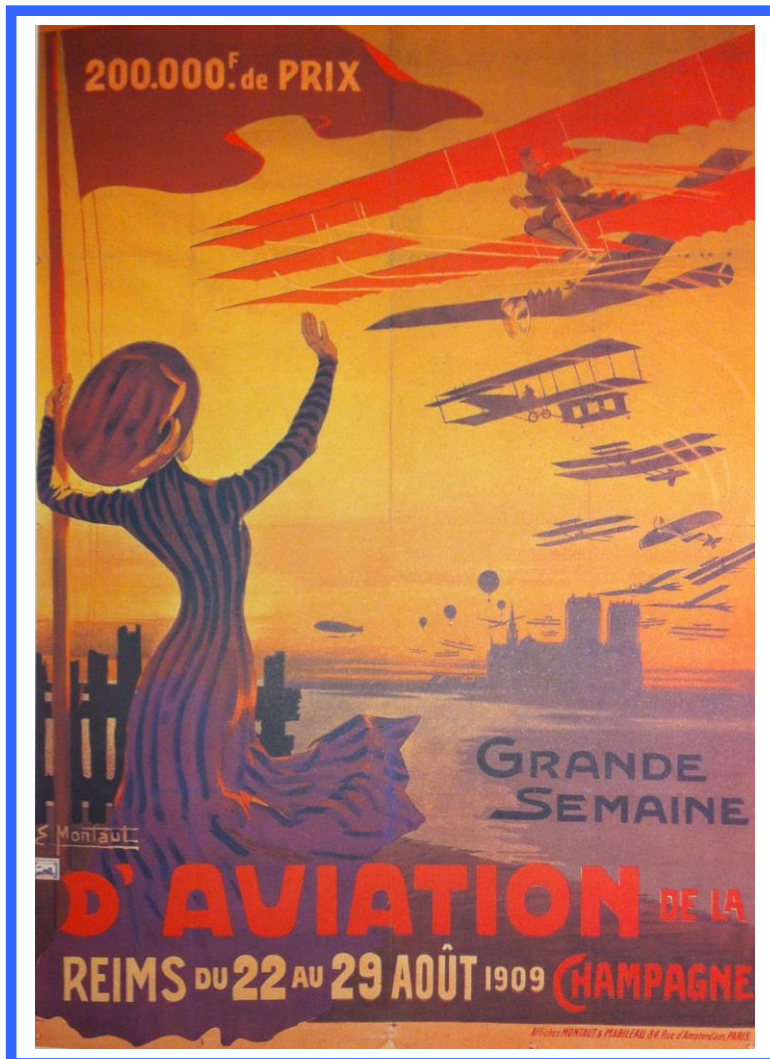


Grande Semaine d'Aviation de la Champagne

The Champagne Region's Great Aviation Week brought half a million people to the rich, wine-growing area centred in Reims, France in the summer of 1909. It was here, from August 22 to 29, that the world suddenly realized that heavier-than-air aviation had become a practical reality. Sponsored by several large champagne houses, the New York Herald newspaper, and the city of Reims, the event drew all the renowned aviators of the day and their unusual flying machines to compete for 200,000 francs in prize money (over \$800,000 USD today). For that era, it was a HUGE event!



Original 1909 ODB, lithographed, five-colour, advertising poster postcard. Published by Le Comité d'Aviation and printed by L'Imprimerie Cooperative de Reims, 24, rue Pluche, Reims 54306, France. Used (10c) with postmark of March 1910.

This postcard exhibit relates the story of this famous historical event, along the way introducing the daredevil pilots, the intricacies of the early aircraft, and details about the event itself, including the organization, the venue, the sponsors and prizes, the competitions, and finally, the legacy of the event.

Exhibit Plan

Topic	Page
Title Page and Exhibit Introduction	1
Exhibit Plan	2
The Organization	3
The Venue	10
<i>Site Layout</i>	10
<i>Main Spectator Area</i>	11
<i>Grandstands (Tribunes)</i>	14
<i>The Hangars</i>	17
<i>La Pelouse</i>	18
<i>The Airfield</i>	19
The Pilots	23
The Aircraft	37
<i>Antoinette IV</i>	37
<i>Antoinette V</i>	38
<i>Antoinette VII</i>	39
<i>Bleriot XI</i>	40
<i>Bleriot XII</i>	41
<i>Breguet I</i>	42
<i>Curtiss "Reims Racer"</i>	43
<i>Farman III</i>	44
<i>R.E.P. 2 bis</i>	45
<i>Voisin</i>	46
<i>Wright Model A</i>	47
The Sponsors	48
The Competitions	52
<i>Day 1 – Sunday, August 22, 1909</i>	54
<i>Day 2 – Monday, August 23, 1909</i>	56
<i>Day 3 – Tuesday, August 24, 1909</i>	58
<i>Day 4 – Wednesday, August 25, 1909</i>	60
<i>Day 5 – Thursday, August 26, 1909</i>	62
<i>Day 6 – Friday, August 27, 1909</i>	64
<i>Day 7 – Saturday, August 28, 1909</i>	66
<i>Day 8 – Sunday, August 29, 1909</i>	68
The Legacy	71
<i>Aviation as Entertainment</i>	71
<i>Aviation as an Industry</i>	75
<i>Aviation as Art</i>	79