

Locomotive to Aeromotive

Octave Chanute and the Transportation Revolution

SIMINE SHORT

Foreword by Tom D. Crouch

French-born and self-trained civil engineer Octave Chanute designed America's two largest stockyards, created innovative and influential structures such as the Kansas City Bridge over the previously "unbridgeable" Missouri River, and was a passionate aviation pioneer whose collaborative approach to aeronautical engineering problems helped the Wright brothers take flight. Drawing on a rich trove of archival material and exclusive family sources, *Locomotive to Aeromotive* is the first detailed examination of Chanute's life and his immeasurable contributions to the fields of engineering and transportation, from the ground transportation revolution of the mid-nineteenth century to the early days of aviation.

Aviation researcher and historian Simine Short brings to light in colorful detail many previously overlooked facets of Chanute's life, in both his professional accomplishments and his personal relationships. Through the reflections of other engineers, scientists and pioneers in various fields who knew him, Short characterizes Chanute as a man who believed in fostering and supporting people who were willing to learn. This well-researched biography cements Chanute's place as a preeminent engineer, pioneer, and mentor in the history of transportation in the United States and the development of the airplane.

"An impressive, truly significant addition to the field of engineering and aeronautical history. Simine Short shows how Octave Chanute's personality and method of problem-solving enabled him to make meaningful contributions in diverse fields such as railroad and bridge engineering, stockyard design, and the early phase of aviation."

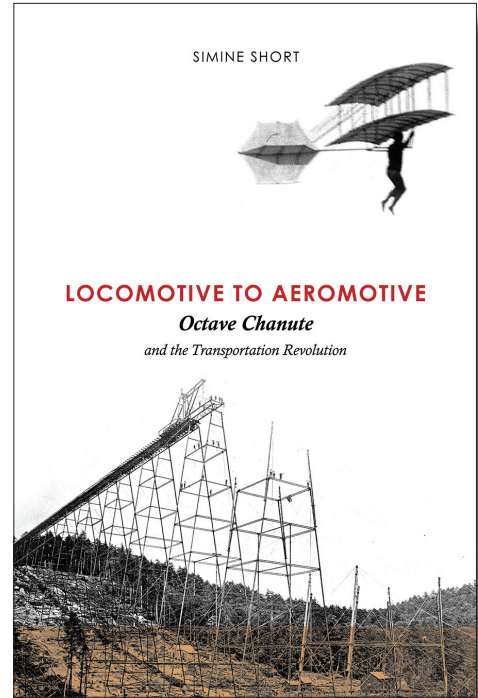
—**Robert W. Jackson**, licensed glider pilot and author of *Rails across the Mississippi: A History of the St. Louis Bridge*

"As the first detailed biography of civil engineer and aeronautic pioneer Octave Chanute, this book fills a gap in the existing literature and is suitable for both the lay reader and the expert."

—**Anthony M. Springer**, editor of *Aerospace Design: Aircraft, Spacecraft, and the Art of Modern Flight*

"We have waited a long time for a solid biography of Octave Chanute. Simine Short has given us a book worth waiting for. She succeeds in situating the details of Chanute's long life and extraordinary career squarely in the context of his time."

—from the foreword by **Tom D. Crouch**, senior curator of aeronautics, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution



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and the Transportation Revolution

SIMINE SHORT is an aviation historian who has researched and written extensively on the history of motorless flight. Her first book, *Glider Mail: An Aerophilatelic Handbook*, received numerous research awards worldwide and is considered a standard reference by aerophilatelists and aviation researchers. She lives with her husband outside Chicago, Illinois.

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