

AERONAUTICAL INSTITUTE HONORS FIELD ENGINEER

[photo caption]
MISS M. ELSA GARDNER

The honor of becoming the first woman member of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, the exclusive American association of aeronautical engineers and sciences, has been accorded to Miss M. Elsa Gardner, editor of the Technical Data Digest at Wright Field, it was learned in Dayton Wednesday.

Miss Gardner, one of America's very few woman aeronautical engineers, was not only paid tribute when accepted as the first woman member, but was doubly honored by being invited to submit her application for membership. The institute heretofore has adopted a firm stand against admitting women, but it was decided to let down the bars in her case because of her outstanding work at Wright Field.

A membership certificate was publicly presented to Miss Gardner at the annual dinner of the institute held last week at the Biltmore Hotel, New York, but because she was absent from the meeting it was accepted for her by Maj. Gen. H.H. Arnold, chief of the Air Corps, who was made an honorary member at the same time. Gen. Arnold was asked to present Miss Gardner's certificate to her at Wright Field.

The new member of the institute is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she did experimental work with wind tunnels and in the engine laboratory, as well in welding, woodworking and riveting. She had previously studied machine design at New York University, where she won a scholarship to finish her course at M.I.T.

As editor of the Technical Data Digest at Wright Field, Miss Gardner reads about 200 scientific journals each month, printed in English, French, German and other languages, and from them she prepares extracts and précis for publication in her semimonthly magazine.

She is the only woman enrolled in the Dayton Engineers Club and is one of about a dozen of her sex who belong to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Her membership in the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, according to men high in aviation, is a distinct honor and one which should gain her world-wide recognition. It was announced at the dinner by Lester Gardner, secretary of the Institute and former editor of Aviation magazine. Dr. George W. Lewis, new president of the institute, and chief of the National Advisory Committee of Aeronautics, presided at the meeting.

The Dayton Herald
February 1, 1939

City's Woman Aero Engineer Receives Honor

Dayton's only woman aeronautical engineer, Miss Elsa Gardner, editor of the Army Air Corps Technical Digest, Wednesday received new recognition when she had word she had been named the first woman member of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences at New York.

Miss Gardner is also the only woman member of the Dayton Engineers club [sic], a member of the executive council of the International Women's Engineering society, and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers.

The Technical Digest, which Miss Gardner edits at Wright field, is a bimonthly publication for use of engineers and technicians, containing about 300 abstracts from American, British, French, German and Italian magazines dealing with new engineering developments in the various fields relating to aeronautics.

Dayton Journal
Thursday, February 2, 1939

Woman Honored by Aerial Engineers

Miss Elsa Gardner, editor of the army air corps Technical Data Digest, was named the first woman member of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences at New York. Stationed at Wright field, Miss Gardner is also the only woman member of the Dayton Engineers club and a member of the executive council of the International Women's Engineering society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers.