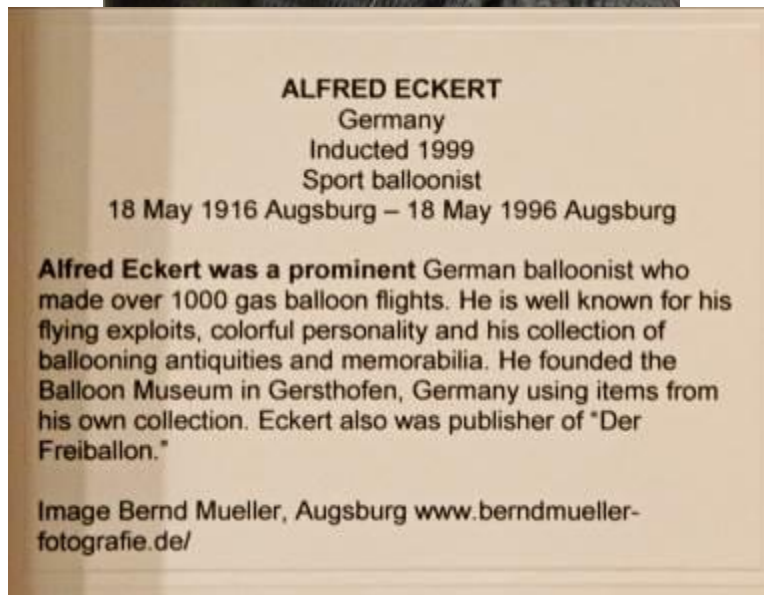
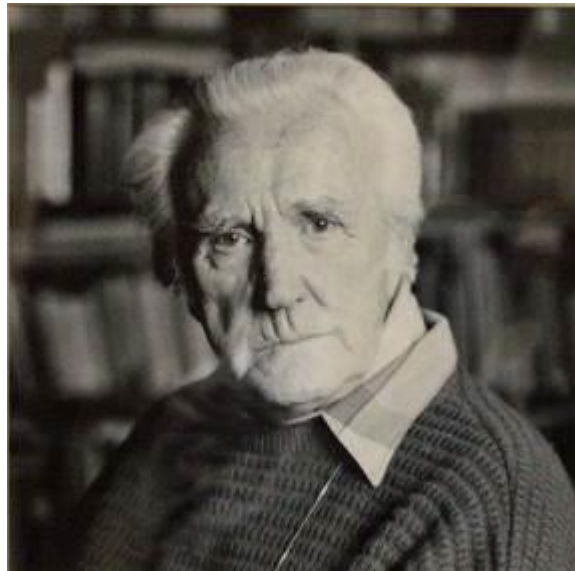




**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE  
Ballooning Commission**

**Hall of Fame**

**Mr. Alfred ECKERT, Germany  
Inducted 1999**



*Photo and plaque published with permission of the Anderson/Abruzzo International Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA*

Alfred Eckert has been a prominent German gas balloonist since 1953 and is known for his colourful personality and his high quality collection of ballooning antiques and memorabilia as well as for his flying exploits.

Born in 1916, Mr. Eckert spent his earlier years as a painter, photographer, publisher and graphic designer in Augsburg, Germany. He made his first balloon flight in May of 1953 and earned his gas balloon license in May of 1955 (he got his hot air balloon license in 1983).

He earned the German Free Balloon Golden Achievement Medal no. 11 in 1957 and the FAI Montgolfier Diploma for the year 1959.

Some remarkable flights of his were:

1959: Landed on a glacier and was rescued by aircraft.

1960: Crossed the English Channel from Lydd, UK to Brá gge, Belgium in 4 hours, 15 minutes.

1990: Made his 1000<sup>th</sup> gas balloon flight on October 27, 1990. Total of 3590 hours & 55,198 km.

1998: Made his 1020<sup>th</sup> gas balloon flight together with Jojo Maes (1213) and Helma Sjuts (1118).

Mr. Eckert also created the famous Balloon Museum in Gersthofen, Germany (just north of Augsburg and close to the club launch site). The majority of the exhibits are from his personal collection. The museum opened in 1986. As an author, Mr. Eckert has written six books on ballooning and has been the publisher and editor of the bi-monthly magazine "Der Freiballon" since 1976. His books are:

- *Am Himmel Ohne Motor* (To the Heavens Without Engine), 1975
- *Ballon Museum Gersthofen*, 1985
- *Im Blauen Wind* (In the Blue Wind), 1987
- *Im Ballon*, 1987
- *1000 mal voll Gas am Himmel* (1000 Times To Heaven Full Of Gas), 1990
- *Mit dem Malblock um die Welt* (Around the World With Paint-box), Exhibition catalogue 1991