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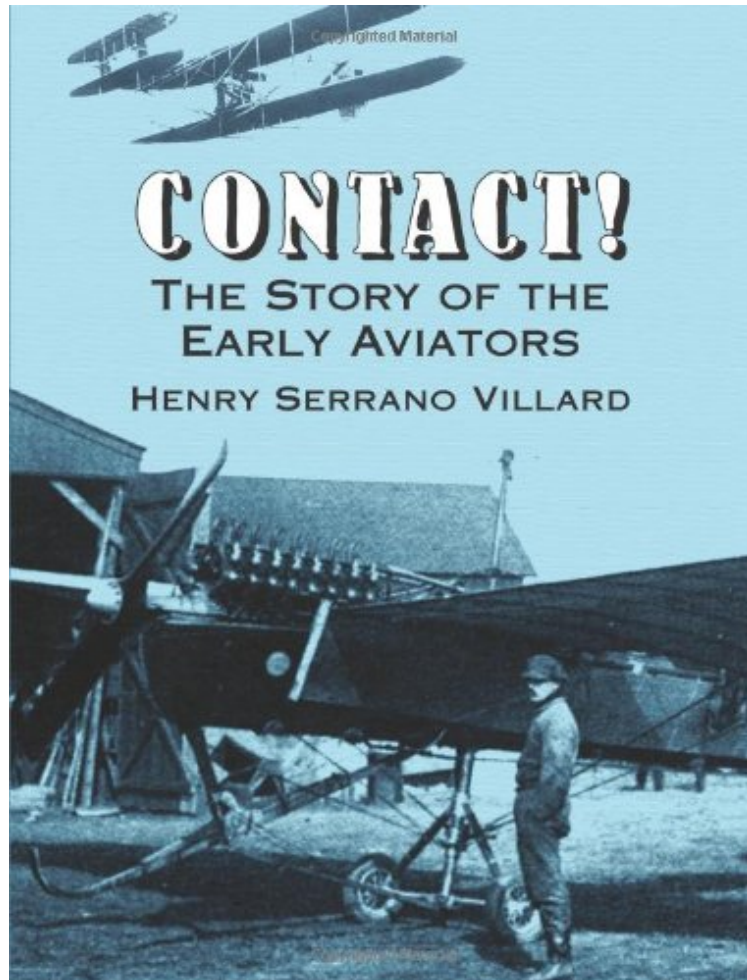
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Henry Villard : Contact! The Story of the Early Aviators before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [Contact! The Story of the Early Aviators](#):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique Personal Account (often interesting)By Christopher MullerContact! reads very much like a first-hand account of the first 15 years of aviation. The two things I liked most about Contact! were 1) several photos taken by the author when he was a boy in France, during the early years of aviation and 2) references to obscure (and maybe forgotten) early aviators. The writing was sometimes a bit slow. (For example when the author recounts the events of air shows.) There were some excellent appendices detailing the fatalities of early aviators, as well as lists of all the early aviators. In addition, there were good graphics of the early machines to help the reader visual the makes.The book is so rich in obscure names and events, that I kept my laptop at my side while I read, so that I could look up more background. To his credit, Henry Serrano Villard covers the events as a contemporary. Besides the freshness, that viewpoint also means that the author writes about events outside the conventional re-telling of early aviation that seems to be the norm. (There are new stories here!)If you have the

patience for a somewhat dry book, then you will be rewarded with fresh insights and stories.

This informative account recaptures the thrill of the pioneering days of aviation, back before flying was taken for granted. Among the significant and colorful figures covered are the Wright Brothers, Alberto Santos-Dumont, Henry Farman, Glenn H. Curtiss, and other aviators from around the world. 84 black-and-white illustrations.