

Thomas O. Paine Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Scott
McLemee



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Latest revision: 2010 January

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas O. Paine Papers

Span Dates: 1931-1992

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1960-1982)

ID No.: MSS49866

Creator: Paine, Thomas O., 1921-

Extent: 64,000 items; 183 containers; 73 linear feet; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Engineer, corporate executive, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration official. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes of meetings, appointment books, family and genealogical papers, and printed matter chiefly relating to Paine's engineering career with General Electric Company and Northrop Corporation and as deputy and acting administrator at NASA, where he directed seven Apollo missions, including the first to the moon.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Aldrin, Buzz--Correspondence.

Bradbury, Ray, 1920---Correspondence.

Glenn, John, 1921---Correspondence.

Hollomon, J. Herbert (John Herbert)--Correspondence.

Jones, Thomas V., 1920---Correspondence.

Paine, Thomas O., 1921-

Seamans, Robert C.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Case for Mars Conference.

Engineers Joint Council.

General Electric Company.

Northrop Corporation.

Project Apollo (U.S.)

United States. Advisory Committee on the Future of the U.S. Space Program

United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

United States. National Commission on Space.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Japan.

Subjects

Planets--Exploration.

Space colonies.

Space flight to the moon.

Submarines (Ships)--Japan.

Places

Japan--History--Allied occupation, 1945-1952.

Mars (Planet)

Outer space--Exploration.

Occupations

Engineers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Thomas O. Paine, engineer and government official, were given to the Library of Congress by Paine in 1972. Subsequent additions were given by him between 1983 and 1992.

Processing History:

The papers of Thomas O. Paine were arranged and described in 1993. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some photographs have been transferred to the Print and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Thomas O. Paine Papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas O. Paine in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Thomas O. Paine are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm:

Microfilm on one reel was received as part of the Paine Papers and is listed and described in this finding aid. This microfilm is not available for interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas O. Paine Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1921, Nov. 9	Born, Berkeley, Calif.
1942	A.B., Brown University, Providence, R.I.
1943-1945	Graduated from Naval Reserve Midshipman Training at Annapolis, Md., and Submarine School at New London, Conn. Radar and assistant engineering officer, submarine <i>Pompon</i>
1945	Awarded Submarine Combat Insignia with stars and United States Navy Commendation Medal
1946, Oct. 1	Married Barbara Helen Taunton Pearse

1947-1949	M.S. and Ph.D., Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.
1949-1963	Successive appointments as research engineer, manager of materials and processes, research metallurgist, and manager of engineering applications, General Electric Company, Schenectady, N.Y.
1963-1968	Manager of Technical Military Planning Operation, General Electric Company, Santa Barbara, Calif.
1968-1970	Successive appointments as deputy administrator and administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Directed seven Apollo missions, including the first landings on the moon Awarded Distinguished Service Medal
1970-1976	Vice president and group executive, Power Generation Group, and senior vice president for science and technology, General Electric Company, New York, N.Y.
1976-1982	President, Northrop Corp., Los Angeles, Calif.
1982-1992	President, Thomas Paine Associates, Santa Monica, Calif.
1985	Appointed Chairman of the National Commission on Space
1990	Appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Future of the United States Space Program
1992, May 4	Died, Los Angeles, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thomas Otten Paine (1921-1992) span the years 1931-1992, with the bulk of the materials concentrated in the period 1960-1982. The collection documents Paine's engineering and administrative career with the General Electric Company and Northrop Corporation, his administration of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the first seven Apollo missions, and his membership and participation in professional, scientific, and educational organizations. Primarily consisting of correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes of meetings, drafts, and printed matter, the papers are organized into the following series: [Personal File](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Government File](#), [Corporate File](#), [Professional Associations](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Personal File](#) (1931-1992) contains appointment books, biographical and genealogical materials, and documents relating to Paine's naval service during World War II. Included is a copy of a personal journal recording Paine's participation in the demilitarization of Japanese submarine forces during the early days of the occupation of Japan. Also in the file is a bibliography representing over three thousand books in Paine's personal library relating to submarines and submarine warfare. Completing the series are family correspondence, material relating to Paine's membership in submarine veterans' organizations, and a few personal business papers of his father, George T. Paine.

The [General Correspondence](#) series (1955-1991) consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence between Paine and friends, colleagues, and the general public primarily relating

to employment and professional opportunities, space and planetary exploration, submarine technology, and topics of a routine nature.

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, and other materials pertaining to Paine's work as deputy and acting administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are found in the [Government File](#) (1965-1991). Material in this section include comprehensive subject files relating to the Apollo missions, including the Apollo Eleven flight when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first human beings to set foot on the moon. Other papers in this section include chronological files of letters and memoranda by Paine and reading files containing correspondence, memoranda, reports, printed matter, and other material received by Paine on a daily basis.

The [Government File](#) also contains material pertaining to Paine's role as chairman of the National Commission on Space. Included are drafts and the commission's final report entitled *Pioneering the Space Frontier*. The series also contains correspondence, memoranda, and reports relating to Paine's work on the Advisory Committee on the Future of the United States Space Program.

The largest segment of the collection is the [Corporate File](#) (1950-1992). Primarily comprised of correspondence, memoranda, minutes of meetings and reports, the series contains extensive files pertaining to Paine's long career with the General Electric Company and his work as president of the Northrop Corporation. General Electric files include documentation of his original research on fine-particle magnets and the innovative programs he instituted to develop lasers, medical electronic equipment, and electric vehicles. Northrop files are largely comprised of material relating to visits he made to foreign air force bases as president of the company. In the personal logbooks from these travels are narratives, photographs, and accounts of private discussions held with Bandar Bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia, Admiral Soong, head of Taiwan's armed forces, and officials from the Soviet Union. Also in the series are files pertaining to his membership on the board of directors of several space-related companies and to Thomas Paine Associates, a consulting firm started by Paine after retiring from Northrop.

The [Professional Associations](#) series (1945-1992) is mostly comprised of correspondence, memoranda, minutes of meetings, and reports pertaining to Paine's membership in professional, educational, and scientific organizations. Papers documenting his work as a member of the Engineers Joint Council constitute the bulk of the series. Included are numerous reports Paine helped prepare as a member of the Council's Engineering Research Committee. Also in the series are papers relating to Case for Mars conferences in which Paine and others promoted the exploration and colonization of the planet Mars.

Among the [Miscellany](#) (1947-1991) are handwritten notes by Paine, reports and drafts pertaining to his work as a research assistant at Stanford University, and drafts of books and screenplays by others regarding planetary and space exploration.

Prominent correspondents include Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Ray Bradbury, John Glenn, J. Herbert Hollomon, Thomas V. Jones, and Robert C. Seamans.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Personal File, 1930-1992](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1955-1991](#)
- [Government File, 1965-1991](#)
- [Corporate File, 1949-1992](#)
- [Professional Associations, 1945-1992](#)
- [Miscellany, 1947-1991](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-7	<p><u>Personal File, 1930-1992</u></p> <p>Appointment books, correspondence, biographical and genealogical material, naval records, photographs, certificates, bibliographic material, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.</p>
BOX 8-13	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1955-1991</u></p> <p>Incoming and outgoing correspondence with attachments between Paine and friends, colleagues, organizations, and the general public.</p> <p>Arrangement is chronological.</p>
BOX 13-68	<p><u>Government File, 1965-1991</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes of meetings, notes, printed matter, address books, schedules, press releases, newspaper clippings, speeches, articles, and photographs relating to Paine's public service.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.</p>
BOX 69-143	<p><u>Corporate File, 1949-1992</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes of meetings, notes, speeches, articles, itineraries, schedules, logbooks, press releases, newspaper clippings, photographs, and printed matter relating to Paine's career at General Electric, Northrop, and Thomas Paine Associates, and his membership on various boards of directors.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.</p>
BOX 143-181	<p><u>Professional Associations, 1945-1992</u></p> <p>Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes of meetings, notes, schedules, press releases, newspaper clippings, and printed matter relating to Paine's membership in professional, educational, and scientific organizations.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.</p>
BOX 182-183	<p><u>Miscellany, 1947-1991</u></p> <p>Notes, drafts of books and scripts, speeches, articles, reports, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	Personal File, 1930-1992 Appointment books, correspondence, biographical and genealogical material, naval records, photographs, certificates, bibliographic material, and printed matter. Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.
BOX 1	Appointment books 1966-1975 (6 folders)
BOX 2	1976-1979 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1980-1984 (5 folders)
BOX 4	1984-1992 (7 folders)
BOX 5	Biographical material, 1960-1970, 1983-1985, undated (2 folders) Family correspondence, 1942-1946, 1960-1968, 1982-1985, undated (6 folders) Genealogical material, 1961-1965, 1980, undated Naval service Journal, Transpacific Voyage of His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Submarine I-400, 1945 Navy orders, 1942-1951, 1961-1962 Notebooks, 1945
BOX 6	Paine, George T. (father), business papers, 1931, 1952-1953, 1963, undated (2 folders) Photographs, circa 1943, 1963 Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., 1946-1950, 1960 (2 folders) Submarine bibliography 1930, 1960-1965 (4 folders)
BOX 7	1982, undated (2 folders) Submarine veterans organizations Background material, 1959 Correspondence, 1959-1986, undated Printed matter, 1957-1963, 1969

Personal File, 1930-1992

Container *Contents*

Washington Award, Western Society of Engineers, 1972

- BOX 8-13 General Correspondence, 1955-1991
 Incoming and outgoing correspondence with attachments between Paine
 and friends, colleagues, organizations, and the general public.
 Arrangement is chronological.
- BOX 8 Mar. 1955-June 1982
 (11 folders)
- BOX 9 July 1982-Sept. 1985
 (11 folders)
- BOX 10 Oct. 1985-May 1986
 (8 folders)
- BOX 11 June 1986-Feb. 1988
 (8 folders)
- BOX 12 Mar. 1988-Dec. 1989
 (8 folders)
- BOX 13 Jan. 1990-Dec. 1991, undated
 (4 folders)
- BOX 13-68 Government File, 1965-1991
 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes of meetings, notes,
 printed matter, address books, schedules, press releases, newspaper
 clippings, speeches, articles, and photographs relating to Paine's public
 service.
 Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological
 therein.
- BOX 13 Advisory Committee on the Future of the U.S. Space Program
 Agendas and working calendars, 1990
 Background material, 1990
 (2 folders)
 Biographical and employment information, 1990
 Correspondence and memoranda
 Nov. 1989-Oct. 1990
 (2 folders)
- BOX 14 Nov. 1990-Dec. 1991
 (4 folders)
 Journal re committee and the White House, 1990
 (2 folders)
 Mailing lists, 1990
 Media coverage, 1990
- BOX 15 Minutes of meetings, 1990
 (2 folders)
 Notes, 1990
 Presentations made to committee, 1990
 (4 folders)
- BOX 16 (7 folders)
- BOX 17 (7 folders)

Government File, 1965-1991

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 18	(6 folders)
BOX 19	(2 folders) Reading file, 1990 (3 folders) Report Comments and critiques by colleagues, 1991
BOX 20	Drafts, 1990 (6 folders) Printed version, 1990 Summary and principal recommendations, 1990 Reunion of committee members, 1991
BOX 21	National Aeronautics and Space Administration Address book, undated Administration reference and backup book, 1968 (4 folders)
BOX 22	Advisory boards, 1965-1968, undated (2 folders) Chronological file Mar.-Dec. 1968 (6 folders)
BOX 23	Jan.-Oct. 1969 (10 folders)
BOX 24	Nov. 1969-June 1970 (8 folders)
BOX 25	July 1970-Oct. 1970 (4 folders) Correspondence Jan. 1968-June 1970 (5 folders)
BOX 26	July-Sept. 1970, undated (4 folders) Historical Office Apollo history workshop, 1970 Historical Advisory Committee, 1970-1972 Newsletters, 1972-1974
BOX 27	Writings Agency history, 1969 (2 folders) Gemini narrative, 1970 (2 folders) "We Should Go to the Moon," undated Letters of congratulations re appointment Feb. 1968-Feb. 1969 (2 folders)
BOX 28	Mar. 1969 News releases and clippings, 1968-1981, undated (4 folders)

Government File, 1965-1991

Container

Contents

	Photographs, 1968
BOX 29	Reading file Feb.-July 1968 (6 folders)
BOX 30	July-Aug. 1968 (6 folders)
BOX 31	Sept.-Nov. 1968 (7 folders)
BOX 32	Dec. 1968-Mar. 1969 (7 folders)
BOX 33	Apr.-July 1969 (6 folders)
BOX 34	Aug.-Oct. 1969 (6 folders)
BOX 35	Nov. 1969-Jan. 1970 (6 folders)
BOX 36	Feb.-May 1970 (7 folders)
BOX 37	May-Sept. 1970 (7 folders)
BOX 38	Schedules, 1968-1970 (3 folders) Speeches and writings Articles By others re Paine, 1968-1969 By Paine 1968-1969 (3 folders)
BOX 39	1970, undated (2 folders) Book reviews, 1970 Books, "Where Are We Going in Space?" 1970 Chapter drafts (8 folders) Foreword and outline
BOX 40	Interviews, 1969-1970 Press conferences, 1970 Speeches Feb. 1968-Aug. 1969 (6 folders)
BOX 41	Sept. 1969-Mar. 1970 (6 folders)
BOX 42	Apr. 1970-Dec. 1971 (7 folders)
BOX 43	Undated Subject file Advanced Manned Missions study program, 1967

	Apollo missions
	Apollo 6, 1968
	Apollo 8, 1968-1969
	(3 folders)
BOX 44	Apollo 9, 1969
	(2 folders)
	Apollo 10, 1969
	(4 folders)
BOX 45	Apollo 11, 1969
	(7 folders)
BOX 46	(4 folders)
	Apollo 12, 1969-1970
	(1 folder)
BOX 47	(3 folders)
	Apollo 13, 1970
	(5 folders)
BOX 48	Apollo 14, 1970
	Lynn petition concerning religious references by Apollo astronauts, 1969
	Available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,385
	Miscellaneous, 1967-1968
	Quarterly progress reports, 1967-1968
	(2 folders)
	Astronomy program, 1968
	Lunar Exploration Program, 1967-1968
	Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Austin, Tex., 1968-1970
BOX 49	Marshall Space Flight Center, University of Alabama, Huntsville, Ala., undated
	Miscellaneous, 1976-1979, undated
	Saturn Program, 1968
	(2 folders)
	Senate Committee on Aeronautics and Space Sciences, 1968
	Soyuz flights 7 and 9, 1970-1971
	Space applications, 1967-1970, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 50	Space colonization, 1975
	Space physics program, 1968
	Space policy, 1969, undated
	Space progress projections, undated
	Space stations, 1970
	(2 folders)
	Space Window, Washington Cathedral, Washington, D.C., 1974
	Wolper Productions, 1970
	Trips
	Australia, 1969
	Australia, Hawaii, and Japan, 1970
	(2 folders)

Government File, 1965-1991

Container

Contents

BOX 51	Europe, 1969-1970 (5 folders) London, 1970 United States 1968 (1 folder)
BOX 52	1968-1970 (3 folders) Working file Apr.-Dec. 1968 (6 folders)
BOX 53	Jan.-July 1969 (8 folders)
BOX 54	Aug. 1969-Mar. 1970 (7 folders)
BOX 55	Apr.-Sept. 1970 (8 folders)
BOX 56	National Commission on Space Administrative material Applications and resumes, 1985 (3 folders) Charter and establishing documents, 1985 Logo, 1985 Mailing lists, 1985-1986, undated Members, 1985 Security, undated Staff, 1985-1986, undated Articles re Paine, 1985-1988 (2 folders)
BOX 57	Correspondence and memoranda Oct. 1984-June 1985 (7 folders)
BOX 58	July-Nov. 1985 (7 folders)
BOX 59	Dec. 1985-Feb. 1986 (6 folders)
BOX 60	Mar.-May 1986 (5 folders)
BOX 61	May-Sept. 1986 (7 folders)
BOX 62	Oct. 1986-Jan. 1990, undated (6 folders)
BOX 63	Meetings, 1985-1986, undated (7 folders) Miscellany, 1985-1987, undated
BOX 64	Newsletters and background material, 1986-1987 (3 folders)

	Presentations, 1985 (4 folders)
BOX 65	(4 folders) Reports and related material By NCOS <i>America's Next 20 Years in Space</i> , 1985 <i>Pioneering the Space Frontier</i> 1985-1986 (3 folders)
BOX 66	1986 (6 folders)
BOX 67	(4 folders) <i>Space Goals for 21st Century America</i> , 1985 (3 folders)
BOX 68	By others, 1985-1986 (2 folders) Trip to Soviet Union Briefing material, 1985-1986 Correspondence, memoranda, and notes, 1985 National Space Council Agendas and background material, 1989-1991, undated Correspondence, 1989-1990 Meeting notes, 1989 Presentations, 1989
BOX 69-143	Corporate File, 1949-1992 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes of meetings, notes, speeches, articles, itineraries, schedules, logbooks, press releases, newspaper clippings, photographs, and printed matter relating to Paine's career at General Electric, Northrop, and Thomas Paine Associates, and his membership on various boards of directors. Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.
BOX 69	Board of Directors Geosat Agendas and minutes of meetings, 1984-1989 (2 folders) Correspondence and memoranda, 1984-1989 Newsletters and press releases, 1984-1989 (2 folders) Orbital Sciences Corp. Agendas and minutes of meetings Dec. 1983-Dec. 1987 (7 folders)
BOX 70	Jan. 1988-Sept. 1989 (7 folders)

Corporate File, 1949-1992

Container

Contents

BOX 71	Sept. 1989-Oct. 1991 (7 folders)
BOX 72	Oct. 1991-Apr. 1992 (2 folders) Correspondence and memoranda Nov. 1983-Dec. 1988 (5 folders)
BOX 73	Jan. 1989-Apr. 1992 (7 folders) News releases, 1984-1992 (2 folders)
BOX 74	Plans and objectives, 1988-1989 Projects Adaptable Space Propulsion System, 1987 Apogee and Maneuvering Stage, 1984 Datasat, 1989 Orbital Research Partners consolidation, 1987 (2 folders) Space Data Corp. merger, 1988 (2 folders)
BOX 75	Summaries of major programs, 1991 Transfer Orbit Stage, 1983-1987 (4 folders) Reports, 1990-1992 (3 folders)
BOX 76	Quotron Agendas and minutes of meetings Dec. 1981-Dec. 1987 (8 folders)
BOX 77	Jan. 1988-Nov. 1989 (2 folders) Correspondence and memoranda Feb. 1983-Aug. 1986 (6 folders)
BOX 78	Sept. 1986-Sept. 1991 (6 folders)
BOX 79	Reports, 1983-1989 (8 folders)
BOX 80	General Electric Co. Correspondence and memoranda Sept. 1950-Dec. 1964 (7 folders)
BOX 81	Jan. 1965-Dec. 1973 (6 folders)
BOX 82	Jan.-Dec. 1974 Personnel records, 1950-1957, undated Publications, 1949-1960, undated (2 folders)

	Subject file
	American Museum of Electricity
	Board of Trustees, 1963
	Constitution and bylaws, undated
	Correspondence, 1962-1968
	(2 folders)
	Finances, 1963
	Minutes of meetings, 1962-1965
BOX 83	Plans and operations, 1962
	Printed material, 1962-1963
	Story-line conference, 1964
	General Engineering Laboratory
	Acoustics, 1961
	Advanced Waste Treatment program, 1962
	Air purification, 1960-1961
	Arms control, 1961-1962
	Atomic energy, 1960
	Bionics, 1960-1962
	Budget and planning, 1960-1962
	(2 folders)
BOX 84	Civil defense, 1961
	Company growth opportunities, 1960-1962
	(2 folders)
	Cybernetic anthropomorphic machines, 1962
	Eastern Mohawk Valley Development Study program, 1961
	Electromachining, 1960-1961
	Electrothermal rock breaking, 1961
	Electronics, 1961-1962
	Engineering and the New Frontier, 1960-1961
	Ground effect machines, 1962
	Humanity, undated
BOX 85	Helium recovery, 1961
	Information retrieval and storage, 1960-1961
	Innovations, 1960
	International development
	General, 1960-1963
	(2 folders)
	South America, 1962
	International University of the Americas proposal, 1961-1962
	(2 folders)
	Ion and plasma engineering, 1960
BOX 86	Laboratory operations, 1960-1962
	(2 folders)
	Lasers, 1961
	Magnetics, 1960-1962
	Managers and staff meetings, 1961-1962
	(2 folders)

	Microelectronics, 1962
BOX 87	Microminiaturization, 1960-1962 (2 folders)
	Miscellaneous, 1960-1962
	Mossbauer Effect, 1960
	Oceanographic technology, 1962
	Optical masers, 1961-1962
	Outdoor living, 1961
	Patents, 1957-1963
	Patterns, 1960-1962
BOX 88	Peace technology, 1961
	President's Science Advisory Committee, 1961
	Quantum electronic devices, undated
	RAEL study, 1961
	Radio and television division, 1960
	Research and development, 1961-1962
	Rural electrification, 1960-1963 (4 folders)
BOX 89	Satellites, 1960
	Science and the environment, 1961-1962
	Simulation, 1961
	Solar energy, 1960-1962
	Solions, undated
	Space, 1960-1962
	Submarine study, 1961 (2 folders)
	Superconductors, 1961-1962
	Technical analyses component, 1962
BOX 90	Thermionics, 1960-1961
	Thermoelectric cooling, 1960-1962
	Thermoelectricity, 1962
	Thermoplastic recording
	Correspondence and memoranda, 1958-1962
	Development authorizations, 1961
	Minutes of meetings, 1958-1961
	Newsletters, 1961
	Notes, undated
	Planning and proposals, 1961 (2 folders)
BOX 91	Reports, 1959-1962, undated (4 folders)
	Transporter, 1962
	Urban renewal, 1960
	Warfare, 1962
	World technology, 1960
	World's Fair
	New York, N.Y., 1960-1962

	Seattle, Wash., 1961-1962
	Measurements Laboratory, Instrument Department
	Activities, 1957-1958
	(2 folders)
BOX 92	Fine-particle iron magnet development program
	Correspondence and memoranda, 1958-1959
	Minutes of meetings, 1950-1951
	Miscellaneous, 1951-1958
	Press releases, 1951-1958
	Technical papers and reports, 1951-1958
	(4 folders)
BOX 93	(3 folders)
	Miscellaneous, 1952-1958
	Other laboratories, 1950-1958
	Plans and objectives, 1956-1957
	Torque measurements, 1954-1956
BOX 94	Power Generation Business Group
	Executive Board, 1972-1975
	(7 folders)
	Management conference, 1972
BOX 95	Power Generation Group
	Board of Directors, 1973
	Corporate research and development
	European office, 1972-1973
	General, 1973
	(2 folders)
	General Dynamics, 1971
	General Electric Co. of England, 1972-1973
	(2 folders)
	General Electric Power Research Operation, 1972-1974
	Information Management International, 1971-1973
	(2 folders)
BOX 96	Miscellaneous, 1972-1973
	Naval War College, Newport, R.I., 1971
	Nuclear Energy Products Division, 1972-1973
	(2 folders)
	Public appearances, 1970-1971
	Sales division, 1973
	Soviet Union, 1971-1973
	(3 folders)
BOX 97	(2 folders)
	Sporn, Philip, 1971-1973
	Synthetic fuels, 1973
	Technical Military Planning Operation, 1971-1973
	Trips
	Europe, 1971
	Japan, 1972

	Paris, 1972
	Spain, 1971
BOX 98	Taiwan, 1972
	Uranium enrichment, 1973
	Utility executives conferences, 1970-1973 (2 folders)
	White House, 1972-1973
	Research Laboratory
	Cobalt platinum ticonas, 1959
	Economy, 1960
	Electron micrographics, 1959
	Innovations, 1959
BOX 99	Iron aluminum silicon, 1959
	Laboratory operations, 1958-1959
	Liaison reports, 1959-1960 (2 folders)
	Magnetic studies
	Charts and illustrations, 1959
	European trip, 1959 (2 folders)
	General, 1959-1960
	Survey of magnetics papers and literature, 1959-1960
BOX 100	Miscellaneous, 1959-1960
	Overseas correspondence, 1959-1960
	Platinum alloys, 1959-1960
	Publication policy, 1959-1960
	Pyrolytic thermoelements, 1959-1962
	Technical Military Planning Operation
	Algerian delegation visit, 1967
	Appraisal and performance review procedures, 1963
	Background information and material, 1965-1967
	Corporate Growth Council
	Correspondence and memoranda, 1964-1965 (2 folders)
BOX 101	Meeting agendas and summaries, 1964-1965 (3 folders)
	Notes, 1964-1965
	Presentations, 1964
	Reports, 1965
	Early drafts (3 folders)
BOX 102	(2 folders)
	Final draft (2 folders)
	Growth and organizational policies, 1967
	Miscellaneous
	Correspondence, 1963-1968

Corporate File, 1949-1992

Container *Contents*

	Memoranda, 1963-1968
	Newspaper clippings, 1963
	Notes, 1963-1966
	Naval ship opportunities, 1968
BOX 103	News releases, 1964
	Organic polymers, 1965
	Proposals, 1966-1968 (2 folders)
	Reports, 1963-1965
	Research and development reorganization, 1967
	Speaking engagements 1963
BOX 104	1964-1968, undated (6 folders)
	Staff biography, undated
BOX 105	Staff workload summary, 1965
	Studies, 1963-1967, undated (3 folders)
	Urban Development Corp., 1966 (2 folders)
	Technology Planning and Development
	AEG-Telefunken, 1974
BOX 106	Atomic Energy Commission, 1973-1974 (4 folders)
	Awards, 1974
	Bechtel Group, 1973-1974
	Board of Directors, 1973-1975 (2 folders)
	Business groups
	Aerospace, 1974
	Aircraft engines, 1973-1974
	International and Canadian, 1974
BOX 107	Major appliance board, 1973-1974
	Center for Energy Systems, 1973-1974
	Centers of research, 1974
	CFM56 program, 1974-1975 (2 folders)
	Committee for Economic Development, 1973-1975 (2 folders)
BOX 108	Commonwealth Edison, 1974
	Conferences
	American Power, 1975
	Technical management, 1974 (2 folders)
	Corporate Organization study, 1975 (2 folders)
	Corporate Policy Committee

	Correspondence and memoranda, 1973-1975
	Meetings
	General
	1973
BOX 109	1974
	(2 folders)
	Joint Session with Group Executives, 1973-1974
	Corporate Research and Development
	European office, 1973-1974
	Financial statements, 1973-1974
	General
	1973
	(3 folders)
BOX 110	1974-1975
	(3 folders)
	Manpower, 1973-1974
	(2 folders)
	Energy research and development
	General
	1973
	(2 folders)
BOX 111	1974-1975
	(3 folders)
	Institutional patterns, 1973
	(3 folders)
BOX 112	Energy Research and Development Administration, 1975
	(2 folders)
	Engineering Materials and Processes Information Services, 1974
	Federal Energy Administration, 1974-1975
	(5 folders)
BOX 113	(2 folders)
	Finger, Harold, 1973-1974
	Fisher, John, 1970-1975
	(2 folders)
	Gas turbine operational planning, 1972-1974
	Gutoff, Reuben, 1973
BOX 114	Heat pumps, 1973-1975
	Hydrogen economy, 1973-1975
	Industry, 1974
	International Planning Management, 1974
	International relationships, 1972-1975
	(3 folders)
	Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, 1974
BOX 115	KMS Industries, 1974
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 1974-1975
	(3 folders)
	Miscellaneous, 1973-1975

	Nuclear energy, 1975 (2 folders)
BOX 116	Nuclear Energy division, 1973-1975 (4 folders)
	Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1975
	Productivity, 1974
	Professional papers and presentations, 1973-1975 (2 folders)
	Project Cyclops, 1975
	Reed, C. E., 1974-1975
	Soviet Union, 1973-1975 (1 folder)
BOX 117	(4 folders)
	Speeches, 1973-1974
	Steam Turbine Generator Products Division, 1973-1974
	Strategic planning, 1974
	Technology assessment, 1974
BOX 118	Trips, 1975 (2 folders)
	Westinghouse, 1974-1975
	White House, 1974-1975
	Northrop Corp.
	Administrative material
	Annual and quarterly reports, 1977-1984
	Employment agreement, 1976
	Financial statements, 1976
	Directors and officers' questionnaires, 1977-1982
	Long range plans, 1976
	Management conference, 1981
	Management guide, 1976
BOX 119	Organization charts, 1975-1979
	Position descriptions, 1983
	Correspondence
	Feb. 1976-Sept. 1977 (5 folders)
BOX 120	Oct. 1977-Mar. 1979 (6 folders)
BOX 121	Apr. 1979-June 1980 (7 folders)
BOX 122	July 1980-May 1981 (6 folders)
BOX 123	June 1981-Jan. 1987 (7 folders)
BOX 124	Legal file
	Goldman v. Northrop, 1976
	Northrop v. McDonnell Douglas

Corporate File, 1949-1992

Container

Contents

	1979-1980 (6 folders)
BOX 125	1980-1985 (3 folders) Pending litigation, 1981 Springer v. Jones, 1976 Triad v. Northrop 1975-1980 (3 folders)
BOX 126	1980 (6 folders)
BOX 127	1980-1984, undated (10 folders)
BOX 128	Speeches, 1977-1981 Subject file Consultants, 1981 Election to the presidency, 1975 Erroneous scientific predictions, 1967-1981, undated Fighter aircraft commonality, 1978-1979 Hornet fighter aircraft, 1979, undated Jones, Thomas V., 1984-1986, undated Latin American marketing, 1982 Low, George, letter re future of National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1980-1981 Middle East, undated
BOX 129	N-3PB patrol bomber restoration, 1979-1980 Northrop, John K., 1980-1984 Pournelle, J.E., letter re America's future in space, 1981 Senate hearings, 1979 Soviet space program, 1980-1981 Space shuttle program, undated Spacelab, 1976 Stealth bomber technology, 1981-1982 Tigershark fighter aircraft, 1979-1982 Tipton, Frank B., 1976 Walt Disney Corp., 1979-1981
BOX 130	Trips Background material 1976-1977 (8 folders)
BOX 131	1977-1978 (7 folders)
BOX 132	1978-1979 (7 folders)
BOX 133	1979-1980 (6 folders)

Corporate File, 1949-1992

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 134	1980-1981 (9 folders)
BOX 135	1981-1982 (6 folders)
BOX 136	Expense reports, 1976-1981 (6 folders)
BOX 137	Logs 1978-1979 (3 folders)
BOX 138	1979-1981 (2 folders)
BOX 139	1982 (3 folders)
	Thomas Paine Associates
	Aldrin, Buzz, 1988-1991 (2 folders)
	Australia, 1988
	Biosphere 2, 1989-1991
BOX 140	Biosystems Institute, La Jolla, Calif., 1988-1991
	Brown University, Providence, R.I., 1988-1992
	California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif., 1990
	Commonwealth North, 1988
	Discovery Channel, 1987-1988 (2 folders)
	Forward, Robert, 1990-1991
	Glenn, John, 1983-1986
	Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, 1986-1987
	Hawaii Space Development Authority, Honolulu, Hawaii 1987-1990
BOX 141	1990-1992
	Industrial Forum, 1984
	Imagery Information Database, 1983
	J. Herbert Holloman Memorial Committee, 1987
	McCall, Robert, 1985-1986
	Miscellaneous, 1982-1992
	National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1989-1991 (2 folders)
	Pepper, Thomas, 1986-1987
	Raymond, Richard, 1984-1987
BOX 142	Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute, 1988-1989
	Security Pacific Bank, 1982-1983 (2 folders)
	Simpson, Ted, 1987-1988
	Space Research Associates, 1986
	Spacepac, 1987-1991
	Teacher in Space, 1987

Corporate File, 1949-1992

Container

Contents

	Techno Forum 91, 1991
	Trips, 1982
	United Nations Day, 1986
BOX 143	University of California (all campuses), 1986-1990
	Walt Disney Corp., 1982-1990 (2 folders)
	White House, House of Representatives, and Senate, 1984-1990
BOX 143-181	Professional Associations, 1945-1992
	Correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes of meetings, notes, schedules, press releases, newspaper clippings, and printed matter relating to Paine's membership in professional, educational, and scientific organizations.
	Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material and chronological therein.
BOX 143	American Astronautical Society
	Conferences and symposia
	General, 1982-1988
	Goddard Memorial symposia, 1987-1990 (2 folders)
	American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
	Annual meetings, 1982-1990
BOX 144	Correspondence, 1980-1990, undated
	Fellow grade committee
	1984-1989 (5 folders)
BOX 145	American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
	Fellow grade committee, 1991
	Space Task Force Workshop, 1986 (2 folders)
	Speeches, undated
	American Institute of Electrical Engineers
	Articles and papers, 1957-1966, undated
	Committees
	Basic Science, 1959-1962, undated
	Research, 1954-1960, undated
	Technical Operations, 1961-1962
	Correspondence, 1960-1962
BOX 146	Magnetic conferences
	Background material, 1957-1963, undated
	Constitutions, 1963, undated
	Correspondence, 1956-1963, undated (2 folders)
	Meetings, 1957-1962
	Papers presented, 1955-1962 (2 folders)
BOX 147	Survey of papers re magnetics, 1952-1960, undated

Professional Associations, 1945-1992

Container

Contents

	American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, 1958-1962, undated (2 folders)
	American Management Association, 1961-1962, undated
	American Physical Society, Division of Solid State Physics, 1955-1958
	American Society for Metals, 1958-1959, undated
	American Society for Testing Materials, 1959-1960
	Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Aspen, Colo. Agendas, itineraries, and lists of participants, 1975, undated
BOX 148	Background material, 1975, undated (2 folders) Correspondence, 1975 Discussion summaries, 1975 Miscellany, 1975 Papers, 1975
	Association of Space Explorers, 1987-1991
	Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 1987-1992 (2 folders)
BOX 149	Australian Academy of Technological Services, 1982-1988 Australian Association of Maritime History, 1984-1988 British Interplanetary Society, 1982, undated California Space Institute, University of California, San Diego, Calif., 1985 Case for Mars conferences 1984-1985 (3 folders)
BOX 150	1987-1990 (6 folders)
	Chief Executives Organization, 1987-1988
BOX 151	Commonwealth North Forum, 1987, undated Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C., 1985, undated East-West Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West, 1982-1985, undated (2 folders)
	Elfun Society, 1958-1967 (2 folders)
	Engineers Joint Council Annual reports, 1959-1961
BOX 152	Committees Engineering Research Committee Correspondence, 1960-1963 (6 folders) Meetings, 1960-1961 (2 folders)
BOX 153	Members, 1960-1962 Reports, drafts and related material Biological systems, 1960-1962 Education services, 1960

Professional Associations, 1945-1992

Container

Contents

	Energy and raw materials, 1961-1962
	Engineering education, 1961-1962 (2 folders)
	Engineering in medicine, 1960-1962
	Food production and resources, 1960
BOX 154	Human wants and national challenges, 1960
	Information handling systems, 1960-1962
	National and metropolitan transportation, 1960-1962
	Professional societies, 1960-1962
	Research and development goals, 1960-1962 (2 folders)
BOX 155	Summary report, 1961-1962, undated (4 folders)
	Technical information flow, 1960-1962 (2 folders)
BOX 156	Technical problems of developing countries, 1960-1962
	Urban environmental problems, 1960-1961
	Engineering Science, 1958-1959
	Executive Committee, 1960
	Conferences
	Engineering Foundation Research Conferences 1961-1962 (2 folders)
BOX 157	1963-1966 (2 folders)
	Gordon Conferences, 1958-1968 (4 folders)
BOX 158	Constituent and cooperating organizations, 1960, undated
	Special Consulting Group on Polytechnic Dictionaries, 1959
	Friends of Cabrillo Marine Museum, 1986-1991, undated
	Global Implications of Space Activities conference, 1981
	Goddard Memorial Symposium, 1989
	Hydrogen Action Task Force
	Correspondence, 1988-1990
	Reports and background material, 1987-1990, undated (2 folders)
BOX 159	Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, Atlanta, Ga., 1984-1985
	International Academy of Astronautics, 1987-1989 (5 folders)
	International Astronautical Federation 1988-1989 (2 folders)
BOX 160	1991 (2 folders)
	International Space Future Forum, 1987
	International Space University, Boston, Mass., 1987
	James E. Webb Fund, 1981-1983, undated

Professional Associations, 1945-1992

Container

Contents

- BOX 161 Lunar Science Institute, 1968
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Conference on Factors in the
Transfer of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., 1966
National Academy of Engineering
Committees
 Public Engineering Policy, 1973, undated
 Technology and Social Priorities Steering Committee, 1987
Correspondence, 1961, 1973-1990
 (5 folders)
- BOX 162 Energy Task Force
Correspondence, 1973-1974
Meetings, 1973-1974
Reports, drafts, and related materials, 1973-1974, undated
 (2 folders)
- BOX 163 Membership
Elections, 1973
General, 1987-1991
 (2 folders)
Requests for anonymous comments, 1983-1988, undated
 (2 folders)
Printed matter, 1974-1975
Projects
 Art and technology, 1984
 Financial and monetary technology, 1987
Reports, 1961
- BOX 164 National Academy of Public Administration, 1983-1985
National Academy of Sciences
Printed matter, 1959-1960
Reports, drafts, and related material
 Japan-United States relations, 1982-1987
 (2 folders)
Satellite power systems
 1979-1980
- BOX 165 1980-1986
 (6 folders)
- BOX 166 Space Age planning, 1988-1991, undated
Strategic Technologies for the Army (STAR) Symposium, 1989-1990
 (2 folders)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration Symposia
Agendas, papers, and related material
 1984-1985
 (3 folders)
- BOX 167 1986-1990
 (2 folders)
Fletcher, James C., 1986-1987
General correspondence, 1982-1988

Professional Associations, 1945-1992

Container

Contents

	Miscellany, 1986-1987 (2 folders)
BOX 168	National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., 1986-1991 National Research Council Boards Aeronautics and Space Engineering, 1983-1985 (5 folders)
BOX 169	Energy Engineering, 1975-1982 Environmental Studies, 1980 Naval Studies, 1975-1985 (2 folders) Correspondence, 1987-1991 National Space Club, Washington, D.C., 1987 National Space Institute, Washington, D.C., 1975-1982, undated
BOX 170	National Space Society, 1988-1991 (2 folders) Newcomen Society, 1945-1962, undated Pacific Forum 1978-1979 (6 folders)
BOX 171	1980-1985 (10 folders)
BOX 172	1986-1992, undated (7 folders) Planetary Society Agendas and minutes of meetings 1985-1989 (3 folders)
BOX 173	1990-1991 (2 folders) Background materials, 1986-1988 Correspondence and memoranda Oct. 1984-Apr. 1987 (6 folders)
BOX 174	May 1987-Dec. 1988 (8 folders)
BOX 175	Jan. 1989-June 1990 (7 folders)
BOX 176	July 1990-Mar. 1992 (7 folders) Financial reports 1987-1988 (2 folders)
BOX 177	1989-1992 (2 folders) Projects

Professional Associations, 1945-1992

Container

Contents

	Mars exploration, 1986-1989 (4 folders)
	Radio show, 1988
	SETI, 1988
	Space station alternatives, 1990-1991
	Space survey, 1986
BOX 178	Space Commerce 88 Conference, 1988
	Space Policy Institute, 1989
	Space Station Evolution conference, 1989-1990
	Space Studies Institute
	Briefing packages, 1985-1988, undated (3 folders)
	Correspondence and memoranda 1981-1986 (3 folders)
BOX 179	1987-1992 (4 folders)
	Legal file 1986 (2 folders)
BOX 180	1987
	Meetings, 1986-1991 (2 folders)
	Miscellany, 1984-1989, undated
	Newsletters
	Confidential, 1984-1987
	Public, 1987-1992
	Proxies and related material, 1986
	Reports, 1985-1990
	United Nations conferences
	Correspondence, 1962
BOX 181	United Nations conferences
	Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, 1971 (2 folders)
	Papers co-authored by Paine, 1962, undated
	University of Arizona Space Engineering Research Center, Tucson, Ariz., 1989-1990
	Voyager-Neptune Encounter, 1988-1989
	Wright Foundation Science Colloquium on the Voyage to Mars, 1988
BOX 182-183	Miscellany, 1947-1991
	Notes, drafts of books and scripts, speeches, articles, reports, and printed matter.
	Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material.
BOX 182	Notes, 1963, undated

Miscellany, 1947-1991

Container

Contents

Speeches and interviews, 1972-1986, undated

(3 folders)

Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., 1947-1950, undated

Writings

By others

Books, 1987-1988

(4 folders)

BOX 183

Books, 1988

Scripts and treatments, 1990-1991, undated

(3 folders)

By Paine, 1963-1991