

**CENTER SERIES  
GEORGE M. LOW MEMOS**

(NOTE: There are restrictions that apply for the use of this material. See folder "Rensselaer Permission to Publish Contract" at the front of each box.) George Michael Low was born George Wilhelm Low on June 10, 1926, near Vienna, Austria. His parents were Artur and Gertrude Burger Low, small business people in Austria. With the German occupation of Austria in 1938, four years after Artur Low's death, his family emigrated to the United States. In 1943, Low graduated from Forest Hills High School, Forest Hills, New York, and entered Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). His education was interrupted by World War II; he served in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946. While doing so, he became a naturalized American citizen, and legally changed his name to George Michael Low. After military service Low returned to RPI and received his Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering degree in 1948. He then worked at General Dynamics (Convair) in Fort Worth, Texas, as a mathematician in an aerodynamics group. Low returned to RPI late in 1948, however, and received his Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering in 1950. In 1949, he married Mary Ruth McNamara of Troy, New York. Between 1952 and 1963, they had five children: Mark S., Diane E., George David, John M., and Nancy A. After completing his M.S. degree, Low joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) as an engineer at the Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory in Cleveland, Ohio (later the Lewis Research Center). He became head of the Fluid Mechanics Section (1954-1956) and Chief of the Special Projects Branch (1956-1958). Low specialized in experimental and theoretical research in the fields of heat transfer, boundary layer flows, and internal aerodynamics. In addition, he worked on such space technology problems as orbit calculations, reentry paths, and space rendezvous techniques. During the summer and autumn of 1958, preceding the formation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Low worked on a planning team to organize the new aerospace agency. Soon after NASA's formal organization in October 1958, Low transferred to the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he served as Chief of Manned Space Flight. In this capacity, he was closely involved in the planning of Projects Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. In February 1964, Low transferred to NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas (now the Johnson Space Center), and served as Deputy Center Director. In April 1967, following the Apollo 204 fire, he was named Manager of the Apollo Spacecraft Program Office (ASPO) where he was responsible for directing the changes to the Apollo spacecraft necessary to make it flight worthy. George Low became NASA Deputy Administrator in December 1969, serving with Administrators Thomas O. Paine and James C. Fletcher. As such, he became one of the leading figures in the early development of the Space Shuttle, the Skylab program, and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. He retired from NASA in 1976 to become president of RPI, a position he still held at his death. He died of cancer on July 17, 1984. (Bio taken from the NASA history website: <http://history.nasa.gov/Biographies/low.html>) This 3-box collection consists of memos copied from the George M. Low Papers located in the Institute Archives and Special Collections at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Former NASA Johnson Space Center historian Glen Swanson arranged for the copies, which were taken from boxes 53 and 54 of the original collection in July 2002. There are two subseries that make up the collection. The Note File subseries consists of Low's handwritten notes on incoming correspondence, reports, etc. and reflect his direction and coordination of NASA Headquarters from June through December, 1970. The Apollo Memoranda subseries is composed of Low's Apollo Notes to Dr. Robert Gilruth, director of the Manned Spacecraft Center. They served as an almost daily record of Low's activities and concerns during his management of the Apollo Spacecraft Program Office from April 10, 1967 through November 5, 1969. They are arranged in reverse chronological order. Also included Apollo Memoranda from February 18-April 8, 1967 concerning meetings, telephone calls, and changes made Apollo spacecraft materials, design, testing, and procedures. The last folder contains miscellaneous Apollo Notes from 1967-1969, authored by Apollo Spacecraft Program Office managers and assistants and James McDivitt. Box 1 contains a CD containing digital scans. Also in each box is a copy of the Permission to Publish Contract. The order and arrangement of the folders within the subseries "Note File" and "Apollo Memoranda" is the same as the arrangement in the original George M. Low Papers at Rensselaer. The box numbers have been changed to reflect this 3-box collection.

**Inventory**

<b>SubHeading:</b>	<b>Box Number: 01</b>	
	Guide to The George M. Low Papers, 1930-1984. By Sylvia B. Kennick. Institute Archives and Special Collections, Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1988
Note File	Note File December 1970	1970
Note File	Note File August-November 1970	1970
Note File	Note File June-July 1970	1970
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 501-532, June 6-Nov. 5, 1969	1969

Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 451-500, March 19-June 4, 1969	1969
<b>SubHeading:</b>	<b>Box Number: 02</b>	
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 401-450, Dec. 11, 1968-March 18, 1969	1968-69
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 351-400, Sept. 23-Dec. 10, 1968	1968
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 301-350, July 1-Sept. 22, 1968	1968
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 251-300, April 22-June 28, 1968	1968
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 201-250, Feb. 19-April 21, 1968	1968
<b>SubHeading:</b>	<b>Box Number: 03</b>	
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 151-200, Dec. 12, 1967-Feb. 17, 1968	1967-68
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 101-150, Sept. 20-Dec. 11, 1967	1967
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 51- 100, June 19-Sept. 19, 1967	1967
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Notes for Dr. Gilruth, Notes 1- 50, April 10-June 16, 1967	1967
Apollo Memoranda	Apollo Memoranda, AB 100-159, Feb. 13-April 8, 1967	1967
Apollo Memoranda	Miscellaneous Apollo Notes, 1967- 1969	1967-69