

FINDING AID FOR THE ROGER E. BILSTEIN PAPERS, 1950-2007 (#2008-0002)

Contact Information:

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives
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Descriptive Summary

Repository: University Archives

Collection #: 2008-0002

Title: Roger E. Bilstein Papers

Creator: Roger E. Bilstein

Inclusive Dates: 1950-2007

Extent: 1 linear foot, oversized box and map folder

Language: English

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: None

Acquisition Information: Materials donated by Roger and Linda Bilstein on August 15, 2007 and November 29, 2007.

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Biographical/Historical Note (545)

Roger Bilstein was born in Hyannis, Nebraska to Richard and Opal (Gubser) Bilstein and attended Doane College, a small liberal arts school in the eastern part of the state. He participated in American University's Washington Semester Program, specializing in political science and foreign policy, and received the B.A. in European history from Doane in 1959. At the Ohio State University, he took an M.A. in United States History in 1960, and completed his Ph.D. in 1965, specializing in Twentieth Century American History and International Relations. As a graduate student, he was named as Mershon Fellow in National Security Policy Studies. His doctoral dissertation, on the evolution and impact of American aviation technology during the 1920s, established a theme of future writing and research. In 1964, he married Linda Zufall; their family includes two children and one grandchild.

Dr. Bilstein taught at the University of Wisconsin -Whitewater (1965-1972) and became a co-founder of the American Studies Program there. On leave during 1970-72, he served as Principal Investigator for the NASA Saturn Launch Vehicle History Project at the Marshall Space Flight Center. From 1972-74, he held a joint appointment with the Institute of Aviation and the Department of History at the University of Illinois-Urbana. In 1974, the University of Houston organized the Clear Lake complex as a suburban, upper-division campus that enrolled only juniors, seniors, and graduate students at the M.A. level; Dr. Bilstein joined UH-Clear Lake as a member of the Charter Faculty in the summer of 1974. He taught undergraduate courses on American history since 1919, history of technology, warfare and international relations, and aerospace history. Graduate seminars focused on sequential decades of American history from the 1920s to the present, as well as seminars on World War II, aerospace technology and culture, the modern west, and other subjects. He retired from Clear Lake in 2000 as Professor of History, Emeritus, and continues to research and write at his home in the Hill Country west of Austin, Texas. He also lectures on aviation history and serves as a consultant for museums and historical exhibits.

Professional activities have included dozens of conference papers in the U.S. and in Europe, including the former Soviet Union, the Deutsches Museum, the Swiss Transport Museum, the Rolls-Royce Trust, and others; numerous papers and book chapters in both American and foreign publications; and numerous entries in encyclopedias and reference works like Encarta / Microsoft and the Encyclopedia Britannica. Other activities include work as a museum consultant as well as memberships on editorial advisory boards such as the Smithsonian's Air and Space Magazine, service on the USAF Museum advisory board, and similar roles. Dr. Bilstein has been the recipient of various grants and awards, including regional awards from the Aviation and Space Writers Association, and national recognition for historical research from groups such as the National Space Club, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Historical Association, and the Rotary National Stellar Awards Committee. He was appointed as the Charles Lindbergh Professor of Aerospace History at the National Air Space Museum, Smithsonian (1992-93), and was visiting Professor of History of History at the Air War College, U.S. Air Force (1995-96).

Dr. Bilstein is the author *Stages to Saturn*, the official NASA history of the lunar launch vehicles (AIAA manuscript award, 1979; re-printed 1996); *Flight in America: from the Wrights to the Astronauts* (now in its 3rd edition, 2001); *The Enterprise of Flight: The American Aviation and Aerospace Industry* (cited by the American Library Association as an "outstanding academic book" in its 1996 edition; re-published in 2001); author or co-author of five additional books and monographs. His most recent book is titled, *Testing Aircraft, Exploring Space: An Illustrated History of NACA and NASA* (2003).

Scope and Content

This small collection includes Bilstein's research into the Space Station program, various articles written by Bilstein, three posters, 145 slides from his lectures, and a scrapbook kept by a young teenaged Bilstein of *Smilin' Jacks Flyin' Acts* cartoons from 1950 and other post-World War II aviation developments.

Index Terms:

- Bilstein, Roger E.
- American History Slide Collection
- NASA, Space Station Project (U.S.)
- Aviation History
- Aerospace History

Arrangement:

Materials arranged in seven series: Biographical Information, Publications, Research, Writings (Bilstein), Slides, Scrapbook, and BroadSides. The scrapbook and broadsides are housed in an oversized box and flat file respectively.

Items Separated:

Houston Shaw Festival 10th Anniversary poster, duplicated in poster collection.
 Removed five copies of American History Slide Collection posters.

Related Material:

Dr. Bilstein's university records from 1974-1992 documenting his career in the School of Human Sciences and Humanities are housed as #2004-0003. The *Stages to Saturn* Author Resource Files are #2002-0003 and his *Flight in America* Editorial Draft is #2002-0008.

Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1-1A	Biographical Information	1966, 1970, 1999, 2007
		Publications	
	2	Astronauts and Cosmonauts Biographical and Statistical Data	June 1975
	3	Thirty Years Together: A Chronology of U.S.-Soviet Space Cooperation	Feb. 1993
	4-5	TRW Space Log	1982, 1987, 1989, 1990
		Research	
	6-8	Notecards	undated
	9-11	Station History Background	1979-1986
2		Writings (Bilstein)	
	1	Aerospace Historian vol. 21, no. 2. "The Guppy Series of Transports"	June 1974
	2	Air and Space Smithsonian. "Defining Moments"	March 2003
	3	Airlift and Airborne Operations In World War II	1998
	4	Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography. The Airline Industry. "C. R. Smith"	undated
	5	"The Failure of the German Luftwaffe"	May 18, 1956
	6	From Airships to Airbus. "Air Travel and the Traveling Public"	undated
	7	History 738 "Pearl Harbor: A Study in Diplomatic Policy & Military Command"	Winter 1961
	8	History 821 "The Hampton Roads Conference of 1865"	Dec. 18, 1959
	9	History 823 "Private & Commercial Aviation in the United States, 1910-1920."	Abt. 1960
	10	Journal of the West. Vol. 30, No. 1. "Aviation and the Changing West."	January 1991
	11	NASA's Spacelab Missions: The European Connection	Nov. 1982
	12	Phi Kappa Phi Journal. "On Gas Turbines, Nuclear Physics, and Mr. Birdseye"	Fall 1995
	13	Prelude to the Air Age: Civil Aviation in the United States, 1919-1929 (dissertation)	1965
	14	Pride. "NASA and a New Era"	April 1984
	15	The Public Attitude Toward the Airplane in the United States, 1910-1925 (thesis)	1960
	16	The Saturn Management Concept	June 1, 1974
	17	Space Station Configurations and Phase-B Studies at JSC	Dec. 1988

(1984-1986) JSC-32079

18	Slides	undated
	121 slides from the American History Slide Collection. Another 24 slides of various art and architecture, predominantly Frank Lloyd Wright buildings.	
OS	Scrapbook	
	Our Air Force, Army and Navy Jets and World War II Planes	1950-1953
OS	Broadsides	
	Manned Space Flight Awareness (Snoopy)	1969
	The Artist and the Space Shuttle (signed by artist Andreas Nottebohm)	1983
	The American History Slide Collection (advertisement)	undated