

# University of Houston Clear Lake

## Archives and Special Collections

### HSF-10 Shelby L. Owens Papers

[Human Space Flight Collection]

**Collection Number:** HSF-10

**Title:** Shelby L. Owens Papers

**Dates:** 1964-1990

**Creator:** Shelby L. Owens

#### **Abstract**

The Shelby L. Owens Papers is composed of personnel records, correspondence, official letters, memorandums, data books, handbooks, photographs, brochures, booklets, promotional information sheets, certificates, awards, poems, collectibles, artifacts, and miscellaneous materials, documenting the career of Shelby L. Owens at NASA Johnson Space Center between 1964 and 1990. The bulk of the collection is composed of 1960s-1970s collectible items, promotional materials, and award or commendation materials, that Owens either received for his work, collected along with other NASA employees related to Apollo and Skylab Program missions, or was kept by Owens as part of his work records.

**Extent:** approximately 2.65 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

#### **Repository**

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

#### **Restrictions on Use**

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obtaining permission from the copyright holder(s) to use materials beyond the "fair use" clause of the U.S. Copyright Law.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Item name or title], [Box Numbers], [Folder Numbers], Shelby L. Owens, HSF-10, University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

### **Acquisition**

The collection was donated to the University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections by Bill Larson in September 2004.

### **Separated Material**

The oversized materials and artifacts are currently stored in an oversized flat archival box, being relocated there due their sizes and formats. Eventually, these items need to be rehoused into better flat archival storage for the oversized paper items, and separate artifact boxes for the artifacts. The oversized flat box, numbered as "Box 3" and containing the smaller "Box 4" is stored on an upper shelf in the UHCL Archives storage room, above the location where the regular archival document boxes of the Shelby L. Owens Papers are stored.

### **Processing Information**

The original collection was numbered according to a pre-2022 numbering system, which was the accession number for the collection. This was composed of the year in which the collection was accessioned into the UHCL Archives' holdings, and the number of the collection in the order it was accessioned. For example, the original collection number for this collection, "2013-0007", should be interpreted as "2013, 7th collection accessioned that year." Folders in the collection were numbered using a number for the box number, followed by a short dash, followed by the folder number, placed on the far-right side of the folder tab. For example, Box 1, Folder 1, would be written as "1-1."

Starting in 2022, the UHCL Archives began implementing a new collection numbering system to better reflect the various collecting area categories of the Archives, and to make locating and identifying which collections belonged to which collecting areas within the Archives' storages areas and shelves. The Shelby L. Owens Papers' collection number was changed from "2013-0007" to HSF-10, which represents "Human Space Flight Collection, collection number 10 within this category.

Box 2 of this collection was originally stored in a full-size document box, though the materials in it only fit less than half of the box size. The materials were relocated to a slim letter-sized document box, for better long-term storage of the materials. Materials stored in Box 3 are primarily artifacts, including dozens of mission matches, and were originally stored in a large, flat archival box together. The smaller items—like patches—were stored in a smaller archival

flat box that was then stored within the larger box. The plaques and glass items are stored loose. There are also some oversized certificates and awards stored in the box. Box 3 materials need to be rehoused in the future. In 2023 when the finding aid was redone, the Archives Associate Director assigned oversized item numbers and artifact numbers to items in Box 3 and Box 4, without marking them physically with the numbers. Box 4 is stored within the larger Box 3.

**Processed by:** unknown UHCL Archives staff, 2013; finding aid updated by Matthew M. Peek, April 2023.

## **Arrangement**

The collection appears to have originally been loosely organized by format type in folders and boxes. The oversized paper items and artifacts are arranged into series by format at the end of the collection, labeled as follows: Series A: Oversized Certificates and Awards, and Series B: Artifacts

## **Biographical Note**

Shelby Lee Owens III was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on October 23, 1935. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Louisiana State University in 1958 and worked as an engineer for Boeing Airplane Company, Hayes Aircraft Company, Dow Chemical Company, and Foxboro Instrument Company. Owens would then join the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, in June 1963. Owens held progressively more responsible positions at the Johnson Space Center, where he worked on the Apollo, Skylab, and Space Shuttle programs.

Owens worked as an Aerospace Engineer and Manager of Manned Space Flight Programs, from where he retired after 27 years of service. After retiring from NASA in 1990, Shelby continued to support space exploration in various positions with Hernandez Engineering and Barrios Technologies for 10 years. Shelby Owens passed away on August 16, 2016, in Kingwood, Texas.

[Much of the information for this biographical note was taken from his online obituary posted at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/kingwood-tx/shelby-owens-7055400>]

## **Scope and Content**

The collection is composed of personnel records, correspondence, official letters, memorandums, data books, handbooks, photographs, brochures, booklets, promotional information sheets, certificates, awards, poems, collectibles, artifacts, and miscellaneous materials, documenting the career of Shelby L. Owens at NASA Johnson Space Center between 1964 and 1990. The bulk of the collection is composed of 1960s-1970s collectible items, promotional materials, and award or commendation materials, that Owens either received for his work, collected along with other NASA employees related to Apollo and Skylab Program missions, or was kept by Owens as part of his work records. There are also personnel records, a resume, and work appreciation letters for Owens, illuminating primarily his work at Johnson Space Center in the 1960s and 1970s.

## **Subject Terms**

### **Personal/Family Name**

Owens, Shelby L. (Shelby Lee), 1935-2016

### **Corporate Names**

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### **Geographic Name**

Houston (Tex.)

### **Topical Term**

Apollo 11 (Spacecraft)  
Manned space flight--History  
Manned Spacecraft Center (U.S.)  
Project Apollo (U.S.)  
Skylab Program  
Space shuttles--United States--History  
Space--Social aspects--History  
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration--History

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Artifacts  
Awards  
Booklets  
Brochures  
Certificates  
Correspondence  
Handbooks  
Memorandums  
Personnel records  
Photographs  
Press kits  
Publications

## **Collection Inventory**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1/1	Owens' Curriculum vitae, personnel data sheet, and business card	Undated
1/2	Letters of appreciation to Owens: Maxime Faget, Hubert Brasseaux, Robert Thompson, and A. J. Pickett	1972, 1987
1/3	Performance appraisal inputs for Owens and letter from Norman Chaffee	1987
1/4	Position description: Supervisory Aerospace Engineer	circa 1983
1/5	Request to establish a NASA-excepted position for Shelby L. Owens	June 1987
1/6	Owens nomination for American Society of Mechanical Engineers George Westinghouse Silver Medal	November 3, 1972
1/7	Correspondence: George Westinghouse Silver Medal Award	June-July 1974
1/8	Letter: Joint Power Generation Conference Luncheon Honored Guest invitation for presentation of Westinghouse Silver Medal	September 3, 1974
1/9	Correspondence: Mrs. F.S. Leake, Jr., United Daughters of the Confederacy, to Mrs. Leah Lendir, RE: Pioneers in Space Technology Award	October 14, 1985; December 3, 1985
1/10	Ten-Year Service Award certificate and memo	July 1973
1/11	Twenty-Five Year Service Award certificate and photograph	July 5, 1988
1/12	Correspondence and memos authored by Owens	1969-1990
1/13	General correspondence and memos	1964-1988
1/14	Letter and medallion certificate from Frank Borman, Field Director, Space Station Task Group, Apollo 8	Undated
1/15	The Historic Flight of Apollo 8: "A Journey to the Moon" information/promotional sheet	Undated

1/16	Apollo 11: The Lunar Landing brochure (2 copies)	Undated
1/17	Apollo 11 launch card/souvenir no. 6912	Undated
1/18	Apollo 12 launch card/souvenir no. 1405	Undated
1/19	Apollo 13 Mission Summary/Photography Requirements/TV Schedule/Bootstrap Photography cards	March 10, 1970
1/20	Apollo 13 launch cards/souvenirs (numbers 3031, 3032, 3039)	Undated
1/21	Apollo 13 Parkway Viewing Site vehicle permit (no. 866)	Undated
1/22	Launch of Apollo 13: Information for Guests—Parkway Viewing Site	March 1970
1/23	Apollo 13 cocktail napkins	Undated
1/24	Apollo 14 team member bumper sticker	Undated
1/25	Apollo 14 crew decal card to MSC employees (no decal)	Undated
1/26	Apollo 15 crew emblem presented in appreciation of support of the Apollo 15 mission	Undated
1/27	Apollo 16: Scientific Investigation of the Moon booklet	Undated
1/28	Apollo 17: Exploring Taurus-Littrow brochure	Undated
1/29	Skylab I Missions Schedule booklet	April 26, 1973
1/30	Skylab II Flight Data book (TRW)	Undated
1/31	Space Shuttle System Definition Handbook—Integrated Vehicle Configuration 4	July 23, 1973
1/32	Flight schedule booklets: STS-5-STS 8, STS-41-D, STS-41-G, STS-51-D, STS-51-F, and STS-61-B	1982-1985
1/33	National Space Transportation Systems Program: Management Information Summary Booklets	December 1983, June 1984
1/34	Space Shuttle Payload—Launch Schedule and Astronaut Flight Assignments booklet	June 19, 1985

1/35	Space Shuttle Payload Flight Assignments booklet	June 1985
1/36	Mission 51-F press information	July 1985
1/37	Space Shuttle External Tank and Solid Rocket Booster brochures	Undated
1/38	Orbital Refueling System (ORS) brochure	1984
1/39	Memento for contribution to the Orbital Refueling System (ORS) Demonstration Project	Undated
1/40	List of United States Manned Space Flights with notes, <i>The Spaceland News</i>	May 1969
1/41	Action Sequence/Questions card, Kepner-Tregoe and Associates	circa 1967
1/42	Directory card: "B" revision	December 16, 1968
1/43	Photographs: Owens head shots	Undated
1/44	Photograph: unknown group	Undated
1/45	Photographs: Apollo 8	Undated
1/46	Photograph: Apollo 12 HTA-0001 bad H2 tank #2	November 12, 1969
1/47	Photographs: Apollo 14 EVA training with football and armadillo (2 copies)	circa 1970
1/48	Photographs: Apollo fuel cell	Undated
2/1	Photographs: Apollo, various, NASA-issued	Undated
2/2	Photographs: Technicians and Controlled Environment Manufacturing Room, Beech Aircraft Corp.	Undated
2/3	Photographs: aircraft, facilities, crew (various)	1966, undated
2/4	"Ye Olde Fuel Cell," poem by Carl B.	Undated
2/5	"Sign In," "An Ode to H2," and "Electrical System Status" poems	Undated

2/6	United States postage stamp sheet: "United States in Space...A Decade of Achievement" (8 cents)	Undated
2/7	Drawing: P-W Eagle, Post Apollo 10 to Owens from Barry Trout	Undated
2/8	Drawings: P-W Eagle, Post Apollo 10 and Post Apollo 15 by Barry Trout	May 25, 1969; August 7, 1971
2/9	Giant postcards: John F. Kennedy Space Center, Apollo/Saturn V	Undated
2/10	Stickers: Columbia, Challenger, Shuttle Pallet Satellite, other Shuttle	Undated
2/11	Gold foil sample pieces	Undated

### **Series A: Oversized Certificates and Awards**

Series A contains oversized certificates and awards that do not fit within a regular archival document box, and had to be relocated to an oversized flat archival box. The awards are group award documents received by Shelby Owens, primarily during his work on the Apollo and Skylab Programs between 1973 and 1974. There are also program and work support certificates from the 1970s included in this series. The materials currently are stored loosely in the same oversized box as the artifacts, and in no particular order.

### **Box                      Item Description**

#### **Box 3**

Oversized Item 1: NASA Group Achievement Award for Lunar Landing Team, April 2, 1973.

Oversized Item 2: NASA Group Achievement Award for Skylab Real-Time Planning Team, October 19, 1973.

Oversized Item 3: NASA Group Achievement Award for Skylab Real-Time Planning Team, April 15, 1974.

Oversized Item 4: Congressional Resolution and Presidential Proclamation recognizing the first manned lunar landing, July 17, 1979.

Oversized Item 5: Apollo 16 support certificate with crew emblem, undated.

Oversized Item 6: Apollo 17 support certificate with crew emblem, undated.



Oversized Item 7: Skylab I support certificate with crew emblem, undated.

Oversized Item 8: Skylab II support certificate with crew emblem, undated.

Oversized Item 9: Skylab III support certificate with crew emblem, undated.

Oversized Item 10: Apollo Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) support certificate with crew emblem, undated.

Oversized Item 11: Apollo Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) Award, undated.

Oversized Item 12: Approach and Landing Test (ALT) Program Award with medallion, undated.

Oversized Item 13: Framed 1004 Club certificate for successful 1004-hour test of Powercel 3A-2D module, 1966.

### **Series B: Artifacts**

Series B contains plaques, a paperweight, unidentified metal object, mission patches, mission pins, medallions, and badges, collected and/or used by Shelby Owens during his work at NASA Johnson Space Center. The larger artifacts are currently stored loosely in an oversized flat archival box. The smaller items—like patches, pins, and badges—are stored in a smaller flat archival box (in the future, these need to be separated into special artifact boxes). ***Researchers should have caution handling some of these smaller items with pins or sharper metal pieces.***

### **Box 3**

Artifact 1: Plaque—“In Commemoration of Man’s First Lunar Landing” with Apollo 11 and Beech Aircraft Corporation Cryogenic Gas Storage System medallions, 1969.

Artifact 2: Framed and mounted metal “For Your Contribution to the First Manned Lunar Landing”, 1969.

Artifact 3: Plaque—Pratt & Whitney, depicting cathode, matrix, anode, ERP, H2 field, O2 field, undated.

Artifact 4: Paperweight – The Alamo Consulting Group – “Cause Analysis, Decision Making, Plan Analysis, Situation Review”, undated.

Artifact 5: Unidentified metal object/cap with threading, undated.

### **Box 4**

Artifact 6: Apollo II/second anniversary medallion, 1971.

Artifact 7: NASA 25th anniversary medallion, 1983.

Artifacts 8-12: 5 original NASA mission patches, undated.

Artifacts 13-18: 6 original NASA mission pins, undated.

Artifact 19-20: 2 original Rockwell International Space Division badges for Shelby Owens, 1974.

Artifact 21-29: 9 original NASA Apollo Mission Evaluation badges for Shelby Owens, undated.

Artifact 30-31: 2 original NASA Apollo Flight Readiness Review badges for Shelby Owens, undated

Artifact 32-34: 3 original NASA Apollo Control Room badges for Shelby Owens, undated.

Artifact 35: 1 original NASA Apollo 4 visitor badge for Shelby Owens, undated.

Artifact 36: 1 original NASA Apollo Soyuz Mission Evaluation badge for Shelby Owens, undated.

Artifact 37: 1 original NASA SSPO JSC/WPEC badge for Shelby Owens, undated.

Artifact 38: 1 original PSC SEB badge for Shelby Owens, undated.

Artifact 39-41: 3 original NASA Space Shuttle MCC badges for Shelby Owens, undated.