FINDING AID FOR THE
AARON COHEN PAPERS, 1954-2009 (#2011-0007)

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: University Archives

Collection: 2011-0007

Title: Aaron Cohen Papers

Creator: Aaron Cohen

Inclusive Dates: 1954-2009

Extent: 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

Language: English

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: None

Acquisition Information: Donated by Ruth Cohen, March 29, 2011

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Biographical/Historical Note

Aaron Cohen was born in Corsicana, Texas, on January 5, 1931. After graduating from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1952, Cohen served as a U.S. Army officer for two years during the Korean War era. On returning to civilian life, he worked for RCA as a microwave tube design engineer from 1954 to 1958, whereupon he moved to General Dynamics Corporation. In 1958, Cohen received a Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from Stevens Institute of Technology.

In 1962, Cohen joined NASA as a structures and materials engineer in the Spacecraft Research Division. He assumed positions of progressively greater responsibility until he was named manager of the Apollo Command and Service Modules in 1969. Cohen held this position until

1972, when he became manager of the Space Shuttle Orbiter Office. In this capacity, Cohen oversaw the design, development, production, and test flights of the Space Shuttle orbiters. In 1982, he was promoted to Director of Engineering at the Johnson Space Center, and four years later, he became director of the center. He served in that post until 1992.

Aaron Cohen then served as the Acting Deputy Administrator of NASA between February 19, 1992, and November 1, 1992. In 1993, Cohen retired from NASA to become H.B. Zachry Professor of Engineering at Texas A&M University, his alma mater, while simultaneously serving as a senior technical advisor for Kistler Aerospace Corporation in Kirkland, Washington.

Among other awards, Cohen was awarded the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executives, the highest award given to federal executives, in 1982 and 1988. In addition, he received NASA's highest honor, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, in 1973, 1981, and 1988. Cohen was a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the American Astronautical Society and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Aaron Cohen died on February 25, 2010.

Scope and Content

The collection covers Aaron Cohen's career from 1954 to 2009 with biographical and personnel data; correspondence; writings, speeches, and interviews by Cohen; documents from RCA, NASA, and Texas A& M University; NASA presentations and proposals; honors and awards; reports and studies; slides and transparencies; publications; business cards; and DVD recordings of class lectures. Box 1 contains biographical data, correspondence, writings by Cohen, speeches and interviews by him, and schematic drawings from RCA. Box 2 contains other RCA documents and NASA presentations. Box 3 contains additional NASA presentations and proposals, information on honors and awards, information on Cohen's participation in AeroAstro annual, and a report on space exploration cost. Box 4 contains NASA reports and studies as well as publications and newspaper clippings and flyers, slides, photographs, and transparencies. Box 5 contains miscellaneous documents, business cards, and DVDs of Cohen's lectures at MIT.

Index Terms

Personal Names: Cohen, Aaron; Cohen, Ruth; Bush, George H.W.; Quayle, Dan; Sagan, Carl; Goldin, Daniel S.; Truly, Richard H.; Kraft, Christopher C., Jr.

Corporate Names: Radio Corporation of American (RCA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Texas A&M University, Johnson Space Center, Kistler Aerospace Corporation.

Inventory

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1		**Biographical Features**	
	1	Biographical Data	July 1992-May 1993
	2	Personnel Actions	1960-1993
	3	Resume/CV	Jan. 1973
	4	Press Releases	Oct. 1968-Oct. 2000
		Correspondence	
	5	Personal	1977-2005
	6	NASA	1969-2002
	7	RCA	Sept. 1955-Feb. 1962

	8	Texas A&M University	May-June 1993
	9	**Writings (by Cohen)**	undated
	10	Criteria for Systems Integration Selection	undated
	11	Project Management Experience	undated
	12	Ceramic Windows for Microwave Tubes	undated
	13	Space Shuttle Orbiter	undated
	14	The Texas Space Grant Multi-University Multi-Disciplinary Design Project	undated
	15	Refractory Metal Facings for Protection of Metal Surfaces Subjected to Repeated High-Temperature Pulses	1958
	16	Progress of Manned Space Flight from Apollo to Space Shuttle	Jan. 1984
	17	Mars Rover Sample Return Delivery and Return Challenges	1988
	18	Issues in NASA Program and Project Management	1988
	19	Report of the 90-Day Study on Human Exploration of the Moon and Mars: Cost Summary	Nov. 1989
	20	Report of the 90-Day Study on Human Exploration of the Moon and Mars	Nov. 1989
	21	Human Exploration of Space and Power Development	Oct. 1991
	22	Variables to be Considered for Further Human Exploration of Space	Jan. 1992
	23	The Future of Manned Spaceflight	1993
	24	Delta Clipper University Alliance Program Hands-on Education	Oct. 1994
	25	**Speeches & Interviews**	undated
	26	The Next Fifty Years of Space Exploration	Oct. 1990
	27	Look to the Heavens…and Remember	July 1991
	28	Why We Fly	August 1991
	29	The Future of Manned Space Flight	Feb. 1992
	30	Humans in the Loop	Sept.1992
	31	1992 Women in Aerospace Award Ceremonies	Sept.1992
	32	Houston: On the Frontiers of Medicine and Space	Nov. 1992
	33	Presentation of the George M. Low Trophy and the JSC Team Excellence Award at IBM	Dec.1992
	34	“Change Within NASA”: Overview and Talking Points	May 1993
	35	Our Common Vision: New Technologies, New Challenges, New Opportunities	May 1993
		RCA	
	36	Schematic Drawings	
2	1	Patent Disclosure Data Sheet	Mar. 1956-Jan. 1958
	2	Reports	Dec. 1956
	3	Employee Invention Agreement	Oct. 1954
		Presentations	
	4	Interfaces: Apollo 13	undated
	5	Apollo 13	undated
	6-7	Space shuttle	undated
	8	Lunar and Mars Exploration	undated
	9	Chronology of Shuttle Economic Studies	undated
	10	Retirement	undated
	11	Rocket Performance Overview	undated

	12	Space Station Development Program Cost Estimate	July 1984
	13	Space Station Wraparound Costs	August 1984
	14	NUS Assumptions and Design Guidelines	July 1988
	15	Mars Rover Sample Return Mission: Delivery and Return Challenges	Nov. 1988
	16	Schedule-Driven and Enhanced Technology Program Options	Nov. 1989
	17	Impact of Funding Limitations: 3% Annual Growth	Nov. 1989
	18	Orbital Mechanics Tutorial	Sept. 1990
	19	The Horizons Ahead: Opportunity and Challenge on the Final Frontier	Apr. 1993
	20	Streamlining	May 1993
	21	W. Edwards Deming	Sept. 1990
3	1	Exploration of Mars Strategic Roadmap Committee	Jan. 2005
	2	Robotic and Human Exploration of Mars: Roadmap Committee Meeting #2	Feb. 2005
	3	Tradition and Change: Opportunity and Change on the Final Frontier	April 1993
		Proposals	
	4	Development of the NASA/Baylor Axial Flow Pump for Ventricular Support	Sept. 1993-Aug. 1994
	5	**Honors and Awards**	undated
	6	Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership	1992
	7	AeroAstro annual	2008-2009
		Reports & Studies	
	8	Preliminary Estimate of Exploration Program Cost	July 1989
4	1	Human Exploration of Space: A Review of NASA's 90-Day Study and Alternatives (three copies)	1990
	2	Keeping the Dream Alive: Managing the Space Station Program, 1982-1986	July 1990
	3	Estimating Demand for the National Advanced Driving Simulator	1995
	4	Air Traffic Control Facilities: Improving Methods To Determine Staffing Requirements	1997
	5	Review of the U.S. Department of Defense Air, Space, and Supporting Information Systems Science and Technology Program	2001
	6	Report on Systems Integration for Project Constellation	Sept. 2004
		Publications	
	7	Proceedings of the IEEE	March 1987
	8	Journal Issues: One issue each of NewsReport and The Bridge	1990-1995
	9	Newspaper clippings and flyers	1989-1996
		Slides	
	10	Artists' renderings of lunar missions, shuttle missions, the international space station, planets, and other space concepts	undated
	11	The Horizons Ahead (MIT speech)	undated
	12	AIAA presentation on Mars rover sample return mission	Nov. 1988
	13	AIAA presentation	Feb. 1989
	14	Apollo	Oct. 1960
	15	Unlabeled slides of Cohen interacting with others at a conference and artists' renderings of space concepts	Jan. 1962

	16	**Photographs**	
		Transparencies	
	17	Inspirational Message	undated
	18	Space Shuttle	undated
5		**Documents**	
	1	Kistler Aerospace Corporation	undated
	2	Description for Apollo Guidance Computer	undated
	3	Apollo 11 System Support List	undated
	4	Rocket Design Data Handbook	undated
	5	Rocket Thesaurus	undated
	6	Agenda, Block II CSM Delta DCR	July 1968
	7	Review of S/C 103 to accomplish lunar-orbital or circumlunar mission	August 1968
	8	Mentoring	2007
	9	Giant Leaps Symposium (MIT)	June 2009
		Business cards	
DVD		**DVD**	
	1	Lecture-16.885J/ESD 35J-Aircraft System Engineering-Professor Jeffrey Hoffman	Sept. 8, 2005
	2	Lecture-16.885J/ESD 35J-Aircraft System Engineering-Professor Jeffrey Hoffman	Sept. 13, 2005
	3	Lecture-16.885J/ESD 35J-Aircraft System Engineering-Professor Jeffrey Hoffman	Sept. 15, 2005
	4	Lecture-16.885J/ESD 35J-Aircraft System Engineering-Professor Jeffrey Hoffman	Sept. 20, 2005
	5	Lecture-16.885J/ESD 35J-Aircraft System Engineering-Professor Jeffrey Hoffman	Sept. 22, 2005
	6	Lecture-16.885J/ESD 35J-Aircraft System Engineering-Professor Jeffrey Hoffman	Sept. 27, 2005
	7	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Sept. 29, 2005
	8	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 4, 2005
	9	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 6, 2005
	10	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 13, 2005
	11	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 18, 2005
	12	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 20, 2005
	13	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 25, 2005
	14	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Oct. 27, 2005
	15	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 1, 2005
	16	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 3, 2005
	17	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 8, 2005
	18	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 10, 2005
	19	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 17, 2005
	20	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 22, 2005
	21	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Nov. 29, 2005
	23	OCW 16.885 Aircraft System Engineering	Dec. 1, 2005
	24	MIT Lecture Bass Redd	undated