

Thomas O. Paine Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by Kathleen M. Dondanville and Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Scott McLemee

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Revised 2012 August

Collection Summary

Title: Thomas O. Paine Papers

Span Dates: 1931-1992

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1960-1982)

ID No.: MSS49866

Creator: Paine, Thomas O., 1921-1992

Extent: 64,000 items

Extent: 183 containers

Extent: 73 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82049866>

Summary: 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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Aldrin, Buzz--Correspondence.

Bradbury, Ray, 1920-2012--Correspondence.

Glenn, John, 1921-2016--Correspondence.

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

Jones, Thomas V., 1920-2014--Correspondence.

Paine, Thomas O., 1921-1992.

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.

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

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 has been dedicated to the public.

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

Date	Event
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

Container	Series
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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Arrangement is alphabetical by topic or type of material.</p>

Container List

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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.
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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.

General Correspondence, 1955-1991

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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.
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