



# Smithsonian

## *National Air and Space Museum*

### Space Astronomy Oral History Project

Mark Kahn

2007



National Air and Space Museum Archives  
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
NASMRefDesk@si.edu  
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Space Astronomy Oral History Project
<b>Date:</b>	1981-1991
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1999.0034
<b>Creator:</b>	DeVorkin, David H., 1944-
<b>Extent:</b>	3.59 Cubic feet (19 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The collection consists of the transcripts for the Space Astronomy Oral History Project (SAOHP), which examined the early use of rockets and satellites to study the upper atmosphere and space for the period 1946 through the early 1960s. This project constitutes one of several oral history projects conducted within the Department of Space History, NASM. The principal investigator for the SAOHP was David H. DeVorkin, and the interview set contains 225 hours of interviews with 56 individuals. The central thread of this collection is how the availability of new technologies for research, first the rocket and later satellites, helped to create a new social matrix for research. The following were interviewed: Jules Aaron; Ball Brothers; William Baum, William Behring; Jay Bergstrahl; Richard Bleach; William Brunk; Arthur Code; Jerry Conner; Frank Drake; William Fastie; Lorence Fraser; Herbert Friedman; Phyllis Frier; Robert Frosch; George Gianoplis; Thomas Gold; Leo Goldberg; Martin Harwit; Ralph Havens; Albert Hibbs; Noel Hinners; Hans Hinteregger; Charles Johnson; Francis Johnson; Adolph Jursa; Henry Kondracki; Ernst Krause; Alfred Nier; Gerry Neugebauer; Werner Neupert; Ray Newburn; Gordon Newkirk; Edward Ney; Charles O'Dell; William Pickering; Richard Porter; James Purcell; William Rense; Walter Roberts; Nancy Roman; Milton Rosen; Dan Scheiderman; Ronald Schorn; Martin Schwarzschild; Richard Silberstein; John Simpson; Lyman Spitzer; Kaj Strand; Nelson Spencer; John Strong; Gerald Tape; Clyde Tombaugh; Richard Tousey; Mona Tycz; James Van Allen; Gerald Wasserburg; James Webb; James Westphal; Charles Whitsett; Fred Wilshusen; and George Withbroe.</p>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Space History, NASM, Transfer, 1999, 1999-0034, Varies

### Processing Information

Additional material: This collection consists only of the interview transcripts, not the tapes. The tapes are housed in the National Air and Space Museum Department of Space History.

## Preferred Citation

Space Astronomy Oral History Project, Acc. 1994-0034, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

The audio cassette tapes of these interviews have yet to be remastered and, due to their fragility, are unavailable to researchers. Transcripts are available to researchers though, there are restrictions placed on a number of them. A NASM staff member will advise the patron which transcripts are available for copying or viewing and how to order copies of transcripts and/or CDs.

## Conditions Governing Use

[Permissions Requests](#)

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## Historical Note

This collection contains the interviews for the Space Astronomy Oral History Project. These interviews explore the early use of rockets and satellites over the period 1946 through the early 1960s to investigate the upper atmosphere and space. This project constitutes one of several oral history projects conducted within the National Air and Space Museum's (NASM) Department of Space History. The principal interviewer for this project was David H. DeVorkin and the interview set consists of 225 hours of interviews with 67 individuals. Please note that there are a few instances where audio cassette tapes of the interview subjects exist but without written transcripts while there are also a few cases of existing transcripts of the interviews without any audio cassette tapes. The following were interviewed for this project: Jules Aaron; Frank Bateson; William Alvin Baum; William Behring; Jay Thor Bergstrahl; Richard Bleach; William E. Brunk; Arthur Dodd Code; Jerry Conner; Fred Dolder; Frank Donald Drake; William G. Fastie; Lorence Fraser; Phyllis Freier; Herbert Friedman; Robert Frosch; Reuben H. Gablehouse; R.A.Gaiser; George Gianopolis; Thomas Gold; Leo Goldberg; Martin Otto Harwit; Ralph Havens; Albert Roach Hibbs; Noel Hinnens; Hans Erich Hinteregger; Charles Yothers Johnson; Francis S. Johnson; Adolph Simon Jursa; Jerome Kohl; Henry Kondracki; Ernst Henry Krause; R.C. Mercure; Alfred O. Neir; Gerry Neugebauer; Werner Neupert; Ray Leon Newburn; Gordon Allen Newkirk; Edward P. Ney; Charles Robert O'Dell; William Hayward Pickering; Richard W. Porter; James D. Purcell; William A. Rense; Walter Orr Roberts; Nancy Grace Roman; Milton W. Rosen; Dan Schneiderman; Ronald A. Schorn; Martin Schwarzschild; Richard Silberstein; John Simpson; Nelson W. Spencer; Lyman Spitzer, Jr.; Kaj Strand; John Strong; Gerald Tape; Clyde William Tombaugh; Richard Tousey; Mona Tycz; James Van Allen; Gerald Joseph Wasserburg; James Edwin Webb; James A. Westphal; Charles Edward Whitsett; Fred Wilshusen and George Withbroe.

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## Scope and Contents

Audio cassettes and transcripts.

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## Arrangement

The Space Astronomy Oral History Project interviews are arranged alphabetically by interviewee.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Artificial satellites  
Astronautics  
Astronomy  
Atmosphere, Upper -- Rocket observations  
Rockets (Aeronautics)

Types of Materials:

Transcripts

Names:

Aaron, Jules  
Baum, William  
Behring, William  
Bergstrahl, Jay T.  
Bleach, Richard  
Brunk, William Edward, 1928-  
Code, Arthur D.  
Connor, Jerry  
DeVorkin, David H., 1944-  
Drake, Frank D.  
Fastie, William  
Fraser, Lorence  
Friedman, Herbert  
Frier, Phyllis  
Frosch, Robert  
Gianopolis, George  
Gold, Thomas  
Goldberg, Leo  
Harwit, Martin, 1931-  
Hibbs, Albert R.  
Hinnners, Noel W.  
Hinteregger, Hans H.  
Johnson, Charles Yothers, 1920-  
Johnson, Francis  
Jursa, Adolph S.  
Kondracki, Henry  
Krause, Ernst H.  
National Air and Space Museum (U.S.). Division of Space History  
Neugebauer, G. (Gerry)  
Neupert, Werner  
Newburn, R. L. (Ray L.)  
Newkirk, Gordon Allen, 1928-  
Ney, Edward  
Nier, Alfred  
O'Dell, Charles  
Pickering, William  
Porter, Richard W. (Richard William), 1913-1996  
Purcell, J. DeWitt (James DeWitt), 1912-1986  
Rense, William  
Roberts, Walter  
Roman, Nancy Grace, 1925-  
Rosen, Milton W.

Scheiderman, Dan  
Schorn, Ronald  
Schwarzschild, Martin  
Silberstein, Richard  
Simpson, John A. (John Alexander), 1916-2000  
Space Astronomy Oral History Project (SAOHP) (U.S.)  
Spencer, Nelson  
Spitzer, Lyman, 1914-  
Strand, K. Aage (Kaj Aage), 1907-  
Strong, John  
Tape, Gerald  
Tombaugh, Clyde William, 1906-  
Tousey, Richard, 1908-1997  
Tycz, Mona  
Van Allen, James Alfred, 1914-  
Wasserburg, Gerald  
Webb, James E. (James Edwin), 1906-1992  
Westphal, James  
Whitsett, Charles  
Wilshusen, Fred  
Withbroe, G. L. (George L.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Audio cassette tapes

Language: English.

Restrictions: These tapes have yet to be remastered and, due to their fragility, are not available to researchers.

Scope and Contents: Boxes 1-13 contain interviews on audio cassette tapes.

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Box 1	Ball Brothers [Gablehouse and Dolder], January 13, 1982 [tape 1 of 2]
Box 1	Ball Brothers [Bartoe, Dolder, Gablehouse, Gaiser and Mercure] (restricted), January 13, 1982 [tape 2 of 2]
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Box 1	Behring, William [tape 1 of 2], April 7, 1983 [tape 1 of 2] <a href="#">Audio: Behring, William (Side-A)</a> <a href="#">Audio: Behring, William (Side-B)</a>
Box 1	Behring, William [tape 2 of 2], April 7, 1983 [tape 2 of 2] <a href="#">Audio: Behring, William (Side-A)</a> <a href="#">Audio: Behring, William (Side-B)</a>
Box 1	Bergstrahl, Jay Thor [tape 1 of 2], July 13, 1983 [tape 1 of 2] <a href="#">Audio: Bergstrahl, Jay Thor (Side-A)</a> <a href="#">Audio: Bergstrahl, Jay Thor (Side-B)</a>
Box 1	Bergstrahl, Jay Thor [tape 2 of 2], July 13, 1983 [tape 2 of 2] <a href="#">Audio: Bergstrahl, Jay Thor (Side-A)</a>
Box 1	Bergstrahl, Jay Thor [tape 1 of 2], August 1, 1983 [tape 1 of 2] <a href="#">Audio: Bergstrahl, Jay Thor (Side-A)</a> <a href="#">Audio: Bergstrahl, Jay Thor (Side-B)</a>
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Box 1	Bleach, Richard (restricted) [tape 2 of 2], May 11, 1984 [tape 2 of 2]
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Box 2	Drake, Frank Donald (restricted) [tape 1 of 2], December 9, 1983 [tape 1 of 2]
Box 2	Drake, Frank Donald (restricted) [tape 2 of 2], December 9, 1983 [tape 2 of 2]
Box 2	Fastie, William G. [tape 1 of 2], February 2, 1993



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## Series 2: Transcripts

Language: English.

Restrictions: Most of these transcripts are available to researchers though, restrictions are placed on a small number of them. Transcripts with user restrictions are highlighted in **bold (restricted)** type.

Scope and Contents: Boxes 14-19 contain transcripts for these cassette tapes.

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