

HISTORY OF THE AEROSPACE DIVISION By Scott Brackett, Division Archivist

The Aerospace Division was first organized in 1959 in Atlantic City, NJ. It became the Aerospace Section in 1963 and received full division status in 1965. It was established primarily to encourage the cooperation and free exchange of ideas and information between libraries and librarians who were directly concerned with aerospace and aeronautical technology (and related sciences). It also was to maintain a dialogue with NASA and other governmental agencies, and technical societies, such as the AIAA.

Per Sci-Tech News, Kathy Harkness, Chair of the Aerospace Section in 1997, it moved from a Division back to a Section, under the Engineering Division, effective January 1, 1997. Per Sci-Tech News Vol. 51, Issue 1, 1997

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THE EARLY YEARS

On May 28, 1965, Malcolm M. Ferguson (Library Supervisor of Itek Corp. and chairman of the Aerospace Section of the Science-Technology Division) submitted a letter to the Board of Directors of the SLA requesting them to establish the section as a division. The original letter was accompanied by a petition of 156 names. On June 16, 1965, Bill M. Woods (Executive Director of SLA) sent a letter to Mr. Ferguson stating that “you will be pleased to learn that the Board of Directors, at its June 6 meeting, approved the May 28, 1965 petition for the establishment of an Aerospace Division...” He further stated that “there seems nothing more to do at this point, other than to declare the new division in existence and to wish it well....”

The division’s first slate of officers in 1965-66 were: Chairman, Michel Friedlander (Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp.); Chairman-elect, Herbert S. White (NASA and SLA President 1968/69); Secretary, Margaret Sloane (TRW, Inc.); and Treasurer, Keith G. Blair (General Dynamics).

The original by-laws were not submitted until May 2, 1966, fully at year after the division was established. They were approved on June 1, 1966, in Minneapolis, MN, by “the majority of those present sufficient for approval.” Membership was officially listed at 213. One of the first fund raising activities of the division was the publishing of *Proceedings in Print (PIP)*. There was a great deal of controversy surrounding this undertaking, and the records are filled with claims and counterclaims. In any case, PIP brought in over \$6,000 in profits the first twenty months of its existence! In 1967, it was spun off as a non-SLA publication.

The 1967 annual business meeting was held in New York City at Commodore Hotel and it boasts the first complete record of attendees (of which there were 37, see Attachment 1). Catherine (Kitty) Scott (Bellcom, Inc.) was chairman of the Nominating Committee that year.

By 1968 the division had grown to 312 members. Forty-seven attended the annual business meeting in Los Angeles on June 3, 1968. Roger de Tonnancour (General Dynamics) was elected vice chairman/chairman-elect. A motion was made (and defeated), to change the name of the division. Jo Ann Clifton (Litton and later SLA president 1988/89) was chairman of the Nominations/ Elections Committee for 1969. In August 1972, the SLA was reclassified by the Internal Revenue Service from an IRC Section 501 (c)(6) organization to an IRC Section 501

(c)(3), which meant that it was exempt from state and local taxes. Because the divisions are integral units of the association, the divisions also are exempt from state and local sales taxes.

THE SEVENTIES

As of May 1972, the Aerospace Division had \$187.32 in its operating fund, and over \$9,000 in its reserve fund. The 1973 meeting in Pittsburgh produced a motion to contribute \$1,000.00 to the SLA Research Projects Grants-in-Aid fund. Bill Jones of Northrop made the motion, which was seconded by Edyth Moore - SLA President 1974/75.

In June 1974, a new project (chaired by Jay McKee of Martin Marietta Aerospace) was initiated to produce a book on aerospace industry awards. Ruth Smith (Institute for Defense Analyses) was Chairman-Elect and George Mandel (NASA, Lewis Research Center) ran for treasurer. Joe Ann Clifton was responsible for the conference program. She arranged for a "Paper Contest," with the winning paper's author being awarded a round trip fare to Toronto. Second place was worth \$175.00. The topic was: "Problem Solving in Libraries of the 1970's."

Kitty Scott reported at the 1975 conference in Chicago that the *Handbook of Aerospace Awards and Trophies* was ready for publication. In addition, a brochure *How to Obtain a Translation* by Betty Brociner was recommended by the Executive Board as something the division could publish. Virginia Raynes (McDonnell Douglas Corp.) made the motion to publish the handbook; the motion was seconded by Olive Whitehead (RCA); and it passed. In addition, a membership directory was prepared and distributed and five articles by division members were published in *Sci-Tech News*. Jacquelyne K George (TRW Systems Group) won first prize in the paper contest, and Bill Jones was elected Chair-Elect. Membership stood at 172.

George Mandel was selected Chair-Elect at the 1976 Conference in Denver, and Stan Elman (Lockheed California) was elected Secretary. Diana Carey (Boeing) was named Treasurer. Stan Elman also won first place in the Third Aerospace Paper Contest, with "A cost-effective machine-readable technical data base for aerospace libraries." Lee Castrow of Aerospace Systems, Inc., was second with "A study for a classification scheme in the research library." The Smithsonian Institution Press agreed to publish the *Handbook of Aerospace Awards and Trophies*. *How to Obtain a Translation* was published and made available in January 1977 for \$3.00. The treasury had approximately \$10,000.00 in it at the time.

In 1977/78 Virginia Raynes (McDonnell Douglas Corp.) and Kitty Scott (National Air and Space Museum) tied for the position of Chair-Elect and Mary Berger (Ferro Corp.) and Olive Whitehead (RCA) tied for Secretary, too. Virginia and Olive were eventually declared the winners. The division's emblem for the 1977 New York Conference was a red bird, which was to be worn on member badges. The division also made a donation of \$2,000.00 to be used in the publication of the *International Handbook of Aerospace Awards and Trophies*. A committee, consisting of Virginia Raynes, Bill Ebner, Virginia Ford, and Bill Jones, was established to look into a name change for the division. Division finances were approximately at \$6,000.00. A goal was set by Vic Michel (Archives Chairman) to develop a brief, but accurate history of the division.

There were 25 members present on June 13, 1978, for the business meeting in Kansas City. George Mandel introduced the two students that the division had sponsored (Kathryn Corrigan and Ron Weber). The treasury also contained \$4,698.33 and membership was at 170. The Bylaws were changed to allow for an unopposed slate of candidates to run for office. The Division Name/Scope Committee recommended that the name not be changed. New officers for the coming year were Urban Sweeney (General Dynamics, Convair Division), Chairperson-Elect, and Sheila Maxwell (SPAR Aerospace Products of Toronto, Canada), Secretary. 1978 was also a year of great tragedy for the division -Virginia Raynes, Chairman of the Aerospace Division, died on September 6.

1979 was the year of the most ambitious annual conference that SLA had ever attempted it was in Honolulu, HI. Those of us who were able to attend will always remember our week in the islands. SLA will always remember that it lost money due to poor attendance.

THE EIGHTIES

Washington, D.C., was the site of the 1980 conference. The annual business meeting was held on June 9 in the Conservatory of the Washington Hilton Hotel. Thirty-four members were present. Barbara Margusson became the new editor of *Sci-Tech News*. NASA also requested division support for the publication of the *NASA/DDC Criss-Cross Index*.

Stan Elman reported, too, that sales of *The International Handbook of Aerospace Awards and Trophies* were higher than expenses incurred (for advertising it). A great deal of discussion resulted concerning the lack of growth on the part of the division. Several suggestions or recommendations were made, including one to merge it with another division. Sheila Maxwell was appointed Co-Chairperson for Canada of the Membership and Recruitment Committee.

Kitty Scott chaired the 1981 business meeting in Atlanta, GA, on June 14. Vivian Arterbery and Stan Elman reported on the mid-winter meeting in Portland, OR, that they were able to attend. Lydia Johnstone also announced that she had been appointed chair of the new Public Affairs Committee, in addition to being the official Division liaison for the Detroit conference. Project Outreach also resulted in the division's membership increasing to 196. A 1980 supplement to *The International Handbook of Aerospace Awards and Trophies* was prepared and would be distributed free of charge to all of the original subscribers. The new Chairman-Elect was Shelia Maxwell. The tour of Lockheed-Georgia CO. in Marietta was a terrific success.

Project Outreach continued to be an effective membership tool, and the division grew to 212 members by June 1982 and the Detroit conference. The division lost another one of its key members in 1982 when Charles Bauer (Lockheed-Georgia) died on March 31. The division also suffered a couple of losses when Bill Jones and Olive Whitehead decided to retire. Lelia Nyberg of USC and John Watson of Catholic University were the students sponsored that year. Dawn Villere took over the Projects Committee Chair from Jacquelyne George. Judy Luther reproduced copies of the "How about an Aerospace Library" and mailed it out to 110 aerospace librarians to promote liaison work between library schools and students. The treasury contained \$3,066.22.

Forty-one members were able to attend the 1983 business meeting in New Orleans. In conjunction with the Engineering Division, the division co-sponsored a program on robotics. In

addition, tours were held of the NASA/Martin Marietta MICHOU Assembly Facility (where the fuel tank of the Space Shuttle is assembled) and the National Space Technology Laboratory. Membership was at 218 now. Jay McKee was the new Chair-Elect.

A return to the "Big Apple" in 1984 and SLA's 75th Anniversary brought 51 members to the annual business meeting at the New York Hilton. Lydia Johnstone presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Barbara Lawrence for the work she contributed to the division in 1983/84. Joyce Shields also presented a paper entitled: "Realistics of the 80s: What to do until your ILS arrives." Randy Mullis of the University of North Carolina was presented with a "Certificate of Appreciation" and a check for \$250.00 as the division's sponsored student. Aerospace Daily graciously sponsored a breakfast for members, too. Membership stood at 224.

North of the border, Winnipeg, Canada, was the site of the annual conference and business meeting in 1985. There, Cynthia Davis resigned as Chair-Elect, for personal reasons, and Ralph Lewis (Lockheed Missiles and Space Company) accepted the Executive Board's appointment as Chair-Elect. One hundred ninety-five of 250 copies, of the *Criss-Cross Directory of NASA "N" Numbers and DOD "AD" Numbers, 1962-1978* had been sold (with a profit of \$510.55). Membership was 242. The division also sponsored a panel discussion on "Quality Circle Experience in Libraries." A program entitled "NASA Space Station Program Activities; Materials Processing in Space" was sponsored by the division. Aerospace Daily again hosted a breakfast program for members. Scott Brackett (Lear Siegler, Inc.) presented a paper entitled: "Aerospace Information; Old Sources, New Technology."

The 1986 Boston conference was a great success in spite of the Boston Celtics taking the NBA playoffs to a seventh game and thereby playing havoc with the entire hotel reservation system for the first few days of the conference. The division sponsored a joint program called "Technological Innovations for Excellence."

Anaheim, CA, was the site of the 1987 conference and, with the support of the local Southern California aerospace industry, 41 members were on hand for the business meeting. George Mandel announced that the *Criss-Cross Directory.....* had sold over two hundred copies at a profit of \$2,550.55! In addition, NASA had approved a second edition. Herb Sclar of Updata also offered to print 250 copies of the directory on microfiche at no cost. The treasury stood at \$6,089.99. AIAA and the Aerospace Database sponsored the division's suite at the Anaheim Hilton. Dr. Paul MacCready presented a program on the Gossamer Condor, the Gossamer Albatross and the Flying Pterodactyl. The Jet Propulsion Lab, the Queen Mary and the Spruce Goose were the sites for the annual field trip.

The division celebrated its 25th anniversary in Denver, CO, in 1988. Membership was 267 and the treasury contained \$5,719.38. Mead Data Central, AIAA, and IHS helped fund the divisional suite. Forty-two members were present at the business meeting, and Lynn Ecklund was elected Chair-Elect. At the request of SLA headquarters, Betty Tyson compiled an annotated bibliography of "Best Sources" for a basic aerospace collection (Attachment 2). Dawn Villere also was able to attend the mid-winter meeting in Williamsburg, VA. Programs the division sponsored were: How to get it - a guide to acquiring government publications; International

Defense Information II; Expert systems in libraries; Powerful job descriptions; and a field trip to the Air Force Academy. Scott Brackett and Felicia Bagby (Lear Astronics) presented a paper - entitled: "Libraries in Transition Dealing with a Corporate Breakup" - as well.

The 1989 conference was held in New York City again and was, as usual, very successful. Lynn Ecklund was elected Chair-Elect, and the end of the decade saw the membership total at 279 and the treasury containing over \$10,000.00. The program was again very strong, with the division sponsoring "Online problem solving in Aerospace and Defense" and "End-User Training." NERAC, Mead Corporation, and AIAA helped sponsor the division's conference activities. Mitzi Rinehart also volunteered to chair a committee to compile a directory of Aerospace Division member libraries. Unfortunately the year ended on a negative note with the untimely death of George Mandel on July 16 in an automobile accident.

THE NINETIES

Pittsburgh, PA, was the site of the first conference of the 1990's. Membership had dropped to 264 but the treasury had increased to almost \$13,000.00. An in-depth membership survey was done at the beginning of the year, with the results being published in the October 1989 issue of Sci-Tech News. The division still published two documents (*Translations of Scientific & Technical Literature: A guide to their location*; and the *Criss~Cross Directory of NASA-DOD "N" and "AD" Numbers 1979, Vol. 2*) which were contributing to the division's good financial status. It was decided to establish a "George Mandel Memorial Award (GMMA)" in tribute to his unselfish support of the division and its goals. The GMMA will be given to selected Aerospace Division member(s) each year, for the explicit purpose of providing financial support in attending the SLA Annual Conference. Leona Jarabek (NASA Lewis Research Center) agreed to accept the position of Chair of Special Projects and assume the responsibilities of monitoring and handling the *Criss-Cross Directory*..... Pat Marshall, Director of Library Resources for the AIAA, also was selected as "Fellow of the Special Libraries Association."

1991 saw the annual conference in San Antonio, TX, where Sandy Moltz was elected Chair-Elect. The treasury contained over \$15,000.00. Funds (\$500.00) for the George Mandel Memorial Award were presented for the first time to Tom Pinelii of NASA. The requirements to receive the GMMA were changed to the following: a person must either present a paper, chair or coordinate a program, participate on a panel or be a round-table leader at the conference to be eligible for the award. AIAA, IHS, Mead Data Central, and McGraw-Hill Defense and Aerospace Group donated over \$2,000.00 to the division for expenses. Membership, unfortunately, was down to 257. Pat Marshall retired from the AIAA. Nan Paik, membership chair, was honored with an appointment to the newly formed Bowker Library Advisory Board. And, I don't believe any of us will forget the Dun & Bradstreet/Moody sponsored event at the Dude ranch or any of the Texas hospitality.

San Francisco, CA, was the site of the 1992 conference. As a first time visitor to the "City by the Bay," I believe division members found it to be a truly beautiful place. Susan Clifford was elected Chair-Elect. Phyllis Fischer was awarded the GMMA. Mala Sistla was elected Chair-Elect (in 1993 in Cincinnati, OH). Carroll Publishing Company printed the membership directory (at no cost), and the FAXON Company donated \$250.00 to the GMMA fund. The treasury contained over \$16,000.00 and membership was up to 271. The program again consisted of a

panel discussion on "Technical Report Information," and the division additionally supported programs on "How to get it -- revisited" and "Managing employee diversity."

CONCLUSION

Now, after reviewing 28 years of the division's history, I feel that it has provided impressive leadership and behind-the-scenes support for every professional in the division before and after me. The friendship, fellowship, professional inspiration, and support this division extends to its own is what this division was meant to provide and will continue to provide, as I see it.

I suspect then that when the division's archivist updates the history again sometime about 2021, the 1990s will be evaluated as a period with just as much excitement, commitment and support as the early years were. Now, on to Atlanta!

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