

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Robert Channing Seamans, Jr.

ORAL HISTORY: 30 September 1998
20 November 1998
22 June 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

B.S. in Engineering, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 1939
M.S. in Aeronautics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA,
1942
D.S. in Instrumentation, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 1951

PRE-NASA CAREER:

MIT, Cambridge, MA
Instructor, Department of Aeronautical Engineering (1941-45)
Assistant Professor, Department of Aeronautical Engineering (1945-50)
Associate Professor, Department of Aeronautical Engineering (1950-55)
Project Engineer, Instrumentation Laboratory
Chief Engineer, Project Meteor
Director, Flight Control Laboratory
Radio Corporation of America (RCA), Boston, MA
Manager, Airborne Systems Laboratory, (1955-58)
Chief Systems Engineer, Airborne Systems Department, (1955-58)
Chief Engineer, Missile Electronics and Controls Division, RCA, Burlington, MA
(1958-60)
Member, Science Advisory Board, United States Air Force (USAF) (1957-62)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC
Associate Administrator (1960-65)
Deputy Administrator (1965-68)
Consultant to the Administrator (1968-69)
Associate Adviser, Science Advisory Board, USAF (1963-67)
National Delegate to Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development
(AGARD), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Paris, France (1966-69)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Board Member, Aerospace Corporation, Corporate Office, Los Angeles, CA (1968-69)
Jerome Clarke Hunsaker Visiting Professor, MIT, Cambridge, MA (1968)
Board of Overseers, Harvard University (1968-74)

Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, Washington, DC (1969-73)
President, National Academy of Engineering (1973-74)
Administrator, Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), Washington, DC (1974-77)
MIT, Cambridge, MA
Henry R. Luce Professor of Environmental and Public Policy (1977-84)
Dean of Engineering (1978-82)
Director, Aerospace Corporation, Corporate Office, Los Angeles, CA (1981-84)
Senior Lecturer, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, MIT, Cambridge, MA (1984-96)
Trustee and Chair, Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, MA (1989-93)
Director, Charles Stark Draper Lab, Inc.
Chapter Member, National Cathedral, Washington, DC
Trustee, Museum of Science, Boston, MA
Trustee, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, MA
Trustee and Vice Chair, Carnegie Institution, Washington, DC

CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Fellow, American Astronautics Society
- Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
- Member, Air Force Academy Foundation
- Member, American Academy of Arts & Sciences
- Member, American Astronautics Society
- Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Member, American Philosophical Society
- Member, American Society for Public Administration
- Member, Council on Foreign Relations
- Member, Foreign Policy Association
- Member, International Academy of Astronautics
- Member, National Academy of Engineering
- Member, Sigma Xi (International Honor Society for Engineering and Scientific Research)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Naval Ordnance Development Award, 1945
- Lawrence Sperry Award, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1951
- Godfrey L. Cabot Aviation Award, Aeronautical Club of New England, 1965
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1965
- Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, 1968
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 1969

- General Thomas D. White U.S. Air Force Space Trophy, 1973
- Department of the Air Force Exceptional Civilian Award, 1973
- Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, 1973
- Honorary Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1969
- Ralph Coats Roe Medal, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1977
- National Society of Professional Engineers Achievement Award, (year unknown)
- Thomas D. White National Defense Award, 1980
- Department of the Air Force Exceptional Service Award, 1985
- Honorary D. Sc. (Doctor of Science), Rollins College, 1962
- Honorary D. Sc., New York University, 1967
- Honorary D. Eng. (Doctor of Engineering), Norwich Academy, 1971
- Honorary D. Eng., Notre Dame, 1974
- Honorary D. Eng., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1974
- Honorary LL. D. (Doctor of Laws), University of Wyoming, 1975
- Honorary D. P. S. (Doctor of Public Service), George Washington University, 1975
- Honorary D. B. A. (Doctor of Business Administration), Thomas College, 1980

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:

Seamans, Robert Channing Jr. "Mobilization of energy & space technology," Journal of Propulsion & Power, v.2, no.6 (November-December 1986).

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

NASA. *Biographies of NASA Deputy Administrators*, [NASA History Office Homepage], [Online] (8 July 1997 – Last Updated), Available <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/Biographies/seamans.html> (9 July 1997 – Accessed).

Who's Who in America, 1990-91, 46th ed. s.v. "Seamans, Robert Channing, Jr."

International Who's Who, 1989-90, 53rd ed. s.v. "Seamans, Robert Channing, Jr."

Who's Who in American Politics, 1989-90, 12th ed. s.v. "Seamans, Robert Channing, Jr."

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