

48th IAA HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4)  
Memoirs & organisational histories (1)

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THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTICAL SOCIETY (AAS), 1954-2014

**Abstract**

The American Astronautical Society (AAS) was founded on 22 January 1954 in New York City, New York. The AAS originated as the Staten Island Interplanetary Society to study the possibilities of interplanetary space travel. Although originally founded as an advocacy group, the AAS evolved into a multidisciplinary professional organization whose members shared a common interest in the exploration and development of space. The AAS grew to embrace nontechnical specialists in space history, education, space law, and public policy, for example. This was unusual because spaceflight organizations have tended to be either the exclusive domain of engineers or advocacy groups composed of people not inherently associated with spaceflight. The AAS joined the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) in 1954 shortly after receiving official recognition.

This paper will provide additional details on the activities and accomplishments of the AAS on the celebration of its 60th anniversary.