

The Long Now Foundation Collection CAE2407

Introduction/Abstract

This archive includes foundational documents for the Long Now Foundation and contains years of email among the three founders. It also contains materials such as maps, government geologic surveys, correspondence, and sketches related to the site search for the 10,000-year clock project, titled the *Clock of the Long Now*.

Biographical Note: The Long Now Foundation

The Long Now Foundation, established in 1996, is an American non-profit organization based in San Francisco that seeks to start and promote a long-term cultural institution. It aims to provide a counterpoint to what it views as today's "faster/cheaper" mindset and to promote "slower/better" thinking. The Long Now Foundation hopes to "creatively foster responsibility" in the framework of the next 10,000 years.

The foundation was conceived of by Stewart Brand, editor and publisher of *The Whole Earth Catalogue*. It was founded by Brand, global musician and producer Brian Eno, and Danny Hillis, inventor of massive parallel computing and co-founder of Disney Imagineering. The Foundation's principal project is a 10,000-year clock, originally planned to be sited in Nevada, but when that proved impractical, built near Van Horn, Texas on land donated by Jeff Bezos.

Scope and Content

The archive includes foundational documents for the Long Now Foundation and contains years of email correspondence among the three founders, Stuart Brand, editor and publisher of *The Whole Earth Catalogue*, global musician and producer Brian Eno, and Danny Hillis, the inventor of massive parallel computing and cofounder of Disney Imagineering, regarding creation and philosophy of the foundation.

The Foundation's principal project is a 10,000-year clock, titled the *Clock of the Long Now*. The clock was conceived by Danny Hillis in 1989, who was the lead designer for the first working prototype, which began working on December 31, 1999.

Stewart Brand and Danny Hillis began site research for the *Clock of the Long Now* in the American West, primarily focused on Nevada. They needed a piece of private property that encompassed a geologically robust vertical rise of more than 500 feet to hold the shaft portion of the clock. Materials include maps, government geologic surveys, correspondence, sketches, and other materials related to the site search.

In 1999, The Long Now Foundation purchased property in Nevada, which includes the world's largest privately held Bristlecone Pine grove on the edge of Great Basin National Park on Mount Washington in eastern Nevada. Originally intended for the clock, the land was later deemed to be impractical for several reasons, and the clock was ultimately built near Van Horn, Texas, on land donated by Jeff Bezos. Although close to completion, the final completion date has not been declared by the Foundation.

The property in Nevada is now a site for Jonathon Keats' *Centuries of the Bristlecone* clock, which is bilocated at Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada, and Mount Washington in Eastern Nevada.

This archive is currently in process.