

# Blasingame, B. P. Papers

B. P. Blasingame Papers  
ca. 1962-1978



## Title Statement

Blasingame, B. P. Papers B. P. Blasingame Papers, ca. 1962-1978 Ms.1987.010

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1987.010

### Unit Date

ca. 1962-1978

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

The B. P. Blasingame Papers contains several books, reports, and papers about navigation, inertia, and space flight. Although the majority of the materials are undated, they are likely from the 1960s and 1970s.

### Creator

Draper, C. S. (Charles Stark), 1901-1987

### Creator

Blasingame, B. P. (Benjamin Paul), 1919-

### Extent

0.8 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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## Source of Acquisition

The B. P. Blasingame Papers were donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 1987.

## Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the B. P. Blasingame Papers was completed in April 2015.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], B. P. Blasingame Papers, Ms1987-010, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Dr. Benjamin Paul Blasingame was born on August 1, 1919 in State College, Pennsylvania. He majored in mechanical engineering at Pennsylvania State College and was a cadet in the school's ROTC program. He graduated in 1940 and was called to active duty in the United States Air Force in 1941. While still in the Air Force, Blasingame received his Doctor of Science degree in 1950 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After his military career, Blasingame became the director of engineering at AC Spark Plug, the Electronics Division (Delco) of General Motors. Under his leadership Delco would become the leading contractor for NASA's Apollo guidance and navigation systems.

For a more complete biographical sketch of Dr. Blasingame see:

<http://www.afspc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100405-043.pdf>

# Scope and Content

The B. P. Blasingame Papers contains several books, reports, and papers about navigation, inertia, and space flight. Although the majority of the materials are undated, they are likely from the 1960s and 1970s. Series I: Books and Record Albums includes three books related to the Skylab I-IV space projects, five books related to the Apollo 12, 14, 16, 17, and Apollo-Soyuz missions, and one guide to orbital flight, as well as two copies of the CBS production "Man on the Moon," narrated by Walter Cronkite. Series II: Papers and Reports consists of four official reports by Charles Stark Draper, of Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc., regarding inertial guidance and navigation. There is also a report on the optical tracking of the Apollo 12 spacecraft, published by the Manned Spacecraft Center, and an unpublished report on inertial systems by Dr. Blasingame in this series.

# Keywords

Archives of American Aerospace Exploration (AAAE)

Apollo 12 (Spacecraft)

Apollo 14 (Spacecraft)

Apollo 16 (Spacecraft)

Apollo 17 (Spacecraft)

Apollo Soyuz Test Project

Skylab Program

Science and Technology

# Rights Statement for Archival Description

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series by material type.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series I: Books and Record Albums

**Unit Date** 1962, n.d.

**"Man on the Moon" record albums, Produced by CBS News and narrated by Walter Cronkite (2 copies)**

**box 1**

**Container** 1 (item)

**Skylab I & 2 Program Description, published by Delco Electronics**

**box 1**

**Container** 2 (item)

**Skylab III Program Description, published by Delco Electronics**

**box 1**

**Container** 3 (item)

**Skylab IV Program Description, published by Delco Electronics**

**box 1**

**Container** 4 (item)

**Apollo 12 Guidance and Navigation Summary, published by AC Electronics**

**box 1**

**Container** 5 (item)

**Design Guide to Orbital Flight by Jorgen Jensen, George E. Townsend Jr., John D. Kraft, Jyri Kork. Published by McGraw Hill Book Company. A letter from Carl Kober, of the Martin Company, to Dr. Blasingame**

**Unit Date** 1962

**box 1**

**Container** 6 (item)

**Apollo 14 Guidance and Navigation Summary, published by Delco Electronics**

**box 2**

**Container** 1 (item)

**Apollo 16 Guidance and Navigation Summary, published by Delco Electronics**

**box 2**

**Container** 2 (item)

**Apollo 17 Guidance and Navigation Summary, published by Delco Electronics**

**box 2**

**Container** 3 (item)

**Apollo-Soyuz Project (ASTP) Program Description, published by Delco Electronics**  
**box 2**  
**Container 4 (item)**

**Series II: Papers and Reports**

**Unit Date 1970-1978**

**Reliability Achievement in Inertial Systems by B. P. Blasingame, unpublished**

**Unit Date 1973**

**box-folder 2 (box)**

**Container 1 (folder)**

**NASA Report, Optical Tracking of the Apollo 12 Spacecraft, Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX**

**Unit Date February 17, 1970**

**box-folder 2 (box)**

**Container 1 (folder)**

**Report P-727 The Future of Inertial Navigation by Charles Stark Draper**

**Unit Date October 1978**

**box-folder 2 (box)**

**Container 1 (folder)**

**Report R-1185 Inertial Guidance, Basic Geometrical Theory, Sensor Technology, and Subsystem Functioning by Charles Stark Draper**

**Unit Date August 1978**

**box-folder 2 (box)**

**Container 2 (folder)**

**Report R-923 Engineering Design Features of Sensors for Realizing Ultimately Useful Performance from Systems to Serve the Purposes of Geometrical Stabilization, Control, Tracking, and Guidance (U) by Charles Stark Draper**

**Unit Date December 1975**

**box-folder 2 (box)**

**Container 2 (folder)**

**Report R-886 Ultimately Useful Guidance and Geometrical Indication (U) by Charles Stark Draper**

**Unit Date June 1975**

**box-folder 2 (box)**

**Container 2 (folder)**