

Dean, James, Collection

James Dean Collection

1961-1988



Title Statement

Dean, James, CollectionJames Dean Collection, 1961-1988 Ms.2003.061

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2003.061

Unit Date

1961-1988

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection consists of reference material NASA artist James Dean used in producing the artwork for astronaut Michael Collins' book *Liftoff: The Story of America's Adventure in Space* and Dean's book *Journey into Space*.

Creator

Dean, James D. (1931-2024)

Creator

Collins, Michael, 1930-2021

Extent

4.4 Cubic Feet 9 boxes and 1 oversize folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The James Dean Collection was donated to the Special Collections in 2003 and 2007.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the James Dean Collection commenced and completed prior to 2004. Additional materials were integrated and the description updated in June 2023 and March 2024.

The collection was originally titled Michael Collins Collection: James Dean Resource Material, but during accessioning and processing, the collection was renamed James Dean Collection, to better reflect the contents of the collection.

Part of the processing, arrangement, and description of this collection was created as part of the project, "Piercing the Veil: Creating Access to the Archives of American Aerospace Exploration at Virginia Tech," funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) from 2022 to 2024.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], James Dean Collection, Ms2003-061, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note - James Dean

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, James Dean attended the Swain School of Design in New Bedford, Massachusetts, before eventually playing a key role in the creation of the NASA art program. He became the NASA director of films, publications and television, then founding director of the Fine Arts Program at NASA from 1961-1974, after which serving as the Curator of Art at the National Air and Space Museum. Dean passed away in Washington, D.C. on March 22, 2024, at the age of 92.

Biographical Note - Michael Collins

Pilot, astronaut, U.S. assistant secretary of state, National Air and Space Museum director, and author, Michael Collins was born in Rome, Italy, on October 31, 1930. He graduated from Saint Albans School in Washington, D.C., before attending the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), where he obtained a bachelor of science degree in 1952.

Collins received an Air Force commission and, after pilot training, was assigned to Nellis Air Base for advanced training on the F-86 Sabrejet. Upon completion of training, he was assigned to the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing, stationed in Victorville, California and, later, France. In 1961, Collins completed test pilot school and was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base, where he tested experimental fighter jets. (In the meantime, he had married Patricia Finnegan; the couple would have three children: Kathleen, Ann and Michael.)

Interested in NASA's manned space program, Collins enrolled in the newly established Aerospace Pilot School in 1963. In October of that year, he was among the third group of astronauts selected by NASA. Collins served as a member of the backup crew for the Gemini 7 mission and as pilot of NASA's Gemini 10 mission (launched July 18, 1966) with commander John Young. Among the mission's noteworthy

accomplishments were the establishment of a new orbital altitude record, a rendezvous with an Agena target vehicle, and two spacewalks conducted by Collins.

Due to the rotational basis on which astronauts were assigned to Apollo missions, Collins was originally scheduled to be a member of the Apollo 8 flight crew. His need for back surgery, however, forced his re-assignment to a later mission. The postponement placed Collins on the crew of Apollo 11 (launched July 16, 1969), the first manned mission to land on the lunar surface. As the mission's command module pilot, Collins orbited the moon while commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin descended to its surface.

In January 1970, Collins resigned from NASA and served as assistant secretary of state for public affairs before becoming the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in April 1971; he was promoted to undersecretary of the Smithsonian in April 1978. During this time, Collins began writing about his experiences in the space program, leading to his book *Carrying the Fire* (and a subsequent children's adaptation, *Flying to the Moon and Other Strange Places*). His expertise and talents led to numerous requests for speaking engagements, articles and book reviews. In 1988, he published *Liftoff!*, a book on the history and future of space exploration; his *Mission to Mars* was published in 1990.

Collins served on the boards of numerous organizations and corporations throughout the 1970s and 1980s. He became vice-president of field operations for the Vought Corporation in 1980, then resigned to head his own consulting firm, Michael Collins Associates, in 1985. He retired from the Air Force Reserve with the rank of major general in 1982.

Collins' awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom; the Collier, Harmon and Goddard trophies; the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; the Distinguished Flying Cross and many others. He has received awards from eleven other countries and honorary degrees from six colleges and universities.

Michael Collins died on April 28, 2021.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of reference material NASA artist James Dean used in producing the artwork for Michael Collins' book *Liftoff: The Story of America's Adventure in Space*. The bulk of the contents include NASA file photos, files from the twelve Gemini missions, the majority of Apollo missions (mostly Apollo 11), the Spacelab project, the Hubble telescope, space shuttle missions, the Challenger accident, and many other NASA related subjects. Also included are photos from the Project Mercury missions, images of NASA aircraft, NASA promotional material, and photos of U.S. officials and NASA personnel. An original rough draft copy of *Liftoff*, divided by chapter, is included. The additional materials added to this collection include magazines, posters, and notes on NASA missions. The additional materials primarily include materials relating to the book *Journey into Space* by James Dean.

Separated Materials

A number of publications have been separated from the collection and added to the Rare Book Collection. A list of items are available from Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Related Archival Materials

See the Michael Collins Papers, Ms1989-029, also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Archives of American Aerospace Exploration (AAAE)

Astronauts

Authors

Businesspeople

Illustrators

Science and Technology

Collins, Michael, 1930-2021

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the James Dean Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged according to subject matter into the following series:

Series I: Project Mercury, 1961-1986

Series II: Project Gemini, 1963-1985

Series III: Project Apollo, 1964-1985, n. d.

Series IV: Skylab, 1969-1985, n. d.

Series V: Space Station, 1970-1987, n. d.

Series VI: Planets and the Sun, 1972-1986

Series VII: Liftoff Chapters - James Dean Copy, 1987, n.d.

Series VIII: Miscellaneous, 1963-1988

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Project Mercury

Unit Date 1961-1986

Early spacecraft concepts leading to Project Mercury design

Unit Date 1961-1962

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Redstone and Little Joe Rockets

Unit Date 1961

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Project Mercury control diagrams, photos, illustrations

Unit Date 1961-1962

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Project Mercury technical specifications, photos, and Dean illustrations

Unit Date 1961-1986, n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Project Mercury recovery methods, Dean illustrations

Unit Date 1961-1986

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Centrifuge and Van Allen Belt, diagrams and descriptions

Unit Date 1968, n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Comparison photographs between the Mercury and Gemini modules

Unit Date 1962
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Series II: Project Gemini

Unit Date 1963-1985

Gemini IV

Unit Date 1965
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Gemini IX

Unit Date 1966
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Gemini X

Unit Date 1966
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 10 (folder)

Space Gun - Gemini X

Unit Date 1966
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 11 (folder)

Gemini XI crew (Gordon, Conrad)

Unit Date 1965-1973
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 12 (folder)

Interior photos and diagrams of Gemini module

Unit Date 1966-1985
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 13 (folder)

Exterior images of the Gemini module

Unit Date 1965-1978
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 14 (folder)

Gemini patches (photocopies) and Dean illustrations

Unit Date 1966-1971
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 15 (folder)

Space Suit (Mercury, Gemini, Apollo)

Space Suit (Mercury), Gemini, Apollo,

Unit Date 1963-1985

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Gemini ejection seats

Unit Date 1963-1966

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Gemini technical specifications, articles, charts

Unit Date 1965

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

"Angry Alligator"

Unit Date 1966

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Agena Target Vehicle

Unit Date 1966

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Titan II rocket

Unit Date 1966

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Gemini paraglider system

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Dean final illustrations of Gemini module

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Series III: Project Apollo

Unit Date 1964-1985, n. d.

Charts and diagrams of the Apollo module and missions

Unit Date 1967-1985

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Apollo Lunar Module

Unit Date 1966-1972

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Apollo Command Module

Unit Date 1969-1972

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Images taken on the moon, diagrams

Unit Date 1968-1974

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Apollo-Saturn Rocket, diagrams and images

Unit Date 1967-1971

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Photos of the Apollo 11 crew

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Apollo 11 training photos

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Ranger spacecraft (Apollo)

Unit Date 1964-1968

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Apollo diagrams, photos, Dean illustrations

Unit Date 1966-1972

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Apollo-Soyuz test project

Unit Date 1975

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Charts of Apollo lunar landing flight techniques, Dean illustrations

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Apollo 11 Notes

Unit Date 1989, n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 19-20 (folder)

Eyewitnesses to Apollo 11 Notes

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Series IV: Skylab

Unit Date 1969-1985, n. d.

Skylab

Unit Date 1969-1985

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 35-36 (folder)

Manned maneuvering unit

Unit Date 1982-1984

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Spacelab promotional manuals (Spacelab 1-3)

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Series V: Space Station

Unit Date 1970-1987, n. d.

Space station

Unit Date 1970-1982

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Concept designs for space shuttle

Unit Date 1970-1971

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Space shuttle - technical specifications

Unit Date 1971-1987

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Space shuttle images (Enterprise, Columbia, Challenger)

Unit Date 1974-1985

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

Images and depictions of space shuttle interior and cockpit

Unit Date 1975-1980

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

Illustrations and clip art of space shuttle

Unit Date 1978-1982

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

Promotional material related to space shuttle

Unit Date 1981-1986

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Hubble telescope

Unit Date 1984

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 46 (folder)

Promotional material related to space station

Unit Date 1987

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 47 (folder)

Space shuttle manual

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 48 (folder)

Space Shuttle Notes

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Series VI: Planets and the Sun

Unit Date 1972-1986

Planets

Unit Date 1972-1985

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 49 (folder)

Images of the sun

Unit Date 1973-1974

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 50 (folder)

Mars

Unit Date 1976-1986

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 51 (folder)

Saturn**Unit Date** 1981-1983**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 52 (folder)**Series VII: Liftoff Chapters - James Dean Copy****Unit Date** 1987, n.d.**Liftoff - Chapter 1****Unit Date** n. d.**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 53 (folder)**Liftoff - Chapter 2****Unit Date** n. d.**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 54 (folder)**Liftoff - Chapter 3****Unit Date** n. d.**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 55 (folder)**Liftoff - Chapter 4****Unit Date** n. d.**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 56 (folder)**Liftoff - Chapter 5****Unit Date** n. d.**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 57 (folder)**Liftoff - Chapter 6****Unit Date** 1987, n. d.**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 58 (folder)**Series VIII: Miscellaneous****Unit Date** 1963-1988**Images of aircraft (NASA, U.S. Military)****Unit Date** 1963-1979**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 59 (folder)**Photos of various U.S. officials and NASA personnel****Unit Date** 1967-1974**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 60 (folder)

Artistic depictions of potential NASA projects and various spacecraft; Dean illustrations

Unit Date 1970-1988

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 61 (folder)

NASA promotional material (extra copies)

Unit Date 1981, n. d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 62 (folder)

Challenger accident

Unit Date 1982-1986

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 63 (folder)

NASA publications

Unit Date 1983-1988

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 64 (folder)

Magazines

Unit Date 1984-1988

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 65 (folder)

Notes related to Michael Collins book "Liftoff"

Unit Date 1988

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 66 (folder)

Wiley Post

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 67 (folder)

Charts used in the Skylab 3 mission

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 68 (folder)

NASA Facts Posters

Unit Date 1978

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

NASA Posters and Booklets

Unit Date 1982-1985

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Space Station Illustration

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Space Shuttle Calendar

Unit Date 1984

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Clippings

Unit Date 1986, n.d.

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Interior and Cabin Equipment Diagrams

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Sketches and Drawings

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

National Space Transportation System Reference

Unit Date 1988-06

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 1-4 (folder)

Captions

Unit Date 1990-01

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 5-7 (folder)

"The Artist and the Space Shuttle" Revised Manuscript

Unit Date 1990-01

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

"Journey into Space" by James Dean Manuscript

Unit Date 1992

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"Journey into Space" Handwritten Manuscript

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

SETI Publication

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

NASA Publications

Unit Date 1984-1991

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 12-14 (folder)

Drawings for Book First Draft

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

"Journey into Space" Materials

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Drawings and Captions for Book

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 17-18 (folder)

Paul Calle

Unit Date 1989-1992

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Magazines

Unit Date 1989, n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Shuttle Flight Crews in Training

Unit Date 1989

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Smithsonian Institution Accession Memorandums

Unit Date 1986-1988

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Photographs and Captions for Book

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Handwritten Notes**Unit Date** n. d.**box-folder** 9 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Spacesuit Poster****Unit Date** n. d.**oversize** 1 (folder)**Exploring Uranus****Unit Date** n. d.**oversize** 1 (folder)