

Slayton, Donald K. "Deke", Collection

Donald K. "Deke" Slayton Collection
1974-1979, 1995



Title Statement

Slayton, Donald K. "Deke", CollectionDonald K. "Deke" Slayton Collection, 1974-1979, 1995 Ms.2023.058

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2025-02-28 Ella Winterling added Existence and Location of Copies.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2023.058

Unit Date

1974-1979, 1995

Language

The materials in the collection are in English, Russian, and Arabic.

Abstract

This collection contains materials belonging to American astronaut, Donald K. "Deke" Slayton (1924-1993). This collection contains materials about the Apollo-Soyuz Program, programs and invitations to events, photographs, a map of Moscow, and newspaper clippings. Slayton was one of the first seven American astronauts, selected by NASA as part of the Mercury 7. He flew on the Apollo-Soyuz Program mission, where American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts docked together and completed several scientific experiments in July 1975.

Creator

Slayton, Donald K. (Donald Kent), 1924-1993

Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Donald K. "Deke" Slayton Collection was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in November 2019.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Donald K. "Deke" Slayton Collection was completed in June 2023.

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], Donald K. "Deke" Slayton Collection, 1974-1979, 1995, Ms2023-058, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

One of the first seven American astronauts, Donald Kent "Deke" Slayton was born on March 1, 1924, in Sparta, Wisconsin, to Charles Sherman and Victoria Adelia (nee Larson) Slayton. He was a senior at Sparta High School when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, which caused him to join the U. S. Army Air Forces. During World War II, he flew for the 340th Bombardment Group in Europe and the Pacific. Slayton earned a B.S. in aeronautical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1949. He then worked for Boeing before joining the United States Air Force, serving with the 36th Fighter Day Wing and as a test pilot.

In 1959, Slayton was selected for the Mercury program, NASA's first class of astronauts, but was disqualified upon discovery of a heart condition but continued to work in several positions for NASA. After a reevaluation of his medical status, he was certified for space flight, and in July 1975, Slayton was the docking module pilot for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, resulting in a joint docking and experiments with Soviet cosmonauts. Following the completion of this project, Slayton continued to work for NASA until his retirement in 1982. He later founded Space Services Inc., of Houston, to develop rockets for commercial endeavors.

Slayton married Marjorie Lunney, and they had a son, Kent Sherman, in 1957, prior to divorcing. He married Bobbie Osborn on October 8, 1983. Slayton died of brain cancer on June 13, 1993, in League City, Texas.

External Sources:

"Biographical Data" [for Deke Slayton, NASA Astronaut], Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), June 1993, https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/slayton_donald.pdf, accessed June 16, 2023.

Gray, Tara, "Donald K. 'Deke' Slayton", *40th Anniversary of the Mercury 7* (NASA), <https://history.nasa.gov/40thmerc7/slayton.htm>, accessed June 16, 2023.

Scope and Content

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials belonging to American astronaut, Donald K. "Deke" Slayton. This collection contains materials about the Apollo-Soyuz Program, programs and invitations to events, photographs, a map of Moscow, and newspaper clippings. Slayton was an astronaut on the Apollo-Soyuz Program, resulting in a joint docking and experiments with Soviet cosmonauts.

Keywords

Archives of American Aerospace Exploration (AAAE)

Science and Technology

Apollo Soyuz Test Project

United States -- National Aeronautics and Space Administration -- Officials and employees

Astronauts

Existence and Location of Copies

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

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type.

Description of Subordinate Components

"Apollo-Soyuz Pamphlet No. 2: X-Rays, Gamma-Rays"

Unit Date 1977-10

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Apollo-Soyuz Pamphlet No. 5: The Earth from Orbit"

Unit Date 1977-10

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

"Apollo-Soyuz Test Project: 20th Anniversary Commemorative Edition"

Unit Date 1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Apollo-Soyuz Radio Communications Transcripts

Unit Date 1975-07

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4-5 (folder)

Appointment Schedules for the American Astronauts and the Soviet Cosmonauts

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

ASTP Flight Menu and Food List

Unit Date 1974

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Trip to India and Middle East Memorandum

Unit Date 1975-01-22

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

ASTP Reference PCN-2 Systems Data

Unit Date 1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

The Spirit of Apollo-Soyuz Program

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Visit of King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden Dinner Invitation

Unit Date 1976

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Imperial Aero Club Air Show Invitation

Unit Date 1976

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Hotel St. George Menu

Unit Date 1976-02-20

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

National Institute of Social Sciences Annual Gold Medal Awards' Dinner

Unit Date 1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Apollo-Soyuz Test Project Photographs

Unit Date 1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Hotel Meridien Photographs

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Map of Moscow**Unit Date** 1974**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)**Newspaper Clippings****Unit Date** 1975**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 18 (folder)