

# Dean, James, Collection

James Dean Collection

1961-1988



## Title Statement

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

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## Profile Description

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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**

The collection is open for research.

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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)