

# Slayton, Donald K. "Deke", Collection

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



## Title Statement

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

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

**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

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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](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

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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)