



Smithsonian  
*Anacostia Community Museum*

Black Wings: The American  
Black in Aviation, c. 1983

Jennifer Morris

2014 September 19

Anacostia Community Museum Archives  
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Washington, D.C. 20020  
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<http://www.anacostia.si.edu/Collections/ArchiveCollection>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation</i> exhibition records
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.03-016
<b>Date:</b>	c. 1983
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound recordings (audio cassette) 1 Linear foot ((1 box)) 0.05 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	National Air and Space Museum (U.S.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Other Archival Materials

This collection relates to the Black Wings Exhibit and Book Collection housed at National Air and Space Museum, Archives Division, MRC 322, Washington, DC, 20560.

### Other Finding Aids

inventory, item level

### Preferred Citation

*Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation* exhibition records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Some items are not accessible due to obsolete format and playback machinery restrictions. Please contact the archivist at [acmarchives@si.edu](mailto:acmarchives@si.edu).

### Restrictions

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## Scope and Contents

In the 1980s, the National Air and Space Museum created an exhibit, with a correlating text called *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation*. The exhibit and book were dedicated to the American Black Aviator, who has anonymously played a historic role in shaping the growth of modern aviation. *Black Wings* encompasses the men and women who had to overcome enormous social pressures in order to gain the right to pursue the dream of flight in both military and civilian circles. This show was exhibited at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from April 01, 1984 to August 05, 1984.

These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of the exhibition. Materials include correspondence, research files, administrative records, brochures, education packages, and design layouts.

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## Local Call Number(s)

ACMA 03-016

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- African American
- African American air pilots
- Museum exhibits

Cultures:

- African American

Types of Materials:

- Brochures
- Correspondence
- Exhibit scripts

Names:

- Anacostia Community Museum
- Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
- National Air and Space Museum--Exhibitions

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## Container Listing

### Series ACMA AV03-016: *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation* audiovisual records, circa 1983

*0.05 Linear feet*

*2 Sound recordings (2 audio cassette sound recordings)*

*2 Video recordings (2 VHS 1/2" video recordings)*

National Air and Space Museum (U.S.)

English.

In the 1980s, the National Air and Space Museum created an exhibit, with a correlating text called *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation*. The exhibit and book were dedicated to the American Black Aviator, who has anonymously played a historic role in shaping the growth of modern aviation. *Black Wings* encompasses the men and women who had to overcome enormous social pressures in order to gain the right to pursue the dream of flight in both military and civilian circles. This collection contains the audiovisual materials created when the exhibit was borrowed and adapted for exhibit at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

This collection relates to the *Black Wings Exhibit and Book Collection* housed at National Air and Space Museum, Archives Division, MRC 322, Washington, DC, 20560.

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Some items are not accessible due to obsolete format and playback machinery restrictions. Please contact the archivist at [acmarchives@si.edu](mailto:acmarchives@si.edu).

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
National Air and Space Museum. Exhibitions

Culture: African American

Genre/Form: Sound recordings  
Video recordings

Topic: Aeronautics  
African American air pilots  
Museum exhibits

ACMA AV003453-1: *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation* Narration, circa 1984

*4 Sound recordings (open reel; 1/4 inch)*

Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

National Air and Space Museum

020233 001700 001624 000911

English.

The exhibition, *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation*, profiled the men and women who had to overcome enormous social pressures in order to gain the right to pursue the dream of flight in both military and civilian circles. The exhibition, originally created and displayed at the National Air and Space Museum, was dedicated to the American Black Aviator, who has anonymously played a historic role in shaping the growth of modern aviation. See an expanded version of the exhibition circulated by SITES, including among its additional artifacts photo murals and audio-visual programs, and the flight suit

worn by black astronaut Guion Bluford during preparations for his 1983 space shuttle flight. The SITES exhibition is divided into four parts: Headwinds, the black pioneers of World War I and the early 1920s; Flight Lines, the changing role of blacks in the 1930s and '40s; Wings for War, black involvement in World War II; and Era of Change, their breakthroughs in commercial aviation after World War II. The collection, *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation Audiovisual Records*, contains the audiovisual materials created when the exhibit was borrowed and adapted for exhibit at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from April 1, 1984 - August 5, 1984.

The narrator provides history of black men and women in aviation.

Narration or voice over with music. Part of *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation Audiovisual Records*. Consistent beeps throughout several of the recordings. Some of the recordings contain some of the same content. Undated.

Original exhibition at National Air and Space Museum. Exhibition at Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from April 1, 1984 - August 5, 1984.

*Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation* Narration, Exhibition Records AV03-016, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Local Numbers

ACMA AV003453-2

ACMA AV003455

ACMA AV003507

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: Aeronautics  
African American air pilots  
African American women air pilots  
African Americans  
Air pilots  
Museum exhibits  
Women air pilots

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
United States  
Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Narration  
Sound recordings

Culture: African American

ACMA AV002043: Short Films on Aviation and Space Flight, circa 1984

*1 Video recording (VHS)*

Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

National Air and Space Museum

005635

English.

The exhibition, *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation*, profiled the men and women who had to overcome enormous social pressures in order to gain the right to pursue the dream of flight in both military and civilian circles. The exhibition, originally created and displayed at the National Air and Space Museum, was dedicated to the American Black Aviator, who has anonymously played a historic role in shaping the growth of modern aviation. See an expanded version of the exhibition circulated by SITES, including among its additional artifacts photo murals and audio-visual programs, and the flight suit worn by black astronaut Guion Bluford during preparations for his 1983 space shuttle flight. The SITES exhibition is divided into four parts: Headwinds, the black pioneers of World War I and the early 1920s; Flight Lines, the changing role of blacks in the 1930s and '40s; Wings for War, black involvement in World War II; and Era of Change, their breakthroughs in commercial aviation after World War II. The collection, *Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation Audiovisual Records*, contains the audiovisual materials created when the exhibit was borrowed and adapted for exhibit at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from April 1, 1984 - August 5, 1984.

Several short films about Black aviation history, Blacks in the Air Force, aerial combat, Tuskegee Airmen, and World War II; and one short film about Robert Goddard and interplanetary space travel. Titles transcribed from physical asset include 'Blacks in Aviation,' 'Blackwings,' and 'Father of Space Age: Robert Goddard.'

Short films. Related to the exhibition 'Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation Audiovisual Records.' Undated.

Original exhibition at National Air and Space Museum. Exhibition at Anacostia Neighborhood Museum from April 1, 1984 - August 5, 1984.

Short Films on Aviation and Space Flight, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum  
Goddard, Robert Hutchings, 1882-1945  
United States. Air Force

Topic: Aeronautics  
African American air pilots  
African Americans  
Air pilots  
Astronautics  
Museum exhibits  
Space flight  
World War, 1939-1945

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
United States

Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Video recordings

Culture: African American

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