



Smithsonian  
*National Air and Space Museum*

Stratospheric Ballooning (Skyhook) Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
NASMRefDesk@si.edu  
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Stratospheric Ballooning (Skyhook) Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1993.0050
<b>Date:</b>	[ca. 1940s-1960s]
<b>Extent:</b>	2.18 Cubic feet ((2 records center boxes))
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Office of Naval Research
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Office of Naval Research, Gift, 1993, 1993-0050, Public Domain

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

The stratospheric balloon flights of Auguste Piccard in 1931-1932 changed the way people thought about conquering the stratosphere and began a race to the stratosphere via the balloon which rivaled the race to the moon in the 1960s. The ballooning of the 1930s, including Auguste and Jean Piccards' work and the Explorer flights, led to Project Helios during the 1940s. Project Helios, in turn, led to Skyhook, Stratolab and modern scientific ballooning. These modern projects, i.e., Project Skyhook, allowed longer look times than sounding rockets and were far more economical. Furthermore, they were valuable in obtaining data for both scientific missions and military interests.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of photographs, correspondence, reports, clippings and press kits, mostly centering on the following ballooning topics: Project Skyhook, Project Helios, Stratoscope I and II and Stratolab. There is also material on general ballooning events, the Vanguard satellite and the VTOL.

## General

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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:

- Balloons
- Balloons, Sounding
- Project Vanguard
- Rockets (Aeronautics)
- Rockets, Sounding
- Stratolab Program
- Stratoscope I
- Stratoscope II
- Vertically rising aircraft

### Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Press releases
- Reports

### Names:

- Project Helios
- Project Skyhook
- United States. Office of Naval Research
- Vanguard (Artificial satellite)