



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Race to the Stratosphere Photograph Collection

Meghan Cummings

1997



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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Race to the Stratosphere Photograph Collection
Identifier:	NASM.1997.0034
Date:	circa 1930s-1960s
Extent:	1.35 Cubic feet (3 legal document boxes) 1.26 Linear feet
Creator:	DeVorkin, David H., 1944-
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of the photographs used in <i>Race to the Stratosphere: Manned Scientific Ballooning in America</i> and collected by David DeVorkin for research. It also includes a few engineering drawings of balloon gondolas.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

David DeVorkin, Transfer, 1997

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Meghan Cummings, 1997.

Encoded by Amanda Buel, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Race to the Stratosphere Photograph Collection, Acc. 1997-0034, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

David DeVorkin, a curator of Space History at the National Air and Space Museum, completed *Race to the Stratosphere: Manned Scientific Ballooning in America* in 1989. The book traces the history of manned scientific ballooning, beginning with the flights of Auguste Piccard, and proceeding through the manned flights by the Army Air Corps, up to the Apollo Space Missions.

Scope and Contents

David DeVorkin, a Space History Curator at the National Air and Space Museum, completed *Race to the Stratosphere: Manned Scientific Ballooning in America* in 1989. The book traces the history of manned scientific ballooning from the 1930's to the 1960's, beginning with the flights of Auguste Piccard, and proceeding through the manned flights by the Army Air Corps, up to the Apollo Space Missions.

This collection consists of the photographs used in the book and collected by David DeVorkin for research. The collection is organized by chapter. There are also a few engineering drawings of the gondola of balloons.

There are three series in this collection. Series 1 consists of the photographs actually used in the book, arranged by chapter. Series 2 consists of photographs collected for research by David DeVorkin, but not used in the book. They are arranged by chapter. Series 3 consists of two subseries: Miscellaneous and Duplicate Photographs, and Science Service Photographs.

There is one appendix to this collection. It is a list of all the Smithsonian Institution negative numbers from all the images that David DeVorkin used that came from the National Air and Space Museum's collections.

Arrangement

There are three series in this collection. Series 1 consists of the photographs actually used in the book; it is arranged by chapter. Series 2 consists of photographs collected for research by David DeVorkin, but not used in the book; it is arranged by chapter. Series 3 consists of two subseries: Miscellaneous and Duplicate Photographs and Science Service Photographs.

There is one appendix to this collection. It is a list of all Smithsonian Institution negative numbers from all images that David DeVorkin used that came from the National Air and Space Museum's collections.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airships
- Balloons
- Scientific apparatus and instruments

Names:

DeVorkin, David H., 1944-

Preferred Titles:

Race to the Stratosphere: Manned Scientific Ballooning in America

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographs actually used in the book

Box 1, Folder 1	Captions
Box 1, Folder 2	Frontispiece and Book Cover
Box 1, Folder 3	Introductions and Contentions
Box 1, Folder 4	Chapter 1 Auguste Piccard's Flights of the FNRS
Box 1, Folder 5	Chapter 2 Auguste Piccard Comes to the United States
Box 1, Folder 6	Chapter 3 "A Century of Progress" Flights
Box 1, Folder 7	Chapter 4 Continued Dreams of Jean Piccard
Box 1, Folder 8	Chapter 5 The National Geographic Society -- Army Air Corps Explorer Flights
Box 1, Folder 9	Chapter 6 The Flight of Explorer II
Box 1, Folder 10	Chapter 7 Jean Piccard and Progress in Balloonsonde Development
Box 1, Folder 11	Chapter 8 Epilog to the 1930's: Advancing Balloonsonde Technology
Box 1, Folder 12	Chapter 9 Project Helios
Box 1, Folder 13	Chapter 10 The Legacy of Helios: Skyhook, Stratolab, and Modern Scientific Ballooning
Box 1, Folder 14	Chapter 11 Anticipating Apollo
Box 1, Folder 15	Chapter 12 Conclusions [no photos]

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Series 2: Photographs not used in the book

Box 2, Folder 1	Frontispiece & Book Cover
Box 2, Folder 2	Introductions and Contentions
Box 2, Folder 3	Chapter 1 Auguste Piccard's Flights of the FNRS
Box 2, Folder 4	Chapter 2 Auguste Piccard Comes to the United States
Box 2, Folder 5	Chapter 3 "A Century of Progress" Flights
Box 2, Folder 6	Chapter 4 Continued Dreams of Jean Piccard
Box 2, Folder 7	Chapter 5 The National Geographic Society -- Army Air Corps Explorer Flights
Box 2, Folder 8	[Chapter 5 +6?]
Box 2, Folder 9	Chapter 6 The Flight of Explorer II
Box 2, Folder 10	[Chapter 6 + 7?]
Box 2, Folder 11	Chapter 8 Epilog to the 1930's: Advancing Balloonsonde Technology
Box 2, Folder 12	Chapter 9 Project Helios
Box 2, Folder 13	Chapter 10 The Legacy of Helios: Skyhook, Stratolab, and Modern Scientific Ballooning
Box 2, Folder 14	Chapter 11 Anticipating Apollo
Box 2, Folder 15	Chapter 12 Conclusions [no photos]

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Series 3: Other photographs

3.1: Miscellaneous and Duplicate Photographs

Box 3, Folder 1	Gondola
Box 3, Folder 2	Otto Winzen
Box 3, Folder 3	Van Allen
Box 3, Folder 4	Bettemann
Box 3, Folder 5	Wide World/Keystone
Box 3, Folder 6	Explorer I Report
Box 3, Folder 7	Dow
Box 3, Folder 8	CalTech
Box 3, Folder 9	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Box 3, Folder 10	Explorer I (Tech Files)
Box 3, Folder 11	AIP
Box 3, Folder 12	Museum of Science and Industry
Box 3, Folder 13	National Geographic Society
Box 3, Folder 14	Explorer II Display
Box 3, Folder 15	Explorer II Display (Tech Files)
Box 3, Folder 16	Explorer Gondola (diagram)
Box 3, Folder 17	Miscellaneous
Box 3, Folder 18	Chicago Daily News
Box 3, Folder 19	Stratocamp (Winter 1935)
Box 3, Folder 20	Aerial views of Stratobowl

Box 3, Folder 21	Century of Progress (COP)
Box 3, Folder 22	John L. Moreau
Box 3, Folder 23	Skyhook '60
Box 3, Folder 24	Explorer II Fabric (Tech Files)
Box 3, Folder 25	ONR 22
Box 3, Folder 26	Victor Prather
Box 3, Folder 27	COP (Tech Files)
Box 3, Folder 28	Stratospheric Flight, 1935

3.2: Science Service Photographs

Box 3, Folder 29	Radar Astronomy
Box 3, Folder 30	Radio Astronomy
Box 3, Folder 31	Telescopes, Stratospheric
Box 3, Folder 32	Atmospheric Pressure
Box 3, Folder 33	Atmosphere
Box 3, Folder 34	Atmosphere, Upper General
Box 3, Folder 35	Atmosphere, Upper, Ionosphere
Box 3, Folder 36-37	Atmosphere, Upper , 1934-1935
Box 3, Folder 38	Additional Photographs from LTA Technical Files

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