



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Ranger Program / Agena Rocket Vehicles Collection

2013

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Ranger Program / Agena Rocket Vehicles Collection
Date:	(bulk 1960-1966)
Identifier:	NASM.2013.0014
Extent:	0.36 Cubic feet ((1 box))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

John Campbell, Gift, 2012

Preferred Citation

Ranger Program / Agena Rocket Vehicles Collection, Accession 2013-0014, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

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](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Ranger spacecraft gave scientists their first close look at the lunar surface. Nine Rangers were launched from 1961 through 1965. The first six attempts failed, but beginning in July 1964, Rangers 7, 8, and 9 successfully completed their 65-hour journeys to the Moon, transmitting television pictures of the lunar surface during the final minutes until their impact there. These pictures revealed details that could not be seen through telescopes on Earth. Each Ranger spacecraft had six cameras on board. The cameras were fundamentally the same with differences in exposure times, fields of view, lenses, and scan rates. The images provided better resolution than was available from Earth-based views by a factor of 1,000. These highly detailed images aided Apollo planners in locating landing sites. The intermediate stage booster for Ranger was the Agena-B upper stage. Made by Lockheed, it was fitted on the Thor or Atlas-D launch vehicles that became known as the Thor-Agena and Atlas-Agena.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of material relating to the Agena Rocket Vehicles portion of the Ranger Program gathered by John Campbell, former Lockheed Missiles and Space employee, 1960-1966. The following

types of material are included: a Lockheed internal publication and memos; eight by ten inch, mostly black and white, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and NASA photos; name badges; newspaper articles, JPL press releases; Cape Canaveral Instrumentation Facilities maps; and a CD containing scans of some of the documents.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Agena Rocket Vehicles
- Astronautics
- Ranger Lunar Probes

Types of Materials:

- Photographs
- Press releases
- Publications

Places:

- Moon -- Exploration
- Outer space -- Exploration