



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Observatory Postcards

Patti Williams

2019

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

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|--------------------|---|
| Repository: | National Air and Space Museum Archives |
| Title: | Observatory Postcards |
| Date: | 1905-2001 |
| Identifier: | NASM.2018.0060 |
| Extent: | 0.79 Cubic feet (2 containers) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | This collection consists of the observatory postcards gathered by Dr. David DeVorkin as part of the Explore the Universe exhibit. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

NASM Space History Department, Transfer, 2018, NASM.2018.0060

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Observatory Postcards, NASM.2018.0060, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The National Air and Space Museum's (NASM) Explore the Universe exhibit shows how ideas about the Universe evolved as new astronomical instruments were developed. It presents the Universe as discerned by the naked eye, then shows how the telescope, photography, spectroscopy, and digital technology revolutionized our view. The largest section describes what astronomers today think about the nature of the Universe. As part of this exhibit, curator Dr. David DeVorkin, collected astronomical observatory postcards from the public. Some of the postcards were featured in the exhibit as well as the associated NASM website.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the postcards gathered by Dr. David DeVorkin as part of the Explore the Universe exhibit. Postcards from the following observatories are included: Allegheny; Arecibo Radio; Berlin-Treptow; Cambridge University, UK; David Dunlap; Dominion Astrophysical; European Southern; Green Bank Radio Telescope; Griffith; Harvard-SAO; Jodrell Bank; Keck; Kitt Peak National; Lick; Mauna Kea; McDonald; Mount Wilson; Palomar; Potsdam Astrophysical; Royal Observatory Greenwich; Vassar College; Very Large Array; and Whipple-MMT. The collection also contains CDs containing digital surrogates of the postcards, which were scanned by NASM staff or volunteers.

Arrangement

Arranged by Observatory.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Astronomy -- 20th century
- Observatories -- Astrophysical
- Postcards -- 20th century