



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Arthur C. Clarke 1991 Journal

Patti Williams

2020

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Arthur C. Clarke 1991 Journal
Date:	1991
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0081
Creator:	Clarke, Arthur C. (Arthur Charles), 1917-2008
Extent:	0.25 Cubic feet (One slim letter box.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of a folder of material that consists of handwritten and typed pages of Sir Arthur C. Clarke's 1991 journal.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Angie Edwards, Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0081

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2020.

Preferred Citation

Arthur C. Clarke 1991 Journal, NASM.2018.0081, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Born on December 16, 1917, in Minehead, England, Arthur Charles Clarke became obsessed with science fiction and astronomy at a young age. He was the eldest of four children born into a farming family, however, he would become, with his brother Fred Clarke acting as a business associate, one of the leading names in science fiction. During World War II Clarke served as a radar instructor and in his free time became one of the early members of the British Interplanetary Society. In 1945, Clarke made one of his earliest predictions (he called them "extrapolations") when he came up with the idea of communication satellites. He became known for this uncanny prescience which is seen in so much of his work. In 1948 Clarke graduated from King's College, London with honors in mathematics and physics. By 1951, Clarke had gained respect as both a fiction and non-fiction writer with *Interplanetary Flight* and *Prelude to Space*, respectively. In 1956, Clarke

emigrated to Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon, where he could indulge a new obsession, skin diving. He remained in Sri Lanka for the rest of his life, creating a diving company and funding many science education programs in the country. Perhaps Clarke's most recognizable feat came when he was able to work with Stanley Kubrick over the course of 4 years in order to create the book and film 2001: A Space Odyssey which was loosely based on the earlier Clarke story "The Sentinel." Clarke accomplished an amazing amount of writing, speaking tours, TV appearances and humanitarian work despite suffering from post-polio syndrome for decades. He won numerous awards, mostly for his science fiction but also for popularizing science. He was knighted in 1998. He died, age 90, March 19, 2008.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a folder of material that consists of handwritten and typed pages of Sir Arthur C. Clarke's 1991 journal. In the entries Clarke records both personal and professional activities. The folder also contains a few letters and cards, as well as a few articles, mostly concerning gay rights issues in Sri Lanka.

Arrangement

Arranged by date.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Lesbian and gay experience
- Science fiction

Types of Materials:

- Journal