



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Orbital Flight Letter

Glenn, John Herschel, Jr. Orbital Flight Letter

Jessamyn Lloyd

2018

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
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Orbital Flight Letter
Date:	January 15, 1964
Identifier:	NASM.2019.0005
Creator:	Glenn, John Herschel, Jr., 1921-2016
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of a letter written by John Herschel Glenn, Jr. to Tim Jones, dated January 15, 1964. In the letter, which is on Glenn's National Aeronautics and Space Administration letterhead, Glenn discusses his thoughts on faith both during his orbital flight as well as in a general sense.
Digital Content:	Image(s): John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Orbital Flight Letter

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Tim Jones, Gift, 2018, NASM.2019.0005

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2018.

Preferred Citation

John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Orbital Flight Letter, NASM.2019.0005, 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

John Herschel Glenn, Jr. (1921-2016) became the first American to orbit the Earth on February 20, 1962 in the Mercury MA-6 *Friendship 7*. Glenn's three-orbit mission was a sterling success, as he overcame problems with the automatic control system that would have ended an unmanned flight. However, reentry

was tense, as a faulty telemetry signal from the spacecraft indicated that the heat shield might be loose. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mission Control instructed Glenn not to jettison the retrorocket package after firing in order to better hold the heat shield in place. Glenn reentered successfully and splashed down in the Atlantic 4 hours, 55 minutes and 23 seconds after launch.

Tim Jones was a sixteen year old boy when John Glenn made his orbital flight. Jones was enamored with the idea of flight and space travel and discussions in his church youth group at the time inspired Jones to write to John Glenn and ask about his thoughts on God during Glenn's mission.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a letter written by John Herschel Glenn, Jr. to Tim Jones, dated January 15, 1964. In the letter, which is on Glenn's National Aeronautics and Space Administration letterhead, Glenn discusses his thoughts on faith both during his orbital flight as well as in a general sense.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Astronauts
- Space flight

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence

Names:

- Glenn, John Herschel, Jr., 1921-2016