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National Air and Space Museum

Hasselblad Space Shuttle Reels

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Hasselblad Space Shuttle Reels
Date:	1984-1993
Identifier:	NASM.2022.0002
Creator:	United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Hasselblad USA
Extent:	7.46 Cubic feet (11 flat boxes with 4 reels in each.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Modified Hasselblad cameras have been used during space flight as early as the 1960s. During NASA's Space Transportation System (STS), crewmembers had 70mm handheld Hasselblad cameras to use in addition to the cameras mounted within the shuttle. Images within this collection mostly include Earth observations and flight deck activities from twenty-two space shuttle missions during the 1980s and early 1990s.
Digital Content:	Image(s): NASM-9A18973: Earth Observation during STS-31

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Hasselblad Inc., Gift, 2021, NASM.2022.0002

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Amara Pugens, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Hasselblad Space Shuttle Reels, NASM.2022.0002, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Hasselblad cameras have been used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as early as Project Mercury in the 1960s. The cameras were later developed, modified, and employed in foundational human spaceflight programs as such the Apollo missions. By the beginning of Space Shuttle era in the 1970s, Hasselblad cameras were standard use for still photography in space. During NASA's Space Transportation System (STS), crewmembers had 70mm handheld Hasselblad cameras to use on the flight deck in addition to the cameras mounted within the shuttle. When shuttle missions returned to Earth, flight films went to the Johnson Space Center lab for processing post-flight. NASA kept the originals, and masters were created to be distributed to authorized interested parties. Hasselblad likely retained copies of the film to review functionality and troubleshoot technical issues.

Scope and Contents

This donation consists of forty-four 70mm color positive film reels containing still photography captured by a Hasselblad camera during the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Transportation System (STS), better known the Space Shuttle Program. The reels include images, mostly Earth observational and orbital photographs, from twenty-two missions during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by mission.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Astronautics
- Space Shuttle Program (U.S.)
- Space photography

Types of Materials:

- 70mm (photographic film size)

Container Listing

STS-51A, November 1984

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-51A was the fourteenth NASA Space Shuttle mission, launching on November 8 and landing on November 16, 1984 using Space Shuttle Discovery; during the mission, the shuttle deployed two communications satellites into orbit.

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STS-51D, April 1984

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-51D was the sixteenth mission, launching on April 12 and landing on April 19, 1985 using Space Shuttle Discovery; the mission marked the first impromptu extravehicular activity in order to fix and deploy a communications satellite.

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STS-51F, July/August 1985

1 Film reel

Biographical / Historical: STS-51F was the nineteenth mission, launching on July 29 and landing on August 6, 1985 using Space Shuttle Challenger; the main mission objective was to verify performance of the Spacelab systems, but it resulted in an Abort To Orbit.

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STS-51I, August 1985

1 Film reel

Biographical / Historical: STS-51I was the twentieth mission, launching on August 27 and landing on September 3, 1985 using Space Shuttle Discovery; during the mission, the shuttle deployed three communications satellites into orbit.

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STS-51J, October 1985

1 Film reel

Biographical / Historical: STS-51J was the twenty-first mission, launching on October 3 and landing on October 7, 1985; this mission was the first to use Space Shuttle Atlantis and second classified Department of Defense flight.

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STS-61A, October/November 1985

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-61A was the twenty-second mission, launching on October 30 and landing on November 6, 1985 using Space Shuttle Challenger; funded by West Germany, this mission was the third flight of Spacelab.

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STS-61B , November/December 1985

1 Film reel

Biographical / Historical: STS-61B was the twenty-second mission, launching on November 26 and landing on December 3, 1985 using Space Shuttle Atlantis; during the mission, the shuttle deployed three communications satellites and conducted experiments that required two space walks lasting five hours 32 minutes and six hours 38 minutes.

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STS-61C , January 1986

3 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-61C was the twenty-fourth mission, launching on January 12 and landing on January 18, 1986 using Space Shuttle Columbia; although the Comet Halley Active Monitoring Program experiment did not function properly, it was the last successful mission before STS-51-L.

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STS-26, September/October 1988

1 Film reel

Biographical / Historical: STS-26 was the twenty-sixth mission, launching on September 29 and landing October 3, 1988 using Space Shuttle Discovery; this flight was the first post STS-51-L mission.

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STS-29 , March 1989

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: Using Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-29 launched on March 13, deployed a tracking and data relay satellite, and landed March 18, 1989.

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STS-28, August 1989

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-28 was the thirtieth mission, launching on August 8 and landing August 13, 1989 using Space Shuttle Columbia; this mission was the fourth classified Department of Defense flight.

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STS-34, October 1989

1 Film reel

Biographical / Historical: STS-34 was the thirty-first mission, launching on October 18 and landing October 23, 1989 using Space Shuttle Atlantis; although the Hasselblad camera jammed twice during this mission, the robotic space probe Galileo was successfully deployed for a six-year trip to Jupiter.

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STS-33, November 1989

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-33 was the thirty-second mission, launching on November 22 and landing November 27, 1989 using Space Shuttle Discovery; this mission was the fifth classified Department of Defense flight.

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STS-32, January 1990

3 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-32 was the thirty-third mission, launching on January 9 and landing January 20, 1990 using Space Shuttle Columbia; this mission's objectives were to deploy a communications satellite and retrieve NASA's Long Duration Exposure Facility.

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STS-36, March 1990

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-36 was the thirty-fourth mission, launching on February 28 and landing March 4, 1990 using Space Shuttle Atlantis; this mission was the sixth classified Department of Defense flight.

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STS-31, April 1990

2 Film reels

[Image\(s\): NASM-9A18973: Earth Observation during STS-31](#)

Biographical / Historical: STS-31 was the thirty-fifth mission, launching on April 24 and landing April 29, 1990 using Space Shuttle Discovery; during this mission, the Hubble Space Telescope deployed in a 380-statute-mile orbit.

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STS-42, January 1992

3 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: The STS-42 mission, launching on January 22 and landing January 30, 1992 using Space Shuttle Discovery, carried the International Microgravity Laboratory-1, a Spacelab module enabling scientists to research the human nervous system's adaptation to low gravity and the effects of microgravity on other life forms.

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STS-45, March/April 1992

3 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-45 was the forty-sixth mission, launching on March 24 and landing April 2, 1992 using Space Shuttle Atlantis; the shuttle carried the first Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science for experiments in atmospheric chemistry, solar radiation, space plasma physics, and ultraviolet astronomy.

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STS-47, September 1992

3 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: STS-47 was the fiftieth mission, launching on September 12 and landing September 20, 1992 using Space Shuttle Endeavour; as a joint NASA and National Space Development Agency of Japan mission known as Spacelab-J, the flight included the first African American woman in space and the first Japanese astronaut to fly aboard an American shuttle.

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STS-52, October/November 1992

3 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: Launching on October 22 and landing November 1, 1992 using Space Shuttle Columbia, the primary objectives of the STS-52 mission were to deploy the Laser Geodynamic Satellite II and operate the U.S. Microgravity Payload-1.

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STS-53, December 1992

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: Supported by the Department of Defense, the STS-53 mission launched on December 2 using Space Shuttle Discovery, included a classified primary payload, two unclassified secondary payloads, nine unclassified middeck experiments, and landed December 9, 1992.

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STS-54, January 1993

2 Film reels

Biographical / Historical: Launching on January 13 and landing January 19, 1993 using Space Shuttle Endeavour, highlights of the STS-54 mission include a series of space-walking tasks conducted to increase knowledge of working in space, a Hitchhiker experiment called the Diffuse X-ray Spectrometer, and the deployment of the fifth Tracking and Data Relay Satellite.

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