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Viking Spacecraft "Mission to Mars" Collection of Lula Agee : A Collection Guide

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

James Anthony Schnur

Lula R. Agee 1913-2001

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***Viking* Spacecraft “Mission to Mars”
Collection of Lula Agee**

A Collection Guide by
Jim Schnur
Assistant Librarian

Special Collections and Archives
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

21 September 2006

Introduction to the Collection

During the summer of 2006, the Poynter Library received a small donation of materials related to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the *Viking* space missions of the mid-1970s. Lula R. Agee, a NASA employee of more than twenty years based at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, collected these materials during her tenure as a conference coordinator at that location.

Preservation Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of items in this collection, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the documents and photographs, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all photographs. While no restrictions limit access to these public documents and materials, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection.

Provenance of the *Viking* Spacecraft “Mission to Mars” Collection

This collection falls under the Humanities provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

This collection occupies one document box (approximately 0.42 linear feet). Materials include booklets, pamphlets, press releases, photographs and photographic reprints, newsletters, and magazine articles. The bulk of materials cover the period from 1973 through 1978, though some items from earlier and later years do reside in this collection.

Biographical Note

Lula R. Agee was born on 2 December 1913 in Accomack County, Virginia. During the 1970s, she worked at the Langley Research Center in Virginia. As NASA prepared for the *Viking* missions in 1975, she coordinated the extensive travel arrangements for many people through her duties in the Passenger Transportation Office. Known as “Lu” to many of her coworkers, she received an exceptional service medal in Langley’s 1978 annual honor and awards ceremony for her management of the activities center at that site. She later lived in Newport News, Virginia, and retired to St. Petersburg in 1994. She passed away on 19 July 2001.

Other Information Resources

Researchers interested in the history of NASA should also contact the general information telephone number at Kennedy Space Center (321-867-5000) for current access policies to use archival and research collections available on site. Some materials may also be available digitally through the NASA website (<http://www.nasa.gov>) or through public information requests under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Container Listing

Folder 1 **“Langley Researcher” Newsletters**

Issues from the mid-1970s, during the period of the *Viking* missions.

Folder 2 **“The *Viking* Mission” Booklet**

Co-authored by James S. Martin Jr. and Gerald A. Soffen, this manuscript originally appeared as “The Second Fifteen Years in Space” in volume 31 of *Science and Technology* (1973). Martin served as *Viking* Project Manager for NASA. Soffen worked at Langley as the *Viking* Project Scientist.

Folder 3 **“The *Viking* Mission to Mars” Booklet**

Published by NASA in 1974 and written by William R. Corliss, this booklet described the *Viking* Project during the years prior to the launch of the orbiters and landers.

Folder 4 **“Spinoff 1976: A Bicentennial Report”**

This annual review of NASA activities described a variety of initiatives, including the successful activities of the *Viking* Project.

Folder 5 ***Viking* Mars News Conference, 12 June 1975**

Transcript of news conference.

Folder 6 **“*Viking* Project” Press Kit**

Folder 7 **“*Viking* Project: Mission Status Bulletins”**

Newsletters for NASA employees describing events related to the *Viking* Project.

Folder 8 **“*Viking*” [NASA Release: 75-42]**

Folder 9 **“*Viking* Press Kit” [NASA Release: 75-183]**

Folder 10 **“*Viking* Encounter Press Kit” [NASA Release: 76-103]**

Folder 11 **“*Viking 1: Early Results*” Booklet**

Folder 12 **Photographs and Photographic Reprints**

Includes images from the *Viking* missions distributed to employees associated with the project, as well as images available to the general public.

Folder 13 ***Apollo/Soyuz* Mission**

Images commemorating the linkup of American and Soviet spaceships in July 1975.

Folder 14 **Miscellaneous Materials and Ephemera**

Includes bumper stickers commemorating the “Mission to Mars.”

Viking Mission and Mars Chronology

(Source: NASA and various chronologies)

5 November 1964	<i>Mariner III</i> launched into orbit; failed to reach Mars
28 November 1964	<i>Mariner IV</i> launched into orbit towards Mars
15 July 1965	<i>Mariner IV</i> flew past Mars at 6140 miles and took 22 pictures of the planet (approx. 1% of planet's surface)
21 December 1967	<i>Mariner IV</i> communications terminated in space
Summer 1969	<i>Mariner IV</i> and <i>Mariner VII</i> flew past Mars
13 November 1971	<i>Mariner IX</i> entered Martian orbit and took images to create a photographic map of the planet
20 August 1975	<i>Viking I</i> launched
9 September 1975	<i>Viking II</i> launched
19 June 1976	<i>Viking I</i> arrived at orbit of Mars
June-July 1976	<i>Viking I</i> takes images of surface
20 July 1976	<i>Viking I</i> lander separated from orbiter and landed
7 August 1976	<i>Viking II</i> arrived at orbit of Mars
3 September 1976	<i>Viking II</i> lander separated from orbiter and landed
25 July 1978	<i>Viking II</i> orbiter power is turned off after 706 orbits
11 April 1980	<i>Viking II</i> lander ended communications with NASA
17 August 1980	<i>Viking I</i> orbiter power is turned off after 1400+ orbits
13 November 1982	<i>Viking I</i> lander ended communications with NASA
21 May 1983	<i>Viking Program</i> ended by NASA