



**INVENTORY TO  
THE ALDRIN FAMILY PAPERS, 1929-2007**

**Purdue University Libraries  
Archives and Special Collections  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-6414**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/>

© 2007 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.

Revised: February 11, 2008

Compiled By: Angela Day, November 2007

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Aldrin, Buzz, 1930- Aldrin, Edwin E., Sr., 1896-
<b>Title</b>	Aldrin family papers
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	
<b>Date Span</b>	1929-2007
<b>Abstract</b>	Small collection of items relating to Robert H. Goddard.
<b>Extent</b>	0.2 cubic feet (1 document box)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Angela Day, November 2007
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Purchased from Heritage Auction Galleries, September 2007
<b>Custodial History:</b>	The small leather bound book, <i>The Autobiography of Robert Hutchings Goddard: Father of the Space Age, Early Years to 1927</i> (Worcester, Massachusetts: Achille J. St. Onge, 1966), is inscribed in pencil, "Flown on Apollo 11 July 16-24-'69 E.E. Aldrin, Jr. (signed) Buzz Aldrin. The autobiography of Robert Goddard, letters, notes, and newspaper articles relating to Robert Goddard, were compiled by Edwin Aldrin, Sr. and are from the personal collection of Dr. Buzz Aldrin and accompanied by a signed Letter of Authenticity from him.
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20071016.3
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	Aldrin family papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Copyright resides with the Aldrin family.

## Subjects and Genres

### Persons

Aldrin, Buzz

Aldrin, Edwin E., Sr.

Goddard, Robert Hutchings, 1882-1945

### Organizations

Smithsonian Institution

Clark University

### Topics

Rocketry

### Form and Genre Types

Correspondence

Newspaper Clippings

Monographs

### Occupations

Scientists

## Biography of Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin

Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin was born on January 20, 1930, in Montclair, New Jersey. He was nicknamed "Buzz" by his sister. His mother, Marion Moon, was the daughter of an army chaplain. His father, Air Force Colonel Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Sr., was a former student of rocket scientist Robert Goddard, and an aviation pioneer in his own right.

Aldrin graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1951, ranking third in his graduating class. After graduation, Aldrin was as an officer in the Air Force. A year later he was sent to Korea as a fighter pilot. He completed 66 fighter missions during the Korean War, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He then served as an Air Force instructor in Nevada before being assigned to the Air Force Academy as an aide and later a flight instructor. In 1956, he became a flight commander for a squadron in West Germany.

In 1959, Aldrin decided he needed a new career challenge and became interested in the developing U.S. space program. He enrolled in an engineering program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated in 1963 with a Doctor of Science degree in Orbital Mechanics; his thesis dealt with the piloting and rendezvous of two spacecraft in orbit. After he completed a series of strenuous mental and physical fitness tests, Aldrin was selected to be in NASA's third group of astronauts in October of 1963. Aldrin was the first astronaut to hold a doctoral degree and the only astronaut who was not a test pilot.

Aldrin's first space mission was Gemini 12, which was with Jim Lovell, Jr. in November of 1966. During this flight, Aldrin established a new record for extra vehicular activity. In other words, his spacewalk proved that astronauts could work outside an orbiting vehicle to make repairs—a necessary ability if lunar flight was to become reality.

Following completion of the Gemini missions, the race was on between the United States and Russia to see who would reach the moon first. Aldrin completed many more hours of training to prepare for his role in different Apollo spaceflights. During his months in training, Aldrin created ways to improve various operational techniques, such as those used with navigational star displays. It was a combination of his temperament and skill that led to his being named Back-up Command Module pilot for Apollo 8 (December 21, 1968) the United States' first attempt to orbit a manned lunar spacecraft. Then, in 1969, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Aldrin were chosen as the Apollo 11 crew. The United States was ready to launch a lunar landing flight.

On July 20th, 1969, at 4:17 p.m., the Eagle landed on the Moon. "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." Aldrin radioed. He continued, "We opened the hatch and Neil, with me as his navigator, began backing out of the tiny opening. It seemed like a small eternity before I heard Neil say, 'That's one small step for man ... one giant leap for mankind.' In less than fifteen minutes I was backing awkwardly out of the hatch and onto the surface to join Neil, who, in the tradition of all tourists, had his camera ready to photograph my arrival. I felt buoyant and full of goose pimples when I stepped down on the surface."

On July 24th, eight days after launch, Columbia reenters the earth's atmosphere, and the journey of Apollo 11 ends with splashdown. After being recovered from the ocean, the astronauts, the equipment, and the lunar rocks were placed in isolation for 17 days. After the successful moon landing, the astronauts reluctantly embarked on a good will tour for NASA. They were also asked to write a book about their experiences. The result was *First on the Moon*, published in 1970. The Air Force also promoted Aldrin to Commander of the Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base. Unhappy with his new assignments, Aldrin resigned from NASA in 1971. Shortly afterwards, having undergone treatment for depression, he retired from the Air Force.

In 1972, Aldrin founded his own company, now known as Starcraft Enterprises. He sees his commercial relationships as an important link in the promotion of space tourism and the colonization of Mars. During an interview with *USA Weekend*, Aldrin expressed his belief that low-Earth orbiting tourism is "going to be what allows NASA to get funding for vehicles for exploration."

In 1974, Aldrin wrote his autobiography, *Return to Earth*. In 1989, he and Malcolm McConnell co-authored *Men From Earth*, which describes Aldrin's trip to the Moon. He has also served as chairman of the National Space Society's Board of Directors, and has been awarded 50 distinguished medals and citations from nations all over the world, including the United States' Presidential Medal of Freedom. Since 2000, Aldrin has frequently stated his belief that, with support from the U.S. government, within 12 to 15 years the "common man" will be able to experience space as he did in 1969.

"Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr., Dr." *Encyclopedia of World Biography Supplement*, Vol. 18. Gale Research, 1998. Reproduced in *Biography Resource Center*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Gale, 2008.  
<http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC>

### **Biography of Edwin E. Aldrin Sr.**

Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Sr., known as Gene, was born in 1896. He attended Clark University, graduating in 1915. There, he studied under Robert Goddard, who encouraged Aldrin's interest in aviation. The professor and his former student stayed close. Aldrin Sr. married Marion Moon and they later had a son and a daughter.

Edwin E. Aldrin, Sr. became a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and made the first transatlantic dirigible round trip in the Hindenburg. He later became an oil executive. He passed away at the age of 78.

### **Biography of Robert H. Goddard**

Robert Hutchings Goddard was born on October 5, 1882, in Worcester, Massachusetts, to Nahum Danford Goddard and Fannie Louise Hoyt Goddard. Robert H. Goddard was one of the foremost pioneers in the field of rocket research and the theory of space flight. Alone

among the first generation of rocket and space pioneers, he not only contributed to space flight theory but also engaged over most of his adult life in the actual development of rockets. As a result, he is credited with launching the world's first liquid-propellant rocket. He developed and patented a large number of innovations in rocket technology that were later used in the much larger rockets and missiles employed by the Germans during World War II and, thereafter, by the United States' and Soviet Union's missile and space programs, among others. Paradoxically, Goddard's influence upon modern rocketry was not as great as it would have been had he been less a solitary inventor and more inclined to publish his findings in scientific journals and elsewhere.

"Robert H. Goddard." Notable Scientists: From 1900 to the Present. Gale Group, 2001.

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Aldrin Family Papers, 1929-2007. An autobiography of Robert Hutchings Goddard, letters, notes, and newspaper articles relating to Robert Goddard, compiled by Edwin E. Aldrin, Sr. The papers are organized into three series:

### Arrangement

1. **Book, The Autobiography of Robert Hutchings Goddard: Father of the Space Age, Early Years to 1927 (Worcester, Massachusetts: Achille J. St. Onge, 1966)**
2. **Correspondence, 1929-1965**
3. **Clippings and brochures, 1958-2007**

Materials within each series have been arranged in chronological order.

**Descriptive Rules** Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition and Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Processing Information

The documents are in acid-free file folders in an acid-free document box, with the book wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and bubble wrap and housed in an acid-free envelope.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### Box 1

#### Folder.

1. **The Autobiography of Robert Hutchings Goddard: Father of the Space Age, Early Years to 1927** (Worcester, Massachusetts: Achille J. St.Onge, 1966).  
This book was carried into space by Buzz Aldrin at the request of his father.
2. Correspondence, 1929-1965  
The series consists of letters, and notes relating to Robert Goddard. Types of materials include: letters, and notes relating to Robert Goddard, compiled by Edwin Aldrin, Sr.
3. Clippings and brochures, 1958-2007  
The series includes newspaper articles relating to Robert Goddard.