

University of Houston Clear Lake

Archives and Special Collections

HSF-77 Dale E. Wolfe Collection

[Human Space Flight Collection]

Collection Number: HSF-77

Title: Dale E. Wolfe Collection

Dates: 1964-1985, undated

Creator: Dale E. Wolfe

Abstract

The Dale E. Wolfe Collection is composed of reports, correspondence, memorandums, training manuals, handbooks, personnel records, presentation slides printouts, photographs, booklets, newsletters, cartoons, and miscellaneous materials, created, used, or collected by Dale E. Wolfe while he worked with NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) as a NASA contractor working for Boeing's Houston operations. Wolfe worked as an electrical engineer with Boeing and NASA JSC on the Apollo Program missions, Skylab Program, Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP), and various other program from 1967 through the 1980s. The bulk of the material in this collection are various manuals and handbooks relating to the Apollo 16 and 17 missions, as well as the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project with the Soviet Union.

The largest and most significant set of materials in the collection is Wolfe's binder of reports and correspondence spanning the entire Apollo program between 1967 and 1975, focusing primarily on the Apollo 16 and 17 missions. The set contains original notes, manuals, reports, data, and company correspondence. The most interesting items in the collection are two of Wolfe's original green fabric personal meeting notebooks, in which he took notes and wrote ideas own during meetings with Boeing Houston and NASA JSC between January 1973 and February 1975 at the height of the Skylab Program and Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. The collection is an important representation of the work of a Boeing contract employee with NASA Johnson Space Center at the height of the United States' space program.

Extent: approximately 1.10 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

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Preferred Citation

[Item name or title], [Box Numbers], [Folder Numbers], Dale E. Wolfe Collection, HSF-77, University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Acquisition

The collection was donated to the University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections by Kristen Knoedler, daughter of James L. Knoedler, in March 2023.

Separated Material

A set of oversized charts with various documents were removed from the main collection, and stored in an oversized flat archival folder numbered as "Oversized Folder 1" and titled "Wolfe's Apollo 16 Laser Altimeter and Mapping Camera Data." This folder was relocated to an oversized box which contains oversized materials under 11" x 17" for the Human Space Flight Collection collections numbered HSF-50 to HSF-80. The box is marked " Human Space Flight Collection Oversized Materials," and has the collection numbers listed for the materials it contains.

Processing Information

The collection was originally donated along with an addition to the James L. Knoedler Papers in March 2023. Knoedler worked at NASA Johnson Space Center at the same time as Wolfe worked with Boeing as a NASA contractor there, and the two were neighbors in the Timber Cove neighborhood of Taylor Lake Village, Texas. According to the donor, her father received Wolfe's papers when Wolfe moved out of the neighborhood, thinking the father would like to have his papers. Since this time, both Knoedler and Wolfe's papers were stored together in James Knoedler's house. The materials were intermixed, and only discovered to belong to two separate people when the Knoedler addition was being sorted by UHCL Archives personnel.

A few very thick binders had the contents removed from their bindings or three-ring binders, and divided between two or more folders since the manuals or handbooks were too wide to fit if stored in a single archival folder. The folders were labeled in the folder titles as "Part 1" and "Part 2" in parentheses after the manual or handbook title. The order of materials in the manuals or handbooks were not changed when they were divided to fit in two separate folders for long-term storage. A number of materials were removed from the collection in keeping with the UHCL Archives' collection policy by the processing archivist while the collection was being arranged and described. Acid-free plastic archival clips were used to replace rusting metal clips where possible. Wolfe interwove other documents into some of his booklets and manuals. In such cases, the separate material found is stored in the folder behind the booklet or manual it was found in. A Hughes company press kit for the Intelstat VI satellite included a fabric patch, the artifact was stored within an acid free envelope (**see Box 2 folder 14**).

Processed by: Shelby Rodwell, Matthew M. Peek, September 2023.

Arrangement

The collection is organized in folders based on two general, unlabeled themes—personal work materials and non-personal work materials. Within each grouping, the materials are organized chronologically.

Biographical/Historical Note

Dale Edward Wolfe born August 4, 1918, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Wolfe was a veteran who served as a Staff Sergeant (Wire Chief) in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the European Theater during World War II, and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for his service. After the war, Wolfe would spend 12 years attending night school to earn his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, graduating in 1958. In 1963, Wolfe earned his Masters of Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He would go on to take graduate courses on Digital Logic at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City (later University of Houston-Clear Lake) in 1977; and graduate courses on semiconductor theory at San Jacinto College Deer Park in 1978.

Contracted under Boeing, Dale Wolfe began his work with NASA at the start of the Apollo Program missions in 1967, becoming a Senior Specialist Engineer supporting the Manned

Spacecraft Center (later Johnson Space Center) Safety Division. Wolfe worked on various projects, Apollo missions, Skylab, Apollo Soyuz Project (ASTP) and Space Shuttle. Specifically, he worked in the Safety Division during the development of the Space Shuttle Program. By 1992 Dale Wolfe was retired from Boeing. Nothing is known about his life after his retirement, and nothing about Wolfe's personal life is known at the time of this writing.

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of reports, correspondence, memorandums, training manuals, handbooks, personnel records, presentation slides printouts, photographs, booklets, newsletters, cartoons, and miscellaneous materials, created, used, or collected by Dale E. Wolfe while he worked with NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) as a NASA contractor working for Boeing's Houston operations. Wolfe worked as an electrical engineer with Boeing and NASA JSC on the Apollo Program missions, Skylab Program, Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP), and various other programs from 1967 through the 1980s. The bulk of the material in this collection are various manuals and handbooks relating to the Apollo 16 and 17 missions, as well as the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project with the Soviet Union.

The largest and most significant set of materials in the collection is Wolfe's binder of reports and correspondence spanning the entire Apollo missions between 1967 and 1975. The set contains original notes, manuals, reports, data, and company correspondence. The notes in the binders have a significant portion relating to experiments with laser altimeter and moon mapping engineering for the Apollo 16 and 17 missions. The most interesting items in the collection are two of Wolfe's original green fabric personal meeting notebooks, in which he took notes and wrote ideas own during meetings with Boeing Houston and NASA JSC between January 1973 and February 1975 at the height of the Skylab Program and Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

The collection contains some of Dale Wolfe's original personnel records, including a handwritten Boeing personnel record work history sheet, which is the only detailed biographical information on Wolfe known to exist. A unique item includes a handwritten narrative created by Wolfe to protest his work rating by Boeing, because he was not provided with rating and work report before being seen by other employees. This led him to write the narrative fighting for the strength of his work history and ethic at the company (**see Box 1, Folder 2**). The only known photograph of Wolfe in the collection can be found in a Fairchild Space and Defense Systems *FOCUS* company newsletter issue from January 1971 (**see Box 2, Folder 8**). There are also several issues of various Boeing company newsletters spanning from 1968 to 1984 kept by Wolfe (**see Box 2, Folder 3**).

Subject Terms

Personal/Family Name

Wolfe, Dale E.

Corporate Names

Boeing Aerospace Company
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Geographic Name

Cincinnati (Ohio)
Houston (Tex.)

Topical Term

Apollo 16 (Spacecraft)
Apollo 17 (Spacecraft)
Apollo Soyuz Test Project
Manned space flight--History
Manned Spacecraft Center (U.S.)
Project Apollo (U.S.)
Skylab Program
Space Shuttle Program (U.S.)
Space shuttles--United States--History
Space--Social aspects--History
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration--History

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Handbooks
Memorandums
Notebooks
Operating manuals
Personnel records
Press releases
Publications
Technical manuals
Technical reports

Collection Inventory

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/1	Wolfe's Personnel Records	1964-1985
1/2	Wolfe's Personal Letter "A Long Narrative"	Undated
1/3	Wolfe's Various Reports and Correspondence Binder (Part 1)	1967-1968
1/4	Wolfe's Various Reports and Correspondence Binder (Part 2)	1969-1970
1/5	Wolfe's Various Reports and Correspondence Binder (Part 3)	1969-1975
1/6	Wolfe's Personal Meeting Notes Notebook	January 1973- February 1974
2/1	Wolfe's Personal Meeting Notes Notebook	May 1974-February 1975
2/2	Wolfe's Grunman Aircraft Engineering <i>Lunar Module Subsystem Assembly and Installation</i> Document	1968
2/3	Miscellaneous Boeing Company Newsletters	1968-1984 (with gaps)
2/4	Clippings of Nasa Snoopy Cartoons (various sizes)	1969-1971
2/5	MSC Lunar Exploration General Presentation Material	1970
2/6	Wolfe's MSC Apollo 17 Lunar Mapping Data Operational Data Manual [partial] Binder (Part 1)	1970
2/7	Wolfe's Apollo Operations Handbook [partial] Binder (Part 2)	1971
2/8	Miscellaneous Materials, Pamphlets, and Photos	1971-1984, undated
2/9	STARPAHC <i>Space Technology in Remote Healthcare</i> Booklet	1974
2/10	Apollo Soyuz Test Project Miscellaneous Materials	1975, undated

2/11	Apollo Soyuz Test Project Crew Meeting with JSC Employees; Transcript	February 1975
2/12	Wolfe's Space Shuttle Program Reliability and Quality Assurance Publication	1979
2/13	Wolfe's STS Payload <i>Safety Policy and Requirements</i> Manual	1980-1982
2/14	Various Hughes and RCA Satellite Promotional Kits	1982-1984
2/15	Wolfe's <i>Rendezvous Proximity Operations Workbook</i> Training Division	1983
2/16	Wolfe's <i>Boeing SR&QA Desk Instruction</i> Space Station Safety	1984
3/1	<i>Cargo Systems Manual: Hughes 376 STS all Final</i>	1984
3/2	<i>STS-51-A Flight Director Mission Summary</i> From NASA JSC Operations Directorate	1984
3/3	Various Photographs from Lockheed Public Information and Hughes Public Relations	1984
3/4	NASA JSC <i>Payload Systems Data and Malfunctions</i> STS-51-A Manual	1984
3/5	NASA <i>Space Station Definition and Preliminary Design; Request for Proposal (Part 1)</i>	1984
3/6	NASA <i>Space Station Definition and Preliminary Design; Request for Proposal (Part 2)</i>	1984
3/7	<i>Cargo Systems Manual</i> STS-51-A Operations Division	1984
3/8	NASA JSC Contractor Report, <i>Evaluation of Two CCTV Aids for STS Proximity Operations</i>	Undated
3/9	RCA Laser Altimeter Press Releases	Undated
Oversized Folder 1	Wolfe's Apollo 16 Laser Altimeter and Mapping Camera Data	1972-1982