

Cataloguing Notes and Frequently Cited References

The photographs offered in this sale belong to the rare class of true vintage NASA prints — original analogue photographs produced between 1961 and 1972, in the immediate wake of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions. Created not as art editions but as scientific and operational working prints, these images were developed in NASA's own laboratories, primarily at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, from original astronaut-exposed film.

Most appear in the classic 8 × 10 inch format with white borders, and many bear NASA mission identification (negative) numbers corresponding precisely to the astronauts' film rolls and individual frames. These technical markings — sometimes printed on the front margin and often accompanied on the reverse by NASA centre stamps, captions, or dates — link each print directly to the historic negatives exposed in space or on the lunar surface.

Equally important are the physical characteristics that firmly anchor these works in the Apollo era. Authentic vintage examples are almost always printed on fibre-based photographic paper, the professional standard before resin-coated papers became widespread later in the 1970s. Colour prints from the period typically bear the Kodak watermark "A KODAK PAPER", while black-and-white prints are gelatin silver photographs on fibre paper, occasionally watermarked but often not. Period NASA logos, centre-specific caption styles, laboratory quality-control stamps, and even subtle processing marks further confirm their date and origin.

When these elements — format, mission numbering, paper type, watermark, and era-consistent markings — align, the result is far more than an image: it is an original artefact of the Space Age, a surviving scientific print from humanity's first voyages beyond Earth, and a cornerstone of one of the most important visual legacies of the twentieth century.

In this sale catalogue, each photograph is identified and attributed to its mission in the lot heading (for example, *Apollo 11*). NASA mission and photography records are not always definitive in attributing authorship; however, where possible, the photographer is identified beneath the lot title in the second line of the description, together with the mission dates (for example, *Buzz Aldrin, 16–24 July 1969*).

NASA mission identification numbers (NASA negative numbers) are provided within the technical description of the lot (for example: *With "A Kodak Paper" watermark on the verso, numbered "NASA S-72-55482" in red in the top margin*). Where the NASA negative number does not appear on the print itself, it is indicated in square brackets (for example: *[NASA image AS11-40-5903]*). This information is followed by the NASA photography processing centre (for example, *Manned Spacecraft Center*)

Unless otherwise stated, all photographs are glossy prints on standard-size paper, measuring 20.3 × 25.4 cm (8 × 10 in); only the sheet size is given.

Literature citations refer to the published versions of the images. Images supporting literature citations may occasionally be displayed with the lot. These images are shown solely to evidence the scholarly research and publication history of the NASA photographs and must not be copied, reproduced, or reused. The referenced periodicals are not included with the lots.

Bibliography

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LIFE
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TIME
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