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Goddard Convocation Time Capsule

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GODDARD CONVOCATION TIME CAPSULE

A miniskirt...space food packets...the Clark University charter...a tape recording of Astronaut John H. Glenn Jr.'s conversation with ground stations during his 1962 orbital mission...a Beatles record...a Project Apollo retro rocket...historic patents of Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard...material from which astronauts' space suits are made.

These are among the wide variety of items preserved for a future generation by enclosure in a time capsule to be inserted at the site of the Robert Hutchings Goddard Library, now under construction at Clark University.

The capsule designed to be raised in the year 2466 A.D., 500 years from now, contains close to 100 items, both actual materials and items reproduced on microfilm. The items were chosen on the basis of suggestions from a 55-member Selections Committee. Contents were chosen in four categories: materials representative of Dr. Goddard, the Space Age, Contemporary Life and Clark University.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey; Mrs. Robert H. Goddard; Dr. Howard B. Jefferson, University president; and J. Leland Atwood, president of North American Aviation, Inc., and general chairman of the Goddard Library Program, officiated at a time capsule ceremony on October 12, 1966, at the University's Homer P. Little Commons. The ceremony followed a special convocation commemorating Dr. Goddard, during which Mr. Humphrey spoke and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Vice President Humphrey, during the October 12 ceremony, presented the manuscript of his Goddard Convocation address and a film of the first walk in space by an American astronaut to the University for placement in the time capsule.

Speaking of the time capsule, Mr. Humphrey said it serves as, "a strong reminder of the times in which we live." He said the placement of artifacts in the capsule "reminds us of how our culture will be seen by civilizations of future centuries." He added that the time capsule represented our society's tendency to look to the future, which, he said, is a strong asset.

The Vice President placed his manuscript in the opened nose end of the capsule. Mrs. Goddard placed the second article in the capsule, a banner commemorating Dr. Goddard provided by the Rotary Club of Auburn, Mass.

The capsule will be placed at the site of the Robert Hutchings Goddard Library at a date to be determined.

Among the most interesting of the capsule items are those representative of the Space Age. A retro rocket, provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Rocketdyne Corp., of Canoga Park, Calif., a division of North American Aviation, Inc., is from the first launch in the Project Apollo series.

Space suit material, provided by the David Clark Company of Worcester, shows the different layers comprised in a space suit and is typical of the material used for the suit of Astronaut Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. Astronaut Aldrin, a member of the two-man Gemini 12 crew, is the son of Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, of Brielle, N.J. a former student of Dr. Goddard at Clark and a longtime disciple of the space pioneer.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided packets of space food, like that used on Project Gemini missions, and a tape recording of air-to-ground communications during the historic orbital mission in 1962 of Astronaut John E. Glenn Jr. Colonel Glenn is an honorary chairman of the Goddard Library Program.

Among the Goddard memorabilia items are selected patents from the 214 awarded to the physicist, the Goddard biography This High Man, by Milton Lehman, letters exchanged by Dr. Goddard and science-fiction writer H.G. Wells and a tape recording from the National Broadcasting Company Today show, last March 16, during which Mrs. Goddard is interviewed by NBC newsman Peter Hackes about her husband's historic launch of the world's first liquid-fuel rocket at Auburn, Mass., in 1926.

University-related items include the University charter, the first and most recent catalogs, the will of Jonas Clark, a founder and early benefactor of the University, and photographs of famous visitors, including the late President John F. Kennedy and Sigmund Freud.

Materials representative of contemporary life include a Beatles record, a miniskirt, a block of coins provided by the Worcester Federal Savings and Loan Association, planning surveys provided by the Worcester Redevelopment Agency and books on "stone age" aspects of the era provided by journalist-explorer Lowell Thomas.

Among persons invited to suggest contents were C. Waller Barrett, of Charlottesville, N.C., president of the American Antiquarian Society; Dr. Stephen J. Riley, director of the Massachusetts Historical Society; playwright Samuel N. Behrman, of New York City; journalist Ben H. Bagdikian, of Washington, D.C.; Professor Edmond A. Brun of Paris, past president of the International Astronautical Federation; S. Paul Johnston, director of the National Air Museum, Smithsonian Institution; Lowell Thomas, Journalist-explorer; Dr. Charles G. Abbot, fifth secretary of the Smithsonian; William V. Shannon, New York Times journalist; Eugene A. Smith, director of the Roswell, N.M., Museum and Art Center; poet Stanley Kunitz of New York City; Dr. Forrest C. Pogue, director of the George C. Marshall

Research Center; author Herman Wouk of Washington, D.C.; William J. Coughlin, editor of Technology Week; Jules Bergman, science editor for the American Broadcasting Company; Dennis Flanagan, editor of the Scientific American; Peter Hackes, NBC news correspondent; Forrest W. Seymour, editor of the Worcester Telegram-Gazette; Alden P. Johnson, publisher of the Barre, Mass., Gazette, and Everet B. Clark, New York Times science correspondent.

The time capsule is a gift to the University from the Norton Company of Worcester. Microfilming was provided by the Xerox Corporation Education Division through its subsidiary, University Microfilms, Inc., of Ann Arbor, Mich.

The capsule is designed as a replica of a 1940 Goddard rocket, one of the more sophisticated developed by the space pioneer. It weighs more than 300 pounds and is 10 feet, 4 inches long, with a diameter of 12 inches. The capsule is of stainless steel and aluminum construction. Nitrogen is used as a preservative.

A complete list, by categories, of time capsule contents is attached.

GODDARD MEMORABILIA

Eight selected Goddard patents: Rocket Apparatus (July 7, 1914), Rocket Apparatus (July 14, 1914), Method of and Apparatus for Producing Electrical Impulses or Oscillations (Nov. 2, 1915), Mechanism for Feeding Combustion Liquids to Rocket Apparatus (Feb. 19, 1946), Apparatus for Steering Aircraft (Mar. 12, 1946) Control Mechanism for Rocket Apparatus (April 2, 1946) (two patents), and Vacuum Tube Transportation System (June 20, 1950).

The book, Rockets, which includes Dr. Goddard's historic work, A Method of "Reaching Extreme Altitudes."

A Goddard first-day stamp and Clark University stamp ceremony brochures.

This High Man, the Goddard biography by Milton Lehman.

Brochures describing the Goddard Library Program.

The scientist's honorary degree from Clark.

A cartoon depicting Dr. Goddard drawn by George Mason of Princeton, Mass., for the 1926 University yearbook, Pasticcio.

Speeches by Dr. Stephen J. Riley and Dr. G. Edward Pendray at the first public showing of the Goddard papers at Clark on Oct. 31, 1964.

Architect John M. Johansen's (of New Canaan, Conn.) sketch of the Goddard Library.

The national Goddard memorial legislation, HJ597.

Pages from Dr. Goddard's first Green Notebook, typical of the complete record he kept of his historic work.

Letters exchanged by Dr. Goddard and science-fiction writer H.G. Wells.

A vial of earth from Pakachoag Hill, Auburn, Mass., where Dr. Goddard conducted the world's first successful liquid-fuel rocket test on March 16, 1926.

A vial of desert dust from Roswell, N.M., where the scientist conducted his later tests and research.

A tape recording of the National Broadcasting Company Today show, of March 16, 1966, during which Mrs. Goddard is interviewed by newsman Peter Hackes.

Dr. Goddard's Master's degree thesis at Clark, Theory of Diffraction.

The scientist's doctoral dissertation at Clark, On the Conduction of Electricity at Contacts of Dissimilar Solids.

The book, Adventures in the World of Science, by Dr. Charles G. Abbot, fifth secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Miniature book: Robert H. Goddard -- The Columbus of the Space Age, by Achille St. Onge of Worcester, foreword by Dr. Howard B. Jefferson, President of Clark University.

Banner honoring Dr. Goddard, from the Rotary Club of Auburn, Mass.

Manuscript of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey's address during the Goddard Commemorative Convocation at Clark on October 12, 1966.

Tape recording of October 12 Convocation and program brochure.

THE SPACE AGE

A retro rocket from the first Project Apollo mission: Provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; a spacecraft command module reaction control rocket engine. The engine and Apollo spacecraft for which it was designed are both programs carried out by North American Aviation, Inc. The engine measures 15 inches long, is 6 inches in diameter and weighs 9 pounds. Engine was on Apollo spacecraft No. 9 during first Apollo flight from Kennedy Space Center on February 26, 1966. The engine controls yaw of spacecraft during re-entry into earth's atmosphere.

Space suit material, provided by the David Clark Company of Worcester, showing the different layers that make up an astronaut's suit..

Film of the first walk in space by an American astronaut.

Packets of space food, provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including tuna fish, bacon strips, banana pudding, cocoanut squares, beef sandwiches, cereal cubes and chicken bites.

Tape recordings of the air-to-ground communications during the historic 1962 orbital mission of Astronaut John H. Glenn Jr.

President John F. Kennedy's 1962 Special Message to Congress on Urgent National Needs, which pledged a successful U.S. man-on-the-moon mission in this decade.

A copy of the legislation that created NASA.

Transcripts from Congressional committee hearings on NASA projects and appropriations.

Copies of Mariner IV Mars photographs, including man's first close-up picture of another planet.

The National Space Club speech by Dr. Wernher von Braun, director of the George C. Marshall Space Center, Huntsville, Ala., and chairman of the Library Program's International Sponsors Committee.

A Newsweek feature article of J. Leland Atwood, president of North American Aviation, Inc., and general chairman of the Library Program.

A Time feature article on Courtlandt S. Gross, chairman of the board of Lockheed Aircraft Corp. and chairman of the Library Program's Aerospace Corporations Division.

The NASA publication, Aeronautics and Astronautics, a diary of international space exploration.

Selected articles on U.S. post-Apollo programs.

The U.S. Senate document U.S. International Space Programs, 1959-65, which traces efforts at setting up world space treaties.

President Lyndon B. Johnson's joint communique from the White House on international space law during the Sept. 27, 1966 visit of West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard.

Space technology magazines.

A book on NASA history.

Bacon preserved by ionizing atomic energy: Provided by the United States Army Natick Laboratories, Natick, Mass., the pound of bacon is from the free world's first production of foods commercially preserved by radiation sterilization. The initial production was done in June-July 1966.

NRC-Space Blanket: Developed by National Research Corporation, a subsidiary of the Norton Company, Worcester. A product of space technology, it is an outgrowth of the super insulation material proved in outer space.

ITEMS REPRESENTATIVE OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE

The inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy.

The 1966 State of the Union message by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

A road atlas.

A miniskirt.

A restaurant menu provided by Anthony's Pier 4 of Boston.

Articles on reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, including a series written for the Boston Herald-Traveler by John Luttrell, now with WHDH-TV, Boston.

Annual reports of North American Aviation, Inc., Collins Radio Corp., and the Norton Company.

Credit cards.

A Beatles record.

Batman Comics.

Package of filter-tip cigarettes.

Package of Tiparillos.

World Almanac.

Selected magazine advertisements that show era's materialism.

Photographs of contemporary homes.

A copy of TV Guide, fall preview issue.

September 1966 issue of Playboy.

A block of currency provided by the Worcester Federal Savings and Loan Assoc.

Broadway show list.

Best-seller book list.

A cookbook.

Breakfast cereal with freeze-dried fruit.

"All-American City" edition of Worcester Telegram-Gazette.

City of Worcester street map and guide.

Surveys provided by the Worcester Redevelopment Agency.

A Bible.

Selected articles on the Viet Nam War, the civil rights movement and developments in medicine.

A dictionary.

A bottle of detergent.

Tranquilizer pills.

A box of plastic wrap.

Audubon Magazine article, Ruin for the Grand Canyon.

The books, I Have Returned From the Stone Age, by Heinrich Harrel and Adventures with the New Guinea Headhunters by Christl, provided by journalist-explorer Lowell Thomas.

Letters with time capsule contents suggestions from members of the Selections Committee.

Copies of the New York Times and Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

Liberty Tree bicentennial commemorative medallion: The "Liberty Tree" in Boston, planted by early settlers in 1646, played an historic role in Colonial American History as a symbol of freedom, now commemorated with a plaque.

ITEMS REPRESENTATIVE OF CLARK UNIVERSITY

The book, The First 50 Years at Clark.

University general and evening school catalogs for 1966-67.

University directory.

Class of 1970 profile.

1966 Treasurer's Report.

University charter.

1966 yearbook Pasticcio.

Photographs contrasting the campus of years ago with the present campus.

Selected materials from the University development program.

Photographs of famous visitors to Clark, including the late President John F. Kennedy and Sigmund Freud.

The first University catalog.

The will of Jonas Clark, a founder and early benefactor of the University.

The University's First Official Announcement.

Early and recent editions of the student newspaper, Scarlet.