Exhibit Checklist

Photographs
AP Photo/NASA.

Neil Armstrong leads the crew of Apollo 11 to the van that carried them to the launch platform at Cape Kennedy, 16 July 1969. AP Photo/NASA.

Apollo 11 blastoff, 16 July 1969. AP Photo/NASA.
Southeastern view of the lunar surface, 20 July 1969.
AP Photo/NASA.


Col. Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin footprint on the surface of the moon, 20 July 1969. AP Photo/NASA.

Lunar module Eagle, rising from the lunar surface toward the command module, Columbia, 21 July 1969.
AP Photo/NASA.

Splashdown in the Pacific Ocean, 24 July 1969.
AP Photo/NASA.

President Richard M. Nixon flaps the "OK" sign to the Apollo 11 astronauts, 24 July 1969. AP Photo/NASA.


Reporters and photographers witness the blastoff of Apollo 11, 16 July 1969. AP Photo.


American servicemen pause on a downtown Saigon street to read an article about the Apollo 11 landing in the Saigon Post, 21 July 1969. AP Photo.

A crowd of 100,000 people in New York's Central Park watch as Apollo 11 lands on the moon, 20 July 1969.
AP Photo/Mary Lederhendler.

A woman in Tokyo watches the television broadcast of the Apollo 11 astronauts' salute from the moon, 20 July 1969.
AP Photo.

People gather in front of the Central Photo Agency office in Warsaw, Poland, where prints of the lunar landing were exhibited, 21 July 1969. AP Photo.

Wire Copy
Cape Canaveral and Saigon Bureau Records

Assistance Selection, Washington, 10 January 1969.


Launch by Howard Benedict, Cape Kennedy, 16 July 1969.

Moon landing flash and bulletin by Howard Benedict, Space Center, Houston, 20 July 1969.

Wire Copy (cont.)

Apollo TV by Harry F. Rosenthal, Space Center, Houston, 24 July 1969.


Apollo 11-The Meaning, Space Center, Houston, 12 August 1969.


Printed Materials

AP World, Summer 1969, "How Many First Flight to the Moon was Reported by The Associated Press."


Footprints on the Moon by the writers and editors of The Associated Press, manuscript by John Barbour (Associated Press, 1969).

Footprint on the moon by the writers and editors of The Associated Press, manuscript by John Barbour (Associated Press, 1969).


Artifacts

Hasselblad 1000F 120 SLR camera (Gift of Sandy Colton, 2005).

Cover Images:

Apollo 11 blastoff, 16 July 1969. AP Photo/NASA.

The AP World, Summer 1969

AP Photo/Neil Armstrong. NASA.

Moon landing flash and bulletin by Howard Benedict, Space Center, Houston, 20 July 1969.

Inside Image:

Col. Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin's footprint on the surface of the moon, AP Photo/NASA.
"Contact light," I heard Buzz Aldrin call out. That meant probes dangling beneath the lunar lander Eagle had touched the surface of the moon. I raised my hands for the final seconds. Then I slapped the desk, hard. “Go! They're down!” I said. The AP Teletype burst out the words:

FLASH

SPACE CENTER
ASTRONAUTS LAND ON MOON

Then:

BULLETIN

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Man landed on the moon at 4:18 p.m. EDT, Sunday, July 20, 1969."

--Howard Benedict
AP aerospace writer

In May 1961, President John F. Kennedy set before the nation and Congress the ambitious goal “of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth” before the close of the decade. At the time, the United States was badly trailing the Soviet Union in the Space Race. A month before Kennedy’s speech the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly into space. Many astronauts and engineers at NASA thought that Kennedy’s dream of a lunar landing before the end of the 1960s was improbable, if not crazy. As Mercury astronaut Gordon Cooper purportedly said, “we don't have the rockets, we've never had a man in orbit, [and] we don't even know how to navigate to the moon.” Nevertheless, two Americans walked on the moon in the summer of 1969. On their home planet 250,000 miles away, half a billion people watched and listened to the unbelievable news. And they read about it in the newspapers the following day on front pages that instantly became collectors’ editions.

AP had covered the United States’ efforts in space exploration and rocketry from the first missile launch at Cape Canaveral on July 24, 1950 (eight years before the formation of NASA). Press conditions in these early years were far from congenial as the military kept a tight lid on all operations. This lack of access to the Cape meant that reporters and photographers surreptitiously watched the launches from Bird Watch Hill, a sandy knoll in Cocoa Beach which afforded a good view of the launch pad.

Nearly two decades later, the situation had drastically changed. Several hundred members of the media covered the liftoff of Apollo 11 from the grounds of the Kennedy Space Center. Over the years, AP had cultivated a crop of aerospace writers and reporters with the ability to translate complex scientific and technical matters into prose both soaring and spare. For the eight days of the Apollo 11 mission—from blastoff to splashdown—the 71 members of the AP Space Team recorded man's first expedition to the surface of the moon and his safe return to earth.

--AP Corporate Archives
July 20, 2009

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - Two Americans landed and walked on the moon Sunday, the first human beings on its alien soil. They planted their nation's flag and talked to their President on earth by radio-telephone.

Millions on their home planet 240,000 miles away watched on television as they saluted the flag, and scouted the lunar surface.

-John Barbour's lede that ran in newspapers throughout the world on July 21, 1969