



Neil Armstrong  
NASA ID: S69-31741  
Program: Apollo  
Mission: Apollo XI  
Date Taken: July 1,  
Film Type: 4x5  
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# REMEMBERING NEIL ARMSTRONG

October 2013

*By Eric Holcomb*



Official  
Apollo XI (Apollo 11)  
Mission Insignia

# Neil Alden Armstrong (August 5, 1930 – August 25, 2012)

- ▣ Only one human can be remembered as the first to set foot upon another world, and that honor goes to Neil Armstrong of Wapakoneta, Ohio, who on July 20, 1969 (July 21 UT) during the mission of Apollo 11 famously set foot upon the Moon and proclaimed “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.”
- ▣ The plaque that Armstrong and lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin left behind on the lunar lander *Eagle* at the Sea of Tranquility reads “HERE MEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH FIRST SET FOOT UPON THE MOON JULY 1969, A.D. WE CAME IN PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND.”

# Armstrong Career Highlights

- 1940s – Flight certificate at age 15; Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout; began studying aeronautical engineering at Purdue University at age 17; began Naval flight training in 1949 at age 18.
- 1950s – Flew 78 missions over Korea for a total of 121 hours in the air, most of which were in January 1952. Completed B.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1955. Served as an experimental research test pilot, mostly at Edwards Air Force Base, flying a number of well-known aircraft including the Bell X-1B, Bell X-5 and North American X-15 (the latter from 1960-1962). Married Janet Elizabeth Shearon in 1956.



Photo: Two U.S. Navy Grumman F9F-2 Panther jets from Fighter Squadron VF-51 "Screaming Eagles" during a sortie over Korea, in 1951-52. VF-51 was assigned to Carrier Air Group 5 (CVG-5) aboard the aircraft carrier USS Essex (CV-9) for a deployment to Korea from 26 June 1951 to 25 March 1952. The pilot of the lead plane ("S-107") was Lt. JG George Russell, "S-116" was flown by Ens. Neil Armstrong. U.S. Navy National Museum of Naval Aviation photo No. 2011.003.281A.013

# Armstrong Career Highlights

- 1960s – Selected in 1962 as a pilot-engineer for the X-20 military space plane. In the fall of 1962, joined the NASA Astronaut Corps as part of what the press dubbed “the New Nine.” Served as Command Pilot for the Gemini 8 mission launched on March 16, 1966, which involved the rendezvous and first-ever docking between two spacecraft. Narrowly escaped disaster by ejecting from a lunar landing research vehicle on May 6, 1968. Offered the post of commander of Apollo 11 on December 23, 1968, as Apollo 8 orbited the Moon. The decision that Armstrong would be the first on the Moon was made in March 1969, and the rest is history.

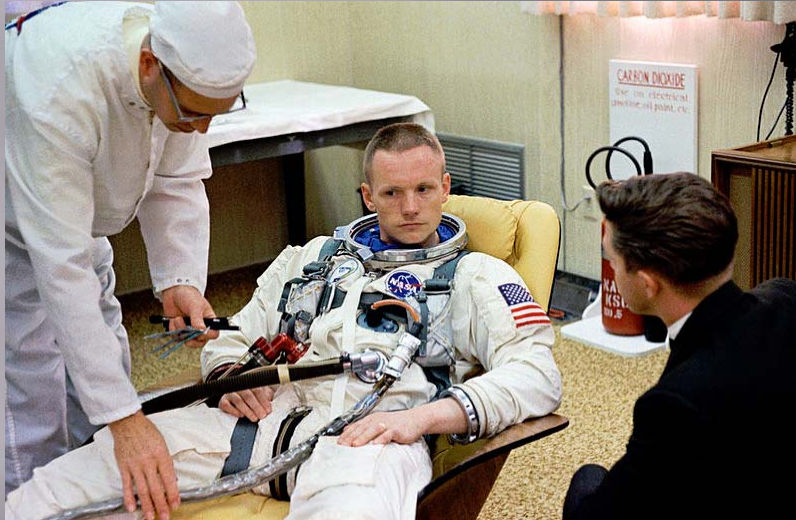


Photos: Armstrong and X-15 in 1960; in early Gemini spacesuit.



# Armstrong Career Highlights

- 1960s – Gemini 8 mission (launched on March 16, 1966)



Photos: Gemini 8: Armstrong suiting up; recovery in Pacific.

# Armstrong Career Highlights

- ▣ 1960s – Apollo 11 mission (July 16-24, 1969)



Boeing built the Saturn S-1C first stage at the Michoud Ordnance Plant, a former World War II factory in New Orleans.

The story is covered in Robert J. Sterling's book *Legend & Legacy: The Story of Boeing and Its People*, written for the company's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1991.

Photo: Apollo 11 liftoff (Saturn V rocket).



# Armstrong Career Highlights

- 1960s – Apollo 11 mission (July 16-24, 1969)



Photo (above):  
Apollo 11 crew  
portrait: Neil  
Armstrong,  
Michael Collins,  
Buzz Aldrin.

Photo  
(below):  
Armstrong  
on the  
Moon.



Photo (above):  
Armstrong in  
the cabin on July  
21, 1969.

# Armstrong Career Highlights

- After Apollo – Left NASA in 1971 and accepted a teaching position in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, which he held until 1979. Although he served on the boards of several companies, he mostly led a private life and declined to run for public office.
- He died on August 25, 2012 in Cincinnati, Ohio, after complications resulting from a cardiovascular procedure.
- After his death, Armstrong was described, in a statement released by the White House, as “among the greatest of American heroes – not just of his time, but of all time.”

Photo: Armstrong speaks on the 50th anniversary of John Glenn’s first spaceflight in February 2012.





# Apollo 11 landing site



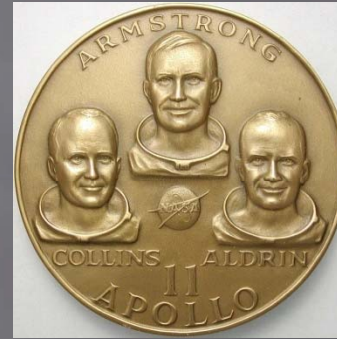
# Numismatic Information

- ▣ For over two millennia, individuals and nations have commemorated important events with medallic art. If the number of different commemorative issues is one measure of the significance of an event, then Apollo 11 ranks high on the list.
- ▣ The interesting selection of medals shown in this exhibit was assembled by the exhibitor over a period of many years. Most of the medals were struck by private mints for sale to the public and to collectors. Preference has been given to medals that feature a portrait of Armstrong or at least an image of an astronaut on the lunar surface; also to original medals issued during 1969 and 1970.
- ▣ A number of the medals also depict Lunar Module Pilot “Buzz” Aldrin and Command Module Pilot Michael Collins.



The Medallic Art Company, located in New York from 1903 until 1972, set the standard for medal making in the United States for many years, and still bills itself as “America’s Most Prestigious Private Mint.”

**Medal:** 63 mm (2.5 inch) high-relief .999 silver medal by sculptor Joseph Di Lorenzo and the Medallic Art Company depicting Armstrong’s first step on the Moon and American rocket pioneer Dr. Robert H. Goddard on the reverse.



**Medal:** 63 mm (2.5 inch) high-relief bronze medal by sculptor Ralph Menconi (1915-1972) and the Medallic Art Company. This medal is available in both silver and bronze, and is part of a series of medals commemorating the Apollo 11 to 17 missions.

**References:** Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)), Medallic Art Company website ([www.medallic.com](http://www.medallic.com)) and other Internet sources pertaining to specific companies or medal designers. The NASA website ([nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov)) is also highly recommended for Apollo 11 history.





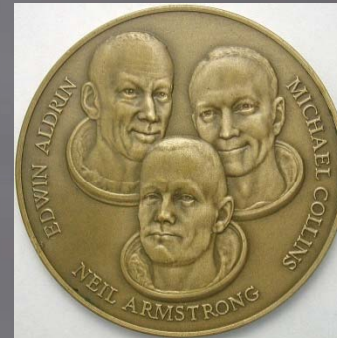
**Medal:** 58 mm (2.25 inch) silver medal by Alec Brook, Ltd., London, depicting the Apollo 11 astronauts on the obverse and the lunar module (sometimes called the lunar lander or lunar excursion module or LEM) on the reverse. Serial number 2443 of 2,500 struck. According to the certificate of authenticity, all were struck between the time of the first landing on the Moon and the time of splashdown in the Pacific on July 24, 1969.



**Medal:** 63 mm (2.5 inch) artistic gold-plated silver medal by Hungarian sculptor and coin designer Paul Vincze (pronounced "VINT-seh," 1907-1994), depicting a symbolic triumphant astronaut on the Moon (obverse), and Mercury surrounded by pictograms showing different phases of the Apollo 11 mission on the reverse.



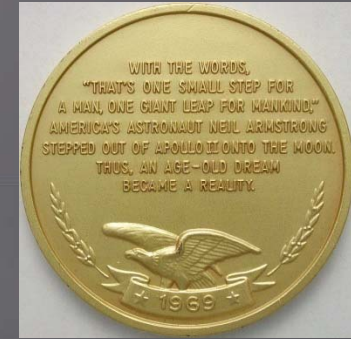
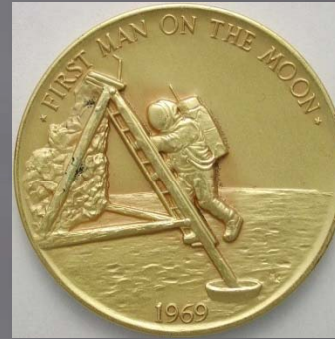
**Medal:** 50 mm high-relief bronze medal by sculptor Ralph Menconi (1915-1972) and the Medallic Art Company honoring Ohio's Aerospace Pioneers: the Wright brothers, John Glenn and Neil Armstrong. Menconi is also known as the "Sculptor of Presidents," because of the 36-medal series of the presidents he created for Presidential Art Medals.



**Medal:** 50 mm bronze medal by the Dutch company van Kempen & Begeer in Voorschoten, showing the Astronaut's portraits on the obverse and the flag-raising on the lunar surface on the reverse. The lower-quality version of this medal issued by Spritzer & Fuhrmann, New York, shows some loss of detail compared to the original bronze version. The Dutch silver works company was founded in 1764 by John Matthew van Kempen and is still in business.



**Medal:** 50 mm high-relief silver medal by the Italian sculptor and medallist Costantino Affer(1906-1987). The original and more common version has the names of the astronauts on the reverse, and is available in two sizes, however this special version was obviously made later for the American Revolution Bicentennial in 1976.



**Medals:** Two medals (40 mm high-relief gold-plated silver by The Danbury Mint and 38 mm silver by The Franklin Mint) commemorating the first man on the Moon in association with the year 1969, as part of a series of medals for different years.





**Medal:** Although the portrait of Neil Armstrong inside the spacesuit visor may be small, this 38 mm sterling silver medal by The Franklin Mint and former U.S. Mint engraver Gilroy Roberts is one of the most common Apollo 11 medals. The reverse depicts the plaque left behind on the base of the lunar module as described in the introduction to this exhibit. Since the exact date of the landing was not known in advance, the plaque was engraved with the date “July 1969, A.D.” The names and signatures of the Apollo 11 astronauts and President Richard M. Nixon appear at the bottom.



**Medal:** 39 mm aluminum medal honoring Neil Armstrong as one of the “people who made America.” Inexpensive pieces such as this are often given away as promotions or used as “throw” pieces in the annual Marti Gras parade in New Orleans.



**Medal:** 30 mm German language .999 fine silver medal honoring Neil A. Armstrong as “der erste mann auf dem mond” (the first man on the Moon). The reverse depicts Armstrong’s historic first step on the Moon with the Earth in the background. The date is given in European style as 21.7.1969, and the time as 3:56:20 MEZ, a reference to Universal or “Zulu” time. It was still the evening of 20 July in the United States. Armstrong and Aldrin spent 21 hours on the lunar surface and returned 46 pounds of rocks.



**Medal:** 34 mm silver medal, very similar to the German medal at left and with the European date and time, but otherwise with English inscriptions including “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

The Germans have a strong interest in the Apollo program thanks to German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun, who escaped to the American side at the end of World War II, and was instrumental in the development of the Saturn V rocket.



**Medals:** 24 mm and 45 mm .900 gold medals issued by *Numismatica Italiana* in Milan depicting portraits of the three Apollo 11 astronauts, and a “lunar surface scene” on the reverse. 16th-24th July 1969 represents the complete Apollo 11 mission from launch to landing. According to the included certificate, these are official medals issued by the International Association of Man-In-Space.



The Spanish-speaking world also commemorated the Apollo 11 mission. It's estimated that over one-half billion people worldwide watched on TV as Armstrong made his “one small step” on the Moon.

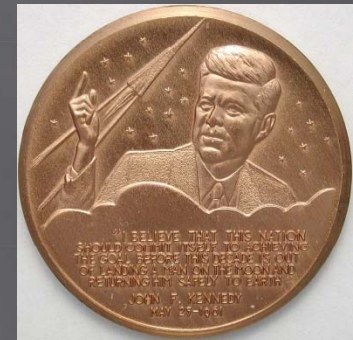
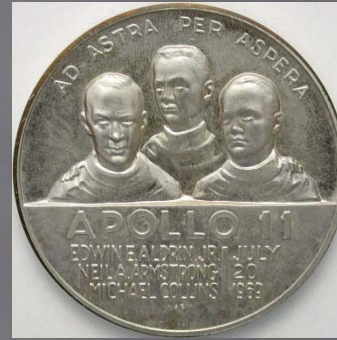
**Medal:** 40 mm medal from Mexico honoring the Apollo 11 astronauts as the “PRIMEROS HOMBRES EN LA LUNA” (“First men in (or on) the Moon”) on the obverse and recognizing the Guaymas-Empalme station for space observations in the state of Sonora, Mexico, operated by the Mexican Space Agency, on the reverse. The station served as a major link in NASA's Worldwide Space Flight Network, as the Guaymas Tracking Station, from 1961 to 1970.





**Medal (left):** 34 mm .999 silver medal, depicting the Apollo 11 astronauts as seen through their spacesuit visors, with a lunar surface scene on the reverse.

**Medals (right):** Two common 38.1 mm (1.5 inch) medals from the Lombardo Mint in Canada, depicting the astronauts on the obverse, and in one case President Kennedy on the reverse. On May 25, 1961 Kennedy declared “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth.” Following eight years of triumphs and one major setback (the tragic Apollo 1 fire in 1967), Kennedy’s goal was realized with the Apollo 11 mission of July 16-24, 1969. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and did not live to see any Apollo mission.



President Lyndon B. Johnson, who as Vice President had helped line up support for Kennedy in Congress, continued to vigorously support the program, while the honor of actually presiding as President of the United States over the Apollo 11 mission fell upon Richard M. Nixon.

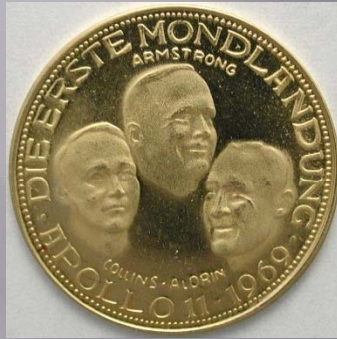


**Medal:** 30 mm sterling silver medal by the Hayward jewelry company depicting the Apollo 11 astronauts as seen through their spacesuit visors, with Armstrong stepping on the Moon on the reverse.



**Medal:** 40 mm thick brass medal from West Germany, once again depicting Armstrong walking on the Moon, issued for the “Day of Aero & Astro Philately” at the Interpex philatelic exposition in New York, March 14, 1970.





More German language Apollo 11 medals, this time in gold and silver, and this time showing portraits of all three astronauts. If you're beginning to get the idea that the Germans are proud of what their rocket scientists accomplished for peaceful purposes in collaboration with the Americans, then you're right!

**Medal:** 24 mm .900 fine gold medal as described above, and similar 40 mm silver medal, showing astronauts on the obverse and trajectory from Earth to the Moon and back on the reverse. Legends "Die erste mondlandung" (the first Moon landing) and "Dem menschen gehört das all / gott schuf es" ("Humans going forth in the universe" and "God created it").



**Medal (left):** 20 mm .900 fine gold Apollo 11 medal, in English, commemorating the Apollo 11 astronauts, and depicting the lunar landing.

**Medal (right):** Swiss 45 mm sports (or walking event) medal badge by Huguenin commemorating the Apollo 11 astronauts and mission.



# Exhibit Information

- ▣ This exhibit was first shown at the ANA Anniversary Convention, Chicago/Rosemont, Illinois, August 13-17, 2013
- ▣ Local collectors are encouraged to prepare exhibits for upcoming PNNA and ANA shows.
  - PNNA convention, Tukwila, WA, May 2-4, 2014
  - PNNA/WCC show in Portland, fall 2014
  - ANA show in Portland, March 5-7, 2015