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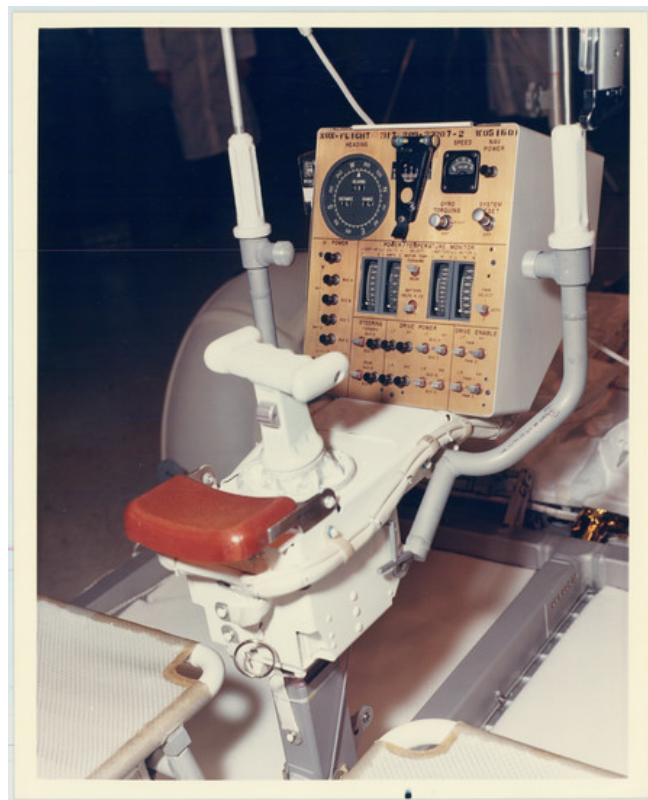
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(Apollo 15) [Lunar roving vehicle control panel]

Stock#: 67609
Map Maker: NASA

Date: 1971 circa
Place: n.p.
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 8 x 10 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

A closeup of the control panel for a lunar rover taken from the passenger seat. This rover appears to be newly completed and in mint condition. In the background, several people stand in lab coats who appear to be inspecting the rover. This rover was used for testing purposes, as can be seen by the "Non-Flight" insignia.

Three lunar roving vehicles would be made for Apollo missions 15-17, and they were named simply LVR-1, 2, and 3. Each vehicle was a near-duplicate of the others, although LRV-2 had a new seatbelt design and LRV-3 added an electrical cable to conduct surface electrical property experiments and made a few subtle design changes to the control panel. In addition to these flight rovers, several additional non-flight models were made so that astronauts and engineers could test the machines on earth prior to the flight.

These battery-operated machines allowed for much greater distances to be covered on the moon. Design and construction were completed in just 17 months, a rapid turn around for the Apollo program. They were instrumental in the succession of the J-type missions which focused on scientific advancement and



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discovery.

The NASA handbook on rover operation says that: "The LRV is deceptive in appearance. It looks like a simple, familiar vehicle. In reality, it is a specialized spacecraft designed to function safely in space conditions of vacuum, wide temperature variances and over difficult terrain. It has been built to the exacting specifications of all Apollo program hardware, and has been subjected to a rigorous test program to qualify it as a manned spacecraft."

The control panel pictured shows many instruments. On the left side (black, outside the main panel) is an attitude indicator, indicating steepness of terrain. To the right of that is the Integrated Position Indicator which shows heading, bearing, range and distance covered. Due to the lack of magnetic field on the moon, this navigational system would have needed to use gyroscopes, similar to those used in flight. This would have been calibrated by the sun shadow device, located just to the right of the IPI. In addition to navigational devices, a plethora of switches and steering devices are included on the control panel.

Provenance

From the collection of a veteran of Boeing's Public Relations and Advertising Department who joined the company in 1961.

Detailed Condition:

Blue ink mark in the center bottom. Easily coverable with frame.