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(Apollo 14 - Recovery Tracking Manuscript) [Post lunar landing recovery map and related ephemera from aboard USS New Orleans including NASA issued Apollo 14 insignia patch] Apollo Mission Plotting Chart (AMP) 4th Apollo Edition, January 1969.

Stock#: 76611
Map Maker: NASA
Date: 1971
Place: n.p.
Color: (See Description)
Condition: VG
Size: 39.5 x 12.5 inches
Price: \$ 4,500.00



Description:

Rare Apollo 14 Recovery Map with Related Ephemera

An original map used in the recovery of the Apollo 14 astronauts after splashdown in the South Pacific on February 9, 1971. The map is accompanied by numerous keepsakes and ephemeral items including an original embroidered patch with the Apollo 14 insignia showing the Moon and the Earth surrounded by the names of the three mission astronauts: Shepard, Roosa, and Mitchell. Also, the "Apollo 14 Guests Telephone Directory" (4 mimeograph sheets) used on board the USS *New Orleans*, which lists the names of NASA personnel and members of the press who were on board during the recovery mission. And an 8-page mimeograph Apollo 14 press pool "Information Memo #2" signed in print by D.D. Griffin and dated 14 January 1971. Plus two unused "Go Navy" bumper stickers commemorating Apollo 14 and an unused stationery envelope for the recovery ship.

The near disaster of Apollo 13's aborted moon landing highlighted the importance of a successful outcome for Apollo 14 and its special lunar mission. While being the third Apollo mission overall to successfully land on the moon, Apollo 14 was the first to land in the lunar highlands. In the wake of the aborted Apollo 13 mission, Apollo 14's landing site was changed from a location near Littrow crater in Mare Serenitatis, to the more scientifically important site of Fra Mauro, originally to have been the landing site for Apollo 13.

Alan Shepard, a veteran astronaut from the original Mercury missions who had been the first American to enter space on May 5, 1961, served as mission commander for Apollo 14. The other astronauts on the mission were Stuart A. Roosa, Command Module Pilot, and Edgar D. Mitchell, Lunar Module Pilot. Mitchell's later statement about Apollo 14 underscored its importance to the survival of the entire Apollo



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program:

We realized that if our mission failed - if we had to turn back - that was probably the end of the Apollo program. There was no way NASA could stand two failures in a row. We figured there was a heavy mantle on our shoulders to make sure we got it right.

After a successful lunar landing and reentry to the Earth's atmosphere, the command module of Apollo 14, designated *Kitty Hawk*, splashed down in the South Pacific Ocean on February 9, 1971, some 900 miles south of American Samoa. The Navy spearheaded the recovery operation with the USS *New Orleans* serving as the primary recovery ship. The crew was flown to Pago Pago Airport, then to Honolulu, then to Ellington Air Force Base near Houston aboard a plane containing a Mobile Quarantine Facility unit before they continued their quarantine in the Lunar Receiving Laboratory. They remained there until being released from quarantine on February 27, 1971. The Apollo 14 astronauts were the last lunar explorers to be quarantined after Moon travel.

The color lithograph map was prepared especially for NASA and has the caption title:

Apollo Mission Plotting Chart (AMP) / 4th Apollo Edition, January 1969 / This chart obsoletes 3rd Apollo Edition August 1968

Prepared under the direction of the Department of Defense by the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, United States Air Force, for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Lithographed by ACIC 1-69.

The map has detailed technical annotations in pencil, yellow felt pen, and red and blue colored pencil, suggesting it was used by a Naval official directly involved in plotting or pinpointing the location of the *Kitty Hawk* splashdown location in the South Pacific. The emendations refer to start and end burn TSP, with elevation angles noted in yellow felt pen. Pencil marks triangulate the Apollo 14 splashdown location south of the Samoa Islands, which is marked with a hexagon drawn in red ink.

Provenance

These materials belonged to Lt. Roger C. Ramsey, a Vietnam veteran who was assigned to the special Navy mission aboard the USS *New Orleans* tasked with recovering the astronauts from the ocean.

A unique collection of original materials relating to Apollo 14, including the rare NASA-prepared recovery



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map actually used by Navy personnel in pinpointing the location of the three astronauts upon their return to Earth.

Detailed Condition:

Color lithograph map, mimeograph directory "Apollo 14 Guests Telephone Directory," mimeograph schedule for press pool participants assigned to cover Apollo 14, two "Go Navy" bumper stickers commemorating Apollo 14, one round Apollo 14 embroidered patch. Also 1 unused stationery envelope of "U.S.S. New Orleans (LPH-11), Primary Recovery Ship, Apollo 14" with color printed Apollo 14 insignia. Map with three vertical fold creases, old cello tape repairs along separation tears at folds, with minor paper losses in the regions of Brazil, Japan, Australia and New Guinea, and small chip to center of lower margin at base of fold (with paper loss but not affecting printed area). Other than defects noted on the map, overall collection condition is very good.