



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

(Apollo 12) Alan L. Bean with the Lunar Surface Magnetometer and the noteworthy blue-green-colored aberration.

Stock#: 93042
Map Maker: NASA
Date: 1969 November 19
Place: n.p.
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 8 x 10 inches
Price: \$ 1,400.00



Description:

This mirrored version of the Apollo 12 photograph AS12-46-6813 shows Alan Bean deploying the three-armed Lunar Surface Magnetometer (LSM). The original image, which can be seen [here](#), is somewhat wider and shows the lander at the left. That photo is noteworthy because of a strange glow around Alan and the LSM. In this version of the photograph there is no such glow, however there are other color aberrations in the midground of the image.

The official NASA note about this photograph reads:

117:35:14 Al has deployed the three-arm Lunar Surface Magnetometer (LSM). The LM is in the background at the left edge of the picture. Good view of the saddlebag on Al's left hip. Because Pete landed so close to Surveyor crater, the LM footpads are below their current position and are hidden by a very slight, intervening rise.



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Note the foggy blue patch around Al. Examination of successive frames indicate that this feature is related to the camera lens, very likely a dust smudge. Kipp Teague notes "The lens aberration begins at as12-46-6813. It's a blue glow around the astronaut in 6818, again in 6826, a discoloration in other frames, affecting clarity in most, and it's not gone again until 6853 (back in the LM). Whatever the phenomenon is, it has a varying impact on color based on the brightness of the central object in the image. On bright subjects, the aberration adds a blue cast, and on darker subjects, the aberration adds a reddish cast." I note that it also seems to vary with sun angle.

This was a curious incident during Apollo 12, and this photograph preserves a different version of the phenomenon than what is seen in the usual photograph.

Detailed Condition:

1969 chromogenic photograph on paper watermarked "A KODAK PAPER" on verso. With NASA ID number AS12-46-6813 stamped on the verso in black ink.