

Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association

Annual Report 2021



Collins Radio Co. transmits the first image via Echo satellite at 12:58 AM, August 19, 1960

December 6, 2021

To AACLA Volunteers and Collins History Enthusiasts,

Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association (AACLA) has completed its 8th year of operations and greatly appreciates the vital financial and other support from those affiliated with making this important history globally available.

AACLA completed and released in theaters its third space documentary (Steps to the Moon); it premiered in May 2021 to an enthusiastic, live audience at the Collins Road Theatre. The three (3) space films, and our prior documentary, "A Culture of Innovation", have been placed on [Vimeo.com](https://www.vimeo.com), available for revenue-generating downloads and streaming. The films remain available for purchase as DVDs.

AACLA will 1) develop additional video documentaries (e.g. Collins' role in World War II, and its role in development of the internet), and will continue 2) the collection and documentation of key artifacts, 3) the collection/digitization of documents for general public interest and research, and 4) the publication of inspiring articles. ***Your financial support has been and is crucial to these continued efforts.***

AACLA Outreach Capabilities

The pandemic has driven AACLA to accelerate the expansion of its outreach to the public (domestic & international).

This is being accomplished by AACLA developing its brand (worldwide presence & recognition). **Collins Aerospace** and **Fuel, Inc.** (a professional in the area of brand development) are assisting AACLA in this effort, as follows:

- (a) enhanced & interactive website capabilities that **attract and retain the attention** of visitors,
- (b) creation of virtual tours of Collins Museum and other artifacts not available in the Museum,
- (c) working to improve and expand the Collins Museum, hopefully with easier public access,
- (d) seeking Collins employees' and retirees' engagement to accelerate the above-mentioned documentaries, artifact documenting and document digitization, and
- (e) a future Arthur A. Collins Science Center (hands-on) that is under consideration by AACLA and the community.

More to come about this in the future, ***but your financial support will help make this possible.***

When understood, the accomplishments of Arthur Collins and Collins Radio truly are inspiring and motivating.

Therefore, we encourage each of you to engage with us, in ways you deem appropriate for you and/or your family (contact Mike Dupree for ideas). Your financial support can be through tax-exempt donations; you can also make 401K/IRA direct transfer donations of stocks/investments to further reduce your tax burdens.

Looking to the future: AACLA is dedicated to preserving, honoring, and interpreting the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and the profound contributions he and Collins Radio made to the world in communications, navigation, aerospace, avionics, and defense technologies. Those involved in this effort know the reward in preserving this history. Collins' history is inextricably linked to the history and success of not just Cedar Rapids, but also the United States and the world. Through its extensive products and systems, Collins Radio helped determine the outcomes of world events, including during the dark and dangerous times of World War II and the Cold War. We believe the youth and general public need to hear this message today, as a stimulus in becoming excited about math, science, and technology (STEM). Our work consistently **promotes the message of optimism, doing your best, and the rewards of working together.**

Please visit <http://arthurcollins.org> and <http://collinsaerospacemuseum.org> to learn more about our mission.

The AACLA Board of Directors **invites you to be a part of this great work:** producing documentary short films; there is research to be done; publications to be written; artifacts to be collected, preserved, stored and displayed; and presentations to be made at public events. No one has to do it all; each little contribution helps!

Best Wishes in the coming year,

Mike Dupree, President, AACLA mike.dupree.aacla@gmail.com

The Arthur A Collins Legacy Association FY-2021 Annual Report

AACLA Purpose

This report documents for our donors and volunteers the Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020 to Sep. 30, 2021) activities and accomplishments of the AACLA. The AACLA was incorporated in the State of Iowa on January 3, 2014 and became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in October 2014.

The purpose of the AACLA is to preserve, honor, and interpret the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and the significant contributions he and Collins Radio Co. made in the world of communications, aerospace and defense technologies. In carrying out this purpose, the AACLA has a special focus on education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The organization works to inspire and teach future generations by the preservation, interpretation and display of artifacts, conducting educational events, and producing historical documentation in various media.

AACLA Personnel

The organization consists of a board of directors (who elect the officers) and a cadre of dedicated volunteers. The board meets quarterly with its annual meeting in November. At the October 2020 annual board meeting the current officers were elected to continue into the following year. At the August 16, 2021 board meeting, Larry Tjaden was elected to the AACLA board of directors filling the authorized 11th director position.

The FY2021 Board of Directors and Officers are:

Mike Dupree, President – Retired Rockwell Collins (1975 - 2019)

Michael Collins, Vice-President - Eldest son of A.A. Collins & Collins Radio employee . (1964-1967)

Rod Blocksome, Secretary - Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1968 - 2010)

***Cornelis Van Der Linden**, Treasurer – Currently employed by Collins Aerospace

Loney Duncan, Member – Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins

Terry Lamb, Member - Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1961 - 1996)

Rebecca Woodward, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins & Collins Aerospace (2005 – 2020)

Mike Wilson, Member - Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1951 - 1990)

H. Keith Erickson, Member – Retired, Head of Linn County Public Health (1980 - 2008)

Jim Stitzinger, Member - Businessman, Director Collins Collectors Association

Don Stulken, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins (1975 - 2015)

Larry Tjaden, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins (1973 - 2003)

* indicates non-board member officer

AACLA Volunteers and Their Primary Work:

Since February 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has severely curtailed the work of AACLA dedicated volunteers compared to previous years. Never-the-less we recognize the following (in alphabetical order) for their past and continued work:

Rod Blocksome (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & artifact collection/sorting/inventory; Magazine/document scanning; Web site content.

Michael Collins (Arthur Collins' son) – Public relations & Documentary research

Ray Collins (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Construction of attic ham station exhibit
Mike Dupree (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Contracts, insurance definition
Loney Duncan (Retired Rockwell Collins) – History support and fund raising
Alan Erickson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – E-book project
Keith Erickson (Retired Linn County Health) – Documentary research
Bob Erlanson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & IEEE liaison
Gordon Fabian (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Indexing Collins publications
Jim Jones (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Collins 233D transmitter restoration
Terry Lamb (Retired Rockwell Collins) – AACLA organization & artifact collections
Eric Miles – Facilitated the Collins history exhibit at the Marion Heritage Museum
Bob Ocken (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentation support & VIMEO archiving
Larry Pinkston (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Museum artifact restoration & replication
Jim Pruitt (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & video editing
Don Stulken (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & donation implementation
Larry Tjaden (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Web site content & documentary research
Steve Tyson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & public relations
Mike Wilson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Artifact support and donation advisor
Becky Woodward (Retired Collins Aerospace) – Legal advice & general support
Christina Wright (Collins Aerospace) – Artifact and documentation support
Jules Yoder (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Collins 233D transmitter restoration

AACLA Projects

AACLA Projects fall into six broad categories. A summary of Fiscal Year 2021 activities follows:

1. Collins Historical Documentaries

Since 2015 the AACLA has been engaged in writing, producing, and distributing professional-grade video documentaries on the history and legacy of Arthur Collins and the Collins Radio Company. Our first documentary entitled “***The Arthur Collins Legacy – A Culture of Innovation***” premiered at Coe College Sinclair Auditorium on October 9, 2015 and has since received many excellent reviews.

In 2018, the AACLA undertook a much more ambitious project to produce a trilogy of videos telling the little known story of Collins’ contribution to the success of the American Space Program to land a man on the Moon. It was titled “**The Collins Story – Connecting the Earth to the Moon**”. Three episodes were defined.

Episode #1 – “Steps to the Moon”, tells the story of early research and innovation at Collins radio in the 1950s and early 60s that put the company in position to win significant NASA contracts for the Apollo program. We started work on this episode in September 2019 with a planned release in April 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress and then the widespread destruction from the August 10th Derecho Storm further delayed progress. The documentary was completed and premiered at the Collins Road Theatres on May 5, 2021.

Episode #2 – “Moon Talk”, focused on Collins’ role in the early Apollo missions culminating with Apollo 8, which was the first time man left the confines of earth gravity and traveled to the Moon at Christmas time 1968. This episode premiered at the Collins Road Theatres with free admission on December 24, 2018 – exactly on the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 famous broadcast over Collins equipment while orbiting the Moon.

Episode #3 - “Live from the Moon” was completed in time to premier at the Collins Road Theatres on July 21, 2019 – exactly on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

In 2020 we entered “Live from the Moon” in the Iowa Motion Picture Association Film Festival. It was nominated in several categories and a gala showing and announcement of awards was to be held in Ottumwa, Iowa. But the Corona virus pandemic forced it to take place on-line August 8, 2020. At the end of the evening “Live from the Moon” won awards in three categories.

- Editing – Medium Form (30-59 minutes): Awarded “Excellence”
- Soundtrack Audio Mix: Awarded “Excellence”
- Voice Over Narration: Awarded “Achievement”

In 2021 we continued to enter independent film festivals whose entry criteria was a good match with our documentaries. To date, we have submitted one or more documentaries to 18 independent film festivals and have received acceptance from three and rejections from three. “Steps to the Moon” was accepted by the Wayne International Independent TV & Film Festival, Michigan. “Moon Talk” was accepted by the Dunedin International Film Festival, Florida and by the Space Faring Civilisation Film Festival, Canberra, Australia.

All of the AACLA documentaries are available on DVD through the AACLA web site: www.arthurcollins.org and by streaming over the internet.

These outstanding documentaries are made possible by contributions from our generous donors. The production quality is due to a carefully organized team consisting of the following:

- Dedicated volunteers who perform many functions, including:
 - Historical research
 - Meticulous fact checking
 - Locating historical film, photos, and artifacts
 - Organizing people to interview.
 - Fund raising
 - Publicity and promotion
- Hired professional writer/producer
- Hired professional video editor
- Hired professional digital artist (animations)
- Hired professional narrator, music composer, and sound mixer

2. AACLA Publications

AACLA Virtual Museum Improvement – The AACLA has partnered with FUEL, Inc. in a joint project to improve and expand the AACLA presence on the Internet. This project begins with “Brand Development” and progressed through “Web Site Development”. The project started in September 2021 and is expected to be completed by June 2022. At the end we will have a much enhanced web site that is easily found by our target audience using the various search engines and is geared to expanding the demographics of the target audience and retaining those visitors.

3. Collins Historical Exhibits

Echo Hill Historical Monument – The AACLA contributed research, photographs, and volunteer labor to place a historic monument in Marion’s Lowe Park. The project was led by Erik Miles of the Rotary Club of Marion-East Cedar Rapids. The monument commemorates the historic role of Collins Radio’s 1960

Satellite Earth Station on nearby Echo Hill Road. Construction was completed and a dedication ceremony was held on May 4, 2021.

4. Artifact Collection and Preservation

The AACLA collection of artifacts and documentation continues in protected storage at Collins Aerospace (Building 134). Collins Aerospace is donating this climate controlled storage space to the AACLA thus eliminating rental costs of our previous commercial facility. The west wall of the building was torn open by the August 10, 2020 Derecho Storm. Repairs to the building are now completed and the AACLA artifacts have been sorted, cleaned where necessary, and inventoried. There was minimal damage to the artifacts despite the extensive building damage.

Collins 821A-1 250kW Transmitter – On September 7th Rod Blocksome and Mike Dupree drove to Bloomfield, NY to the Antique Wireless Museum. The museum owns a Collins 821A-1 250kW Shortwave broadcast transmitter that was originally part of the Voice of America station at Delano, CA. Certain pieces of this transmitter, representing key Collins developments, were given to the AACLA and transported back to Cedar Rapids. The larger pieces make up an effective exhibit at the AWA museum. A second purpose of the trip was to learn how the AWA sets up their museum exhibits and generally how they manage their museum which currently occupies four buildings in addition to a storage warehouse and a restoration laboratory.

Collins Model 30J Transmitter – This transmitter, originally sold to the Ottumwa Police Department in 1936, was donated by Melbern McGlothlen to the AACLA. Rod Blocksome and Larry Tjaden received the transmitter plus additional miscellaneous items and hauled it back to Cedar Rapids. Larry Pinkston immediately started restoration of this classic “art deco” style equipment from the early days of Collins Radio Co.

5. Public Events and Presentations

Prairie Middle School Aviation Day Camp – In July AACLA received an opportunity to participate in a week long “day camp” at Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids, IA. The theme was aviation. Several hour long presentations were given to the teachers and students by Terry Lamb, Mike and Debbie Dupree, and Rod Blocksome.

Marion East Cedar Rapids Rotary Club – Two presentations on Collins History were made by Rod Blocksome and Don Stulken.

Retired Commercial Pilots Group – This group visited Cedar Rapids and was given presentations on Collins History by AACLA members at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. This program included showing the space communications documentaries which were well received.

AACLA Volunteer Docents at Collins Aerospace Museum – AACLA Volunteers do double duty working on AACLA projects and as volunteer museum Historians at the Collins Aerospace Museum located in building 120. The museum has artifacts dating from the very beginning of Collins Radio to 1983. The website for this museum is collinsaerospacemuseum.org and has a very large number of stories, documents and photos. One of the unique and outstanding features of this web site is the high resolution scanning all of the Collins company magazines with a search tool that allows one to search all the publications by any the following:

- A Person’s Name
- Collins Equipment Type Number
- Events and Places

There are currently 77,841 entries in the searchable data base of this on-line Collins historical library thanks to years of volunteer work by Collins retirees Gordon Fabian and Larry Tjaden. The library of Collins Publications available on this web site include:

- The Collins Column, 1943 to 1957, 138 issues
- The Collins Signal, 1933 to 1971, 70 issues
- The Collins Pulse, 1961 to 1975, 139 issues
- The Collins Personnel Services, 1975 to 1977, 17 issues
- The Rockwell Pride, 1978 to 1985, 6 issues
- The Rockwell Vision, 1995 to 1996, 5 issues
- The Rockwell Millennium, 1997 to 2001, 14 issues
- The Rockwell Collins Horizons, 2001 to 2015, 63 issues

We have begun uploading issues of The Rockwell News, 1978 - 1989. We have the first 159 issues started with many more to complete. None are Indexed - yet.

Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report

The AACLA fiscal year spans from Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021. Our Balance Sheet as of Sept. 30, 2021 shows:

ASSETS

Savings Acct	\$2,250.71
Checking Acct	\$52,124.41
Paypal Acct	\$225.66
CCU Business Acct	\$5.00
CUNA Brokerage	\$15,433.38
Other Assets	\$800.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$70,839.16

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

VISA Credit Card	\$256.80
Retained Earnings	\$40,665.79
Net Income	\$29,916.57
TOTAL EQUITY	\$70,839.16

Our Profit and Loss Statement for FY2021 shows:

INCOME

Direct Public Support	\$83,142.67
Investment	\$23.93
Misc. Revenue	\$5,262.83
TOTAL INCOME	\$88,429.43

EXPENSE

Artifacts	\$859.40
DVD manufacturing	\$1,696.18
“Steps to the Moon”	\$52,337.53
Contract Services	\$420.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$67.37
Operations	\$1,406.30
Other Expenses	\$987.76
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$57,769.54

NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$30,659.89
Realized Gain/Loss Securities	- \$743.32
NET INCOME	\$29,916.57

AACLA Development (Funding) – The AACLA relies on grants, donations, and sales of DVDs, posters, and books for operating funds. A number of grant requests have been written as well as ongoing general fund raising activities.

AACLA Donations of cash and/or Collins artifacts during the fiscal year 2021 were received from the following (in alphabetical order):

Beall Family Foundation Gary Bjornsen Rod & Elizabeth Blocksome Tom Brennom Barry & Pattie Buelow Alan Erickson Robert Erlandson Gary Ernst Don Grimm Max Hendrickson Melvin Holubar	Al Huneke Dan Kaspari David Knuth Terry & Shirley Lamb Richard Lorenzen James & Sharon Menke James Niday Noon Lions Club Lanette Passman Steven & Lulu Rowe Paul & Maribeth Shanley	Terry & Gail Smith Jim Spencer Chuck Stookesberry Cynthia Stretch Don Stulken John Thedens Phillip Topf Larry Westergren Paul & Gail Williams Myron & Esther Wilson
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Note: We did receive many donations at events and presentations held by AACLA. Thank you to those unnamed individual donors.

The AACLA officers and board of directors sincerely thank all our past donors who have enabled our accomplishments to date. We would also like to thank the dedicated volunteers who have put in countless hours, the individuals and companies who did considerable pro-bono work and to Collins Aerospace for their continued support, providing facilities for our use and for providing a partner grant.

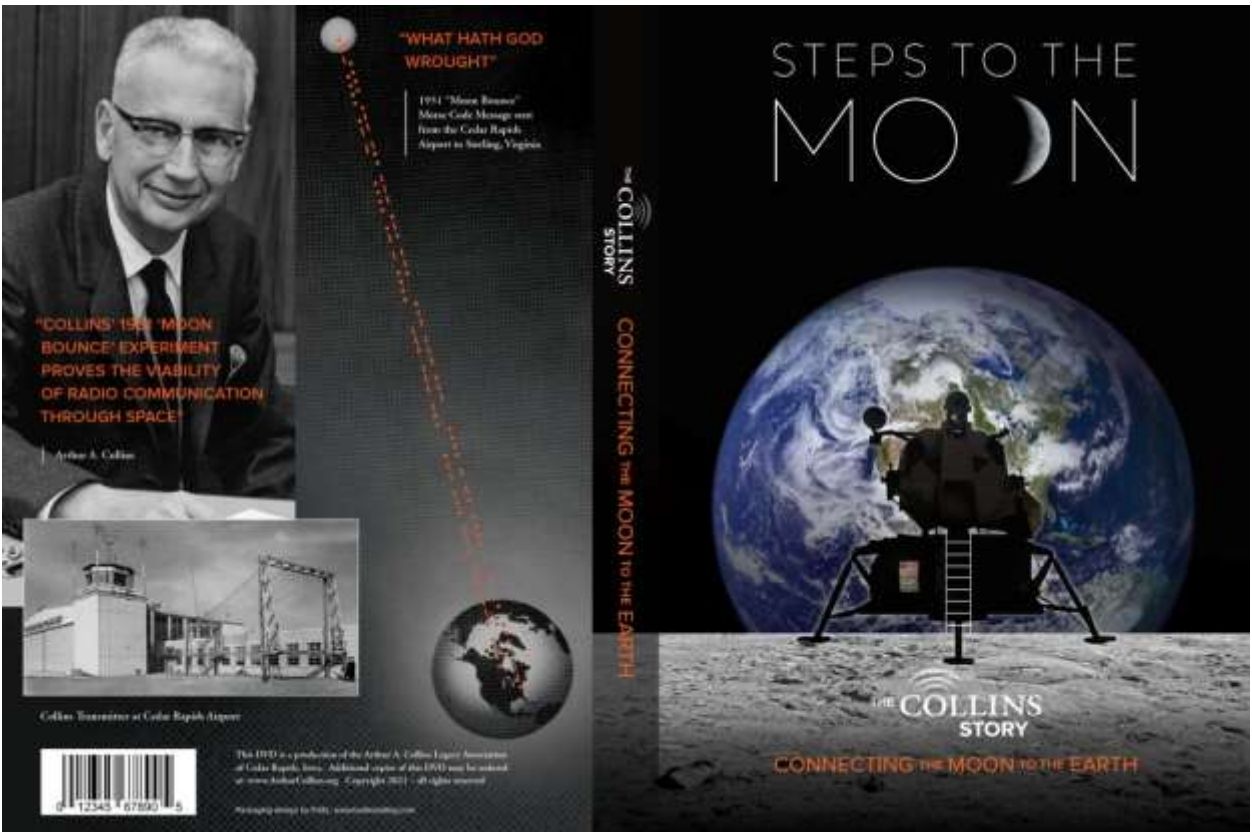
The AACLA officers and board of directors operate without pay and rely on donations of funding and in-kind goods and services to accomplish their goals and objectives. AACLA Board Members are also monetary donors of the organization. The AACLA encourages donations of Collins Radio artifacts such as equipment, documents, and media per our collection policy found on our web site: www.arthurcollins.org

Your contribution will be gratefully accepted by contacting AACLA President Mike Dupree, 6920 Surrey Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, mike.dupree.acla@gmail.com (319) 651-4666.

Photos of AACLA Activities



Some of the Production Team for “Steps to the Moon” at the premier May 5, 2021 at Collins Road Theater.
From Left to Right: Rod Blocksome, Jim Pruitt, Steve Tyson, Don Stulken,
Annette Busbee, Mike Dupree, and Larry Tjaden



“Steps to the Moon” DVD Jacket; designed by FUEL, Inc.



Michael Collins (left) visited Dave Nieuwsma, President, Avionics (Collins Aerospace)



Echo Hill Memorial Dedication Ceremony, May 4, 2021
Keynote address by Dave Nieuwsma, President, Avionics (Collins Aerospace)