

Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association

Annual Report 2023



THE COLLINS STORY

President's Letter

To: AACLA Volunteers and Collins History Enthusiasts

The Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association (AACLA) has really experienced an exciting year. We thank each of you for your support of time, energy and funding this past year. Some accomplishments include:

1) **Documentary Film Team:** Our next documentary is planned for release in late Spring 2024, and will document Collins' significant role, with DARPA, in the development of the Internet:

1a) **The Fathers of the Internet, Dr. Robert (Bob) Kahn and Dr. Vincent (Vint) Cerf**, spent five (5) hours (recorded video interviews) with the AACLA Film Team on February 17th and March 30th 2023. They explained how Collins was selected because they were the gold standard.

1b) **The Father of DSL, Dr. John Cioffi**, met with the AACLA Film Team this past September and recorded a video interview in Palo Alto, California. Dr. Cioffi has referenced Collins' Kineplex System as a significant, and early developed technology. The documentary will tie Collins' Kineplex (mid 1950s) as a progenitor to the current 5G Networks. Interestingly, Dr. Cioffi was a few weeks later (October) at the White House and received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Biden.

2) **AACLA Branding:** In association with Fuel, is implementing a re-branding that will enhance AACLA's outreach, worldwide, through combining and upgrading two (2) websites. The Collins Story will capture greater attention, and allow people around the globe to experience the Collins Museum, perform their research of Arthur Collins and Collins Radio history, facilitate students' STEM education, interface with a live Collins Amateur Ham Radio Station, and many other facilities.

3) **The Collins Museum:** Coming out of the Pandemic, AACLA Museum Historians (Docents) conducted museum tours for nearly 800 employees and visitors. Common comments from employees is that knowing this history has really built their pride in Collins Aerospace, and they recommend the tours to other employees. Some larger tours included 400 Production Ops employees and 100 NexGen employees; both these tours were organized by Collins Aerospace departments.

3a) **Museum Location and Expansion:** For good reason, the upgrade of the Museum is taking longer than anticipated; nevertheless, AACLA continues to work with Collins Aerospace to make the expanded Museum a reality. We hope for an expanded museum and new location in 2024.

4a) **AACLA Film, Culture of Innovation (2015)** is now available on YouTube at no-cost to everyone. Just search on "Collins Culture of Innovation"

4b) **AACLA Film, The Collins Story: WWII Production Defending Liberty** will soon be available on YouTube at no-cost to everyone.

5) **Artifact Donations:** AACLA continues to receive every month significant donations of key historical artifacts from various individuals and estates.

6) **Documentary Film Recognition Awards: National, International, and Local.** A few include:

- * Telly Award – Bronze - Steps to the Moon
- * Australia Space Film Festival: Theme Winner for Rocket Science - Moon Talk.
- * Iowa Film Festival – Award of Excellence for a Documentary – Steps to the Moon
- * Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival – Gold Eddy Award – Live From the Moon

Going Forward

AACLA will continue to direct its efforts to preserving/documenting the legacy of Arthur Collins and Collins Radio, including the hundreds of stories of the individual historical assets in Building 134, and expand our efforts in key research areas (white papers/short videos for streaming on Vimeo, YouTube) and public presentations.

The Collins Museum continues to be open to Collins employees and the general public. Tours are available by appointment, and we hope to have it open regularly on Wednesdays 11:30-1:00pm.

STEM activities and teacher training modules are planned. We need volunteer assistance in this area.

AACLA is dedicated to the heritage of Collins Radio Company and its founder. We are dedicated to preserving, honoring, and interpreting the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and Collins Radio and the profound contributions that shaped world events in communications, navigation, aerospace, avionics, and defense technologies. This heritage is important to inspire the youth of today to “build a more meaningful and decent world.” In addition to exciting students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, our work consistently promotes the message of optimism, doing your best, and the rewards of working together during difficult times.

Please visit <https://arthurcollins.org> and <https://collinsaerospacemuseum.org> to learn about our mission, events, and accomplishments. And coming soon, search on [The Collins Story](#).

Want to join AACLA?

The AACLA Board of Directors invites you to be a part of this great work. We have exciting plans to continue producing documentary films, research to be done, publications to be written, artifacts to be collected, preserved, restored, stored, and displayed, and presentations to be made at Collins Aerospace and public events. Come join us!!

Mike Dupree
President, AACLA

The Arthur A Collins Legacy Association

FY-2023 Annual Report

AACLA Purpose

This report documents for our donors and volunteers the activities and accomplishments of the AACLA during fiscal year 2023 (Oct. 1, 2022 to Sep. 30, 2023). The AACLA was incorporated nearly 10 years ago 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 by 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 held in November of each year.

The FY 2023 Officers and Board of Directors are:

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

Vice-President – (Vacant)

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

***Cornelis van der Linden**, Treasurer – Current employee Collins Aerospace

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

New members of AACLA Board of Directors – At the AACLA Annual Meeting held Nov. 6, 2023, Paul Veenstra and Dave Nieuwsma were elected to the AACLA Board.

Paul recently retired from Collins Aerospace in Richardson, TX and has a keen interest in collecting and preserving Collins history. He previously worked closely with Loney Duncan on restoration of the radio operator position on the B-29 Fifi. Dave is a recently retired executive of Collins Aerospace in Cedar Rapids with a passion for preserving and presenting the Collins history. The skills, knowledge, and experience these two gentlemen bring to the AACLA board will be invaluable to the future projects and activities.

AACLA Volunteers and Their Primary Work:

The AACLA recognizes the following (in alphabetical order) for their continued volunteer work this year:

Rod Blocksome (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & artifacts
Michael Collins (Arthur Collins' son) – Public relations, research, and consultant
Mike Dupree (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Contracts, insurance definition
Alan Erickson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – E-book project, Museum Historian
Keith Erickson (Retired Linn County Health) – Documentary research
Gordon Fabian (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Indexing Collins publications
Jim Jones (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Collins 233D transmitter restoration
Eric Miles – Facilitator on the Echo Hill monument project
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
Charley Snodgrass (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Museum Historian
Don Stulken (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & donations
Larry Tjaden (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Web site content & documentary research
Steve Tyson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & public relations
Coen van der Linden (Collins Aerospace) – Volunteer Treasurer for AACLA
Mike Wilson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Artifact support and donation advisor
Becky Woodward (Retired Collins Aerospace) – Legal advice & museum coordinator
Christina Wright (Collins Aerospace) – Artifacts and documentation support

AACLA Projects

AACLA Projects fall into five broad categories summarized below for Fiscal Year 2023:

1. Collins Historical Documentaries

Since 2015 the AACLA has been engaged in 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 Radio’s 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 produced.

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. Work began on this episode in September 2019 and 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. This episode premiered at the Collins Road Theatres December 24, 2018 – exactly on the 50th anniversary of the 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.

Collins History Documentaries Entered in Independent Film Festivals

In FY-2023 we continued to enter independent film festivals whose entry criteria was a good match with our documentaries. In 2023 we submitted our documentaries (#1 “Steps to the Moon”; #2 “Moon Talk”; #3 “Live from the Moon”) to the following film festivals with results indicated:

Date 2023	Film Festival	Film Entered	Results
Jan. 13	Montreal Arthouse Film Festival.	#1	Selected - semi-finalist
March 2-5	Oneota Film Festival, Decorah, IA.	#1	Not Selected
March 22-30	DOCVILLE - International Documentary Film Festival, Belgium.	#1	Not Selected
Mar. 30-Apr. 3	American Documentary & Animation Film Festival & Film Fund, Palm Springs, CA.	#1	Not Selected
Apr. 14-16	Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival, Cedar Rapids, IA	#1	Silver Eddy Award in Professional Documentary Category
July 13-16	Snake Alley Festival of Film, Burlington, IA	#2	Nominated for Best Iowa Film
Aug. 25-27	Cedar River Film Festival, Cedar Falls, IA	#3	Showcase of Iowa Films – no awards
December	Edinburgh Docufest.	#1	Not Selected

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:

- 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 professionals, including:
 - Writer/Producer
 - Video Editor
 - Digital Artist (animations)
 - Narrator, music composer, and sound mixer

“The Collins Story – WWII Production Defending Liberty” is our latest video documentary that we plan to publish on YouTube. The video reveals the incredible production accomplishments by Collins Radio during World War II. The 13-minute documentary features rare color film of the Army-Navy E-Award Ceremony that took place on the front lawn of Collins Main Plant on Sept. 19, 1942.

The E-Award for Excellence recognized the nation’s companies, engaged in war production, as judged against a comprehensive set of very high standards. After the initial award of the E-flag, a star was added at 6-month intervals for successive awards. At the end of the war, Collins Radio had earned five stars on its E-flag – a level achieved by only 0.5% of the 85,000 U.S. companies engaged in World War II production.

Our Current Documentary: Collins’ Role in the Birth of the Internet

In 2022 the AACLA embarked on another video documentary centered on the developments and technologies from Collins Radio Company that played a role in the birth of the Internet. Historians point to a demonstration held in the San Francisco Bay area in November 1977. The event interconnected three existing, but much different, data networks together for the first time and digital messages were successfully exchanged between distant users across these different networks.

One network was a mobile packet radio data network using equipment designed and developed at Collins’ Richardson, Texas facilities. In 2014, AACLA recorded video interviews with three Collins retirees who played key roles in the Packet Radio development and this historic event. This interview was with Jim Garrett, Anant Jain,

and Mike Cisco. At the urging of Don Beall, AACLA undertook production of another video documentary on this historic event that reshaped how the world communicates.

Mr. Beall introduced us to Bob Kahn and Vint Cerf, the widely acknowledged “father’s of the Internet” and in March 2023 AACLA production team members traveled to McLean, VA to conduct a video interview with Drs. Kahn and Cerf. They related details of the events leading up to the 1977 Internet demonstration along with their interactions with Collins personnel.

In September 2023 the AACLA production team flew out to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California to video tape interviews with Don Nielson and Ron Kunzelman, both SRI retirees, John Cioffi, Stanford University Professor, and Marc Weber, Curator at the CHM.

All of these interviews were conducted by Annette Busbee of Busbee Communications with Eric Freese of Wired Productions Group providing lights, camera, and sound expertise. Much valuable, first-hand, historical information was gathered during these extensive interviews directly applicable to this documentary.

The team also visited the Crown Plaza hotel, site of the genesis of TCP/IP protocols necessary to make the internet operate successfully, and Rosotti’s Inn, site of the first use of the new Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) that enabled an email to be transmitted over the Packet Radio Net and into the ARPANET. Many photographs were taken at these historic locations.

Work continues into 2024 as this is the most complex documentary project so far undertaken by the AACLA.

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 progresses through “Web Site Development”. The project started in September 2021 and is expected to be completed in 2024. At the end we will have a much enhanced web site that is easily found by our target audience and is geared to expanding the demographics of the target audience and retaining those visitors.

3. Collins Historical Exhibits

Collins Aerospace Museum – The AACLA provides volunteer museum historians (or docents) to staff and manage the company’s museum and artifact collection in building 120. The museum is open by a historian each Wednesday from 11:30 to 1:00 to “walk-in” employees. AACLA board member, Becky Woodward, coordinates this activity as well as arrangements for group tours of employees and visitors at other times. Many AACLA volunteers regularly support this activity as well as

managing the historical artifacts, documents, and photographs donated to the museum.

Recently the volunteer historians significantly expanded and improved the museum displays with the addition of many items from storage. This effort is continuing especially in the area of avionics.

This past year has seen a significant increase in the number of visitors to the museum. Our count shows 781 museum visitors in 2023. This includes a group of 400 production employees that viewed the initial release of “*The Collins Story – WWII Production Defending Liberty*” and the museum in early 2023 and 100 employees who viewed “*The Collins Story – A Culture of Innovation*” followed by museum tours in December 2023.

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..

Dave Berner Artifact Donation – In Nov. 2022, Dave donated six “banker’s boxes” of books, brochures, books, notes, and photographs from his career at Collins Radio and Rockwell Collins.

Mrs. Loney Duncan – In July 2023, donated five boxes of Loney’s books, photographs, papers, and mementos from his years with Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins.

Dennis Day Artifact Donation – In August 2023, Dennis donated a collection of papers and artifacts of HF SSB development in the 1960s. Of particular note were two large 3-ring binders of organizational charts and memos from the 1960’s.

5. Public Events and Presentations

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 museum website 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 scans of Collins Company magazines with a search tool that allows one to search all the publications by any of the following:

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

There are currently **93,534** entries in the searchable data base of this on-line Collins historical library thanks to many years of dedicated volunteer work by Collins retirees Gordon Fabian and Larry Tjaden. This library of Collins Publications is available on the museum web site and includes these publications:

Publication	Time Period	No. Issues on Web Site	No. Issues Missing
The Collins Signal	1933 – 1971	70	None
The Collins Column	1943 – 1957	138	None
The Collins Pulse	1961 – 1975	139	5
The Collins Personnel Services	1975 – 1977	20	1
The Rockwell Pride	1978 – 1985	6	23
The Rockwell News (CR Edition)	1978 – 1989	245	48
The Rockwell Contact	1981 – 1985	15	5
The Rockwell Vision	1995 – 1996	5	None
The Rockwell Millennium	1997 – 2001	14	None
The Rockwell Collins Horizons	2001 – 2015	63	None

Efforts to locate, scan, and index the missing issues continues. This collection and database is a great resource for those researching the company history.

Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report

The AACLA fiscal year is Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2023. Our Balance Sheet as of Sept. 30, 2023 shows:

ASSETS

Savings Acct	\$2,252.92
Checking Acct	\$95,176.94
Paypal Acct	\$814.91
CCU Business Acct	\$6.00
CUNA Brokerage	\$16,156.05
Other Assets	\$800.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$115,206.85

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

VISA Credit Card	\$256.80
Retained Earnings	\$76,176.84
Net Income	\$38,773.21

TOTAL LIABILITYIES & EQUITY \$115,206.85

Our Profit and Loss Statement for FY2023 shows:

INCOME	
Direct Public Support	\$64,187.00
Investment	\$694.77
Misc. Revenue	\$1,430.17
TOTAL INCOME	\$66,311.94
EXPENSE	
Documentaries	\$25,948.13
Artifacts	\$140.00
Poster Printing	\$113.60
Operations	\$804.74
Other Expenses	\$532.26
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,538.73
NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$38,773.21
NET INCOME	\$38,773.21

AACLA Development (Funding) – The AACLA relies on grants, donations, and sales of DVDs, posters, and books for operating funds

AACLA Donations of cash and/or Collins artifacts during fiscal year 2023 were received from the following (in alphabetical order):

Beall Family Foundation	Alan & Barbara Erickson	Terry & Gail Smith
Dave Berner	Bob Erlandson	Jim Stitzinger
Donna Butikofer	Don & Marjorie Grimm	Don Stulken
Tom Brennom	Vern Jackson	John Thedens
Barry & Nancy Brown	Phil & Kathy Jasper	Phil Topf
Barry & Pattie Buelow	Dan Kaspari	Paul & Gail Williams
Dennis Day	Dennis Naughton	Mike Wilson
Mike Dupree	James & Sharon Menke	
Mrs. Loney Duncan	Paul & Maribeth Shanley	

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 Collins Aerospace for their continued support for providing facilities for our use.

We also recognize and thank FUEL, Inc. of Hiawatha, Iowa who has been working closely with AACLA providing pro-bono professional services in developing a brand identity for our organization.

Meeting room accommodations are generously provided by Noelridge Christian Church in Cedar Rapids.

The AACLA officers and board of directors operate without pay and rely on donations of funding and in-kind goods and services to accomplish the 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, photographs, and other 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.