Space Race tabletop game 6187

Bo Doub
USC Libraries Special Collections
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Doheny Memorial Library 206
3550 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, California 90089-0189
specol@usc.edu
URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
Space Race tabletop game

Language of Material: French
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: Space Race tabletop game
Identifier/Call Number: 6187
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet1 box
Date: circa 1960s

Abstract: The Space Race tabletop game is a midcentury educational game based on the Space Race of the 1950s and 1960s between the Soviet Union and the United States, housed inside of a hinged wooden box illustrated with planets and Soviet and U.S. rockets. Players are intended to use the game's revolving spring-loaded wooden launcher to launch small plastic rockets into target cups representing various planets and rockets. The Space Race officially began on August 2, 1955, when the Soviet Union responded to the announcement made by the United States four days earlier of their intent to launch artificial satellites, by declaring that they would also launch a satellite in the near future. This game features major figures from the Space Race, with the red launch rocket (and corresponding red target cup and accompanying illustration) referring to Yuri Gagarin, the first human to orbit Earth, and the yellow launch rocket (and corresponding yellow target cup and accompanying illustration) referring to Leroy Gordon Cooper, the U.S. astronaut who piloted the longest and final Mercury spaceflight in 1963. The other target cups have labels (in French) for the moon, Mars, Venus, Saturn, Neptune, and Pluto. The game was created in France (no publisher specified), circa 1960s (undated).

Scope and Contents
This collection includes the game's two original plastic rockets for launching, a set of score-keeping beads, and the revolving spring-loaded wooden launcher, all housed in the original hinged wooden box. Color illustrations of Soviet and U.S. rockets and satellites in space are affixed to both the interior and exterior of the box's lid. The game's eight different target cups bearing the names of various planets and rockets are also affixed to the box's interior lid.

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Preferred Citation
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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Educational games -- France -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Rockets (Aeronautics) -- Launching
Space race -- United States -- Archival resources
Space race -- Soviet Union -- Archival resources
Realia
Table games
Cooper, Gordon, 1927-2004
Gagarin, Yuri Alekseyevich, 1934-1968