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Apollo Mission 15 Lunar Photography Index Map. Sheet 2 of 10 Mapping Camera Photographs Generalized Composite

Stock#: 95690
Map Maker: NASA / Aeronautical Chart and
Information Center
Date: 1972
Place: Houston, Texas
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 56 x 19 inches
Price: \$ 575.00



Description:

Apollo Mission 15 Lunar Photography Index Map, Sheet 2 of 10, captures the intricate process of mapping lunar surfaces during one of NASA's iconic moon missions. As a tangible record, this document bears witness to the intricate coordination between American defense and space agencies during the early 1970s in an effort to document the enigmatic lunar landscapes.

At the heart of the Cold War era, the United States was heavily invested in space exploration, with the Apollo missions serving as emblematic endeavors in human spaceflight. Apollo 15, from which this photograph index map originates, stood out as one of the "J-missions" characterized by a longer stay on the Moon and a greater focus on scientific exploration. Thus, the map in question was not merely a navigation aid but a tool to facilitate deeper scientific inquiry into the Moon's geology and topography.

The index map details a series of photographs, distinguished by revolution numbers and frames, spanning both forward-looking and aft-looking oblique angles, as well as north and south perspectives. The inclusion of these oblique angles underscores the meticulous planning and technical rigor of the mission, aiming to capture the Moon's diverse features from a variety of vantage points. Notably, details such as orbital altitude, sun elevation, and camera tilt and azimuth angles have been elaborated upon in a dedicated tabular index, prepared by the Earth Observations Division at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston.

The collaboration between defense and space exploration agencies is evident in the map's provenance. Prepared under the direction of the Department of Defense by the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, United States Air Force, this map not only served the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's scientific goals but also had strategic implications during a period of geopolitical tension.



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The lithographed edition, produced in March 1972, signifies a synthesis of rigorous scientific methodology, precise cartographic representation, and the ambitious spirit of the Apollo era.

Detailed Condition: