Michael Collins Encyclopedia Article

Michael Collins

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Michael Collins

1930-

American astronaut who orbited the Moon aboard the *Apollo 11* command module *Columbia* during the first manned lunar landing in July 1969. Collins's skill at rendezvous and docking, developed on the *Gemini 10* mission in 1966, made it possible for moon-walkers Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to return safely to Earth. He went on to direct the National Air and Space Museum and to write a widely praised memoir, *Carrying the Fire* (1973).