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# NASA HISTORY: NEWS AND NOTES

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## **TWO NEW NASA HISTORIES HOT OFF THE PRESS**

We have just published two new books in the NASA History Series. In May 1994 *Airborne Trailblazer: Two Decades with NASA Langley's Boeing 737 Flying Laboratory*, by Lane E. Wallace, appeared as NASA SP-4216. In June the *NASA Historical Data Book, Vol. IV: NASA Resources, 1969-1978* (NASA SP-4012), compiled by Ihor Y. Gawdiak with Helen Fedor, was released. We have enclosed flyers, complete with a Government Printing Office order form at the back of this newsletter.

Available from the Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, FL, is another new book, *NASA: A History of the U.S. Civil Space Program*, by Roger D. Launius of the NASA History Office. A short book in the Anvil Series, this history of U.S. civilian space efforts consists half of narrative and half of documents. While the coverage consists more of an overview than a detailed analysis, the approach is broadly analytical and provides the most recent general discussion of its topic, designed more for the student or general reader than for the specialist. Copies can be purchased either in paperback or hardcover from Krieger's order desk at 407-724-9542.

## **APOLLO 25TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATIONS**

The NASA History Office has just published two new volumes in its MONOGRAPHS IN AEROSPACE HISTORY series in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing. This series is designed to provide a wide variety of studies relative to the history of aeronautics and space. Works in the series are intended to be tightly focused in terms of subject, relatively short in length, and reproduced in an inexpensive format to allow for timely and broad dissemination to researchers in aerospace history. The two volumes recently issued are:

Launius, Roger D., and Hunley, J.D. Compilers. *An Annotated Bibliography of the Apollo Program* (Monographs in Aerospace History, Vol. 2, 1994): A reference work containing a selected bibliography of published works about Project Apollo with annotations.

Launius, Roger D. *Apollo: A Retrospective Analysis* (Monographs in Aerospace History, Vol. 3, 1994): A short narrative history of the program, along with a synopsis of Apollo missions and reproductions of selected key documents.

These publications may be requested from the NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, 20546. To speed response, please include a 9x12 inch self-addressed, stamped (for 1.5 pounds) envelope.

## **DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE U.S. CIVIL SPACE PROGRAM SET TO APPEAR**

The History Office is moving toward publication of the first volume of a projected three-volume series of essays and documents on the history of the space program. *Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program, Volume I, Organizational Developments* (NASA SP-4407), is due out in the winter of 1994-1995. Edited by John M. Logsdon, Director of the Space Policy Institute at the George Washington University, this volume consists of introductory essays and about 150 key documents relating to the space age, grouped by topic and arranged chronologically. The series will consist not only of documents but of essays introducing them to the general reader. The four introductory essays in this volume are: "Prelude to the Space Age," by Roger D. Launius; "Origins of U.S. Space Policy: Eisenhower, Open Skies, and Freedom of Space," by R. Cargill Hall; "Evolution of National Space Policy," by John M. Logsdon; and "Organizing for Exploration," by Sylvia K. Kraemer. Documents relating to the subject follow each essay.

Two additional volumes of this documentary history will follow several months after the publication of the first volume. They will deal with "system developments" and "program developments." All of these books will be available from the Government Printing Office. Persons interested in being notified of this and other new books published by NASA and sold by the Superintendent of Documents can ask to be placed on a free priority announcement list. Write to Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOM, Washington, DC 20402 and ask to be placed on Priority Announcement List N-516.

#### **JAMES WEBB BIOGRAPHY FORTHCOMING**

In early 1995 the Johns Hopkins University Press will publish in its "New Series in NASA History" an administrative biography of James E. Webb, NASA Administrator during the Apollo era. Written by W. Henry Lambright of Syracuse University, *Powering Apollo: James E. Webb of NASA* emphasizes the leadership style and method of management Webb brought to complex organizational issues. Stay tuned for more information on this forthcoming book.

#### **SEQUEL TO LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER HISTORY TO BE PUBLISHED**

A sequel to the award-winning *Engineer in Charge: A History of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, 1917-1958* (NASA SP-4305, 1987), by James R. Hansen, is due out in early 1995. Hansen has written *The Spaceflight Revolution at NASA Langley: From the Sputnik Crisis to the Lunar Landings*, which will appear as NASA SP-4308 in the NASA History Series. It will cover NASA's oldest installation's development during the 1960s, and explore the important changes that came as a result of Langley's involvement in spaceflight during the age of Apollo. As with the NASA documentary history, individuals wishing to learn of the availability of this book can sign up for Priority Announcement List N-516 available from the Superintendent of Documents.

#### **NOORDUNG TRANSLATION TO BE AVAILABLE SOON**

In early 1995, the History Office will publish an edited translation of Hermann Noordung's classic *Das Problem der Befahrung des Weltraums* as *The Problem of Space Travel: The Rocket Motor* (NASA SP-4026). Ernst Stuhlinger, who earned his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Tübingen in 1936 and whose involvement in rocketry and space work began at Peenemünde in 1943, and J.D. Hunley of this office have thoroughly revised the translation we had done

last year. The edited translation will also include copies of the original color plates from the 1929 book. What makes the book important in the early literature about space travel, however, is its extensive treatment of the engineering aspects of a space station. Although there had been earlier treatments of a space station, none of them provided the kind of detail Noordung included in his book. A preface to the translation will relate what is known about Noordung, whose real name was Herman Poto\_nik, and provide historical context about the book and its importance. Individuals wishing to learn of the availability of this book can sign up for Priority Announcement List N-516 that is available from the Superintendent of Documents.

#### **APOLLO 11 AT TWENTY-FIVE ELECTRONIC BOOK**

The NASA History Office has teamed with the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore to produce an electronic book entitled *Apollo 11 at Twenty-Five*. It surveys the Apollo program from May 1961, with its announcement by President John F. Kennedy, to December 1972, when the program ended with the flight of Apollo 17. The book consists of digitized images and text, and is available from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 390 Ashton Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112, and on the Internet at Mosaic/WWW at URL "<http://stsci.edu/exined-html/exined-home.html>".

#### **SPACE HISTORY SESSION AT SOCIETY FOR HISTORY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

At the Society for History in the Federal Government annual meeting, held at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, on April 21-22, 1994, NASA and Air Force historians held a session entitled "Biographical vs. Organizational Approaches in Space History: Dilemma or Opportunity for Federal Historians?" It included papers by Michael H. Gorn, Center for Air Force History, on "Theodore Von Kármán: A Case Study in Writing Science and Space Biography"; George W. Bradley, Air Force Space Command Historian, "Pioneers in Air Force Space History: A Biographical Approach"; and J.D. Hunley, NASA History Office, "The Importance of Biography in the NASA History Program." The questions asked in each of these papers revolved around the appropriateness of focusing on individuals in aerospace history and whether or not that approach skewed the understanding of the past beyond all hope of coherence.

#### **ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC HISTORY SESSIONS**

With the theme, "The Lowell Observatory in Twentieth Century Astronomy," on June 28 and 30, 1994, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific held a series of history sessions at its annual meeting in Flagstaff, AZ. The papers from this meeting included:

"The Lowell Observatory: A Trustee's View," William Lowell Putnam, Lowell Observatory.

"Percival Lowell, W.H. Pickering and the Founding of the Lowell Observatory," David Strauss, Kalamazoo College.

"Different Perceptions: Lowell's and Barnard's Views of Mars in 1894," William Sheehan.

"Edwin Hubble, Vesto Melvin Slipher, and the Classification of Nebulae," Robert W. Smith, Smithsonian Institution.

"From Planet X to Pluto: Predictions, Searches, Discovery, Calculations," Donald E. Osterbrock, Lick Observatory.

"John Scoville Hall, the Fourth Director of Lowell Observatory," Robert L. Millis, Lowell Observatory.

"Photoelectric Photometry: The First Fifty Years," John B. Hearnshaw, University of Canterbury.

"Bengt Edlén (1906-1993): Spectroscopist," Roy H. Garstang, University of Colorado.

"The Lowell Observatory--Indiana University Connection," Frank K. Edmondson, Indiana University.

"The Babylon Sky," Sallie Teames, Ft. Worth, TX.

"Astronomical Symbolism on Old Coins," Carlson R. Chambliss, Kutztown University.

"The History of Planetary Radar Astronomy," Nicholas Renzetti and Andrew J. Butrica, Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"The Moon and Voyager: Highlights of Solar System Exploration," Eugene M. Shoemaker, U.S. Geological Survey.

"Comets and Applied Historical Astronomy," Donald K. Yeomans, Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

#### **CALLS FOR PAPERS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS**

The Technology Transfer Society will be holding its 1995 annual meeting in Washington, DC, July 16-19, 1995, with the "Technology Commercialization and Economic Growth." Proposals for papers should be sent by November 15, 1994, to Dr. David H. Swanson, Polymers Building, Room B115, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, telephone 301-975-5306.

With the theme of "Gambling with the Environment," the American Society for Environment History invites papers for its biannual meeting on March 8-11, 1995, at Las Vegas, NV. Aerospace historians might be interested in the emphasis of the conference on recent developments in environ-

mentalism. Proposals should be sent by September 1, 1994 to Theodore Steinberg, Department of Humanities, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102-1982.

The Western History Association will hold its annual meeting in Denver, CO, on September 30-October 2, 1995. Proposals for papers are invited and should be sent by September 1, 1994, to Peter Iverson, Department of History, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-2501, telephone 602-965-5778.

The VIII Biennial Congress of the Society for Philosophy and Technology will be held at Hofstra University on June 8-11, 1995. Proposals should be sent by September 1, 1994 to José Sanmartín, INVESCIT-University of Valencia, Apartado 5228, 46009 Valencia, SPAIN.

A Conference on Women and Gender in Science will be held at the University of Minnesota on May 12-14, 1995. Proposals should be sent by September 10, 1994, to Professional Development and Conference Services, University of Minnesota, 218 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0139.

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting August 4-7, 1995, in Maui, HI. Proposals for panels and individual papers for all time periods and regions should be sent by November 15, 1994, to Profs. Marilyn Boxer and Robert W. Cherny, AHA-PCB Program Committee Co-Chairs, Department of History, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94122.

#### **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Endowment for the Humanities Reference Materials Program supports projects to prepare reference works that will improve access to information and resources. Support is available for the creation of dictionaries, historical or linguistic atlases, encyclopedias, concordances, reference grammars, data bases, text bases, and other projects that will provide essential scholarly tools for the advancement of research or for general reference purposes.

The application deadline is September 15, 1994 for projects beginning after July 1, 1995. Guidelines are not yet available electronically. Print copies of guidelines may be requested by sending a message with your regular mail address to NEHOPA@GWUVM.GWU.EDU. Potential applicants with questions regarding specific projects should contact program staff at 202-606-8358.

#### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

The Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual meeting on October 6-9, 1994 in Lowell, MA. Contact Bruce E. Seely, SHOT Executive Secretary, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 44931-1295.

The Society for Social Studies of Science will hold its annual meeting with the History of Science Society and the Philosophy of Science Association in New Orleans, LA on October 12-15, 1994. Contact Linda Layne, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Sage Lab 5508, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12180.

#### **NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS**

A few new books on aerospace history have come to our attention.

Chaiken, Andrew, *A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts* (Viking, 1994).

Chaisson, Eric J., *The Hubble Wars: Astrophysics Meets Astropolitics in the Two-Billion Dollar Struggle Over the Hubble Space Telescope* (HarperCollins Publishers, 1994).

Cooper, Henry S.F., *The Evening Star: Venus Observed* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993).

Launius, Roger D., ed., *History of Rocketry and Astronautics: Proceedings of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Symposia of the International Academy of Astronautics* (Univelt, Inc., American Astronautical Society History Series, Volume 11, 1994).

Shepard, Alan, and Slayton, Deke, *Moonshot: The Inside Story of America's Race to the Moon* (Turner Publishing, Inc., 1994).

Stuhlinger, Ernst, and Ordway, Frederick I., III, *Wernher von Braun: Crusader for Space*, 2 vols. (Krieger Publishing Co., 1994).