NASA HISTORY: NEWS AND NOTES
TO BE ISSUED ELECTRONICALLY

The NASA History Office is prepared to send the quarterly NASA History: News and Notes via the internet to anyone with an e-mail address. It should speed distribution of the newsletter, not to mention the staff time of the History Office in preparing mailings. Anyone can be placed on electronic distribution by sending the NASA History Office an e-mail note at history@codei.hq.nasa.gov.

NASA HISTORY HOMEPAGE ON THE INTERNET

While the staff of the NASA History Office has among its number some of the more technically challenged people working at NASA, modern times have begun to catch up with us. As a result, we have begun the creation of a NASA History Homepage on the Internet's World Wide Web. The project began last summer during the anniversary of Apollo 11, when the office put up a display on the Apollo program. That display has both still and video images, key documents, mission overviews and statistics, astronaut recollections, an annotated bibliography, and interpretive works on the history of Project Apollo. It can be accessed at: http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/hqpa/history.html. The main history home page, which will have information of a similar nature for all of NASA, is presently under construction and will be available for use—at least in a cursory form—before the end of the year. The address for this is on the World Wide Web: http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/.

NEW NASA HISTORY BOOKS SET TO APPEAR

The NASA 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 U.S. 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 April 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. Two follow-on volumes are scheduled to appear in 1996 and 1997.

In addition, two other books are slated for release in the NASA History Series during the first half of 1995. One is James R. Hansen's Spaceflight Revolution: NASA Langley Research Center from Sputnik to Apollo (NASA SP-4308), that will appear in the spring of 1995. The second is a translation of Hermann Noordung's classic Das Problem der Befahrung des Weltraums, first published in 1929. It will appear as The Problem of Space Travel: The Rocket Motor (NASA SP-4026). J.D. Hunley, Ernst Stuhlinger, and Jennifer Garland prepared the book for publication.

Any individuals interested in being notified of these 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.

Finally, in early 1995 the Johns Hopkins University Press will publish in its "New Series in NASA History" an administrative biography of NASA's 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. We will be sure to announce the availability of these books as they appear.

**IS THERE A NEED FOR A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL OF AEROSPACE HISTORY?**

For more than a year there has been discussion of the possibility of establishing a scholarly Journal of Aerospace History. Those in favor of the creation of this journal contend that while there are several slick-format, well-illustrated historical magazines publishing air and space history, there is no genuine forum for the publication of more critical and penetrating analyses of aerospace history. They suggest that such a journal could become the premier publication devoted to a fuller understanding of the development and evolution of aerospace history in a worldwide context, including civil and military, air and space subjects. They have argued persuasively that there are plenty (in fact too many) buff-oriented publications full of articles recounting stories, superficial historical treatments, and shallow rehashing of air campaigns and heroic leaders.

Other historians taking part in this debate have acknowledged the narrowness of aerospace history and questioned if those involved in it could sustain the publication of a new journal with the appearance and apparatus of such journals as Technology & Culture and the Journal of Military History. Questions about whether there is a sufficient base of subscriptions, as well as enough historical manuscripts deserving of publication abound.

We would like to poll as many historians and readers of air and space history as possible about this idea for the creation of a new scholarly journal. Please respond to these general questions: What is your assessment of the market for a scholarly Journal of Aerospace History? Are there a sufficient number of subscribers (700-1,000) to warrant proceeding? Are there enough people producing enough high-quality manuscripts to support a journal? Is there a sufficient level of support of scholars who could referee manuscripts, write book reviews, etc., to ensure the success of a journal? In the current economic climate is the creation of a new journal appropriate? Are there compelling reasons to proceed with a new journal at this time? Would you be willing to contribute time, energy, and money to such a venture? What other thoughts do you have on this subject?

If you have views on this subject please contact Roger D. Launius, NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, telephone 202-358-0383, or at rlaunius@codei.hq.nasa.gov.

**NASA HISTORICAL DATA BOOK FOR 1979-1988 PLANNED**

Periodically the NASA History Office has issued the *NASA Historical Data Book* containing mostly tabular information on NASA activities. To date, four volumes have been published, the most recent of which was Ihor Y. Gawdiak with Helen Fedor, *NASA Historical Data Book, Vol. IV: NASA Resources, 1969-1978* (NASA SP-4012, 1994). Pending the availability of funding, we anticipate contracting for a fifth volume of the work in fiscal year 1995. This volume would include information on programs, projects, and resources for the period, 1979-1988. We are still in the planning stage for this project, and this notice represents the first public statement about it. Anyone who might have an interest in compiling this work is invited to contact Roger D. Launius, NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, telephone 202-358-0383, or at rlaunius@codei.hq.nasa.gov for more information. No firm date for release of a research announcement has yet been established.

**NASA HISTORICAL WORKS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY**

At present, the NASA History Office has 26 active book projects in various stages of completion. A schedule of books that are scheduled to appear in the NASA History Series within the next 24 months, exclusive of those already mentioned, include:


The actual publication of these books will be announced in this newsletter well in advance of their appearance. Stay tuned for further information on these and other forthcoming books.

**HOW TO COLLECT HARD TO FIND NASA HISTORIES**
Several people have recently asked us for a list of the more than 60 books published in the NASA History Series throughout the history of the agency. Because of this request we have compiled a complete list, which is available for the asking from the NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546 or via e-mail from history@codei.hq.nasa.gov. That question is immediately followed by another, where copies of the books can be purchased. Unfortunately, most of the early publications are now out of print, and can only be obtained in photocopy form, but here is a list of currently available books in the NASA History Series:

**Reference Works, NASA SP-4000:**
- Set of three *NASA Historical Data Books,* Cost: $55.00

**Management Histories, NASA SP-4100:**
- Fries, Sylvia D. *NASA Engineers and the Age of Apollo.* (NASA SP-4104, 1992). Cost: $15.00

**Project Histories, NASA SP-4200:**
- Newell, Homer E. *Beyond the Atmosphere: Early Years of Space Science.* (NASA SP-4211, 1980). Cost: $15.00
- Wallace, Lane E. *Airborne Trailblazer: Two Decades with NASA Langley's Boeing 737 Flying Laboratory.* (NASA SP-4216, 1994). Cost: $27.00

**Center Histories, NASA SP-4300:**

**General Histories, NASA SP-4400:**
- The Books in the NASA History Series listed above are available from the NASA Information Center. Contact the office at NASA Information Center, Code JOB-19, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, or by telephone at 202-358-0000. Order by SP number. All orders should be prepaid. There are sometimes limited numbers of these books, but those listed here are currently available.

**WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF AEROSPACE HISTORY?**

This is a question not without import, and one that has been discussed at length in a variety of places over the last several years. There is no consensus for this debate. We would like to encourage those working in
the field to ruminate on this central question and to address it in this and other forums. Thoughtful and provocative responses to the direction of the discipline are most welcome and would provide perspective from which to plan future historical research projects for NASA and for other aspects of the aerospace history. What are the holes in the field, where are the opportunities for research, how can historians exploit new concepts and ideas to prepare challenging historical works, etc? Your comments are welcome, both for publication in this newsletter and for discussion by the wider community of scholars. Please, let us hear from you. We can be reached at the NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, telephone 202-358-0383, or at history@codei.hq.nasa.gov.

**SPACE HISTORY SESSION TO BE HELD AT AAS ANNUAL MEETING**

An history session with the title, "An Historical Perspective on Competition and Cooperation in Space," will take place on the morning of November 14, 1994, at the annual meeting of the American Astronautical Society (AAS). The AAS will meet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia. The focus of this session will be to bring together individuals to review various aspects of international competition and cooperation in space. The session lineup is as follows:

- "Why Cooperate in Space? Europe and the U.S. in the 1960s," Lorenza Sebesta, Research Fellow, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

Historians are invited to attend this session. For further information contact Roger D. Launius, NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, telephone 202-358-0383, e-mail: rlaunius@codei.hq.nasa.gov.

**AIAA HISTORY MANUSCRIPT AWARD ANNOUNCED**

The history manuscript awards committee of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics has announced that Michael J. Neufeld, Curator, Aeronautics Department, National Air and Space Museum has received the 1994 history manuscript award for his study, *The Rocket and the Reich: Peenemünde and the German Army Guided Missile Program*. This manuscript is forthcoming as a book in November 1994 from the Free Press, New York.

**COMMENTS ON A CHALLENGING ARTICLE**

Readers who are interested in social science theory, ecology, or the history of biology and sociobiology may want to consult the first half of Brett Fairbairn’s "History from the Ecological Perspective: Gaia Theory and the Problem of Cooperation in Turn-of-the-Century Germany," *American Historical Review*, 99 (October 1994): 1203-39. He discusses the origins of the controversial Gaia theory in a contract between NASA and British scientist and inventor James Lovelock, calling for him to assist in the search for life on Mars in the 1960s.

Asking himself how to determine from a distance whether a planet bears life, Lovelock imagined Earth from space and decided that its active atmosphere with "a striking blend of gases as contradictory as oxygen and methane" showed clear signs of life, as contrasted with the essentially inert atmospheres of Mars and Venus. From there, aided by American microbiologist Lynn Margulis, he evolved the Gaia theory, denied by conventional evolutionary scientists and sociobiologists, that posits a more benevolent and cooperative natural process on Earth than is fully compatible with "selfish' Darwinian selection."

According to Lovelock and Margulis, some environmental effects produced by the evolution of individual species benefit rather than harm other species, appearing to be altruistic rather than "red in tooth and claw." Fairbairn goes on to apply the Gaia concept to the history of cooperatives in Germany, and conceivably it can serve as a theoretical tool for other kinds of historical and sociological investigations.

**1994-1995 FELLOW IN AEROSPACE HISTORY NAMED**

Erik P. Rau is the ninth annual recipient of the Fellowship in Aerospace History. The fellowship, sponsored by the NASA History Office and administered by the American Historical Association in cooperation with the Economic History Association, the History of Science Society, and the Society for the History of Technology, is awarded in an annual competition by a joint committee of representatives from each organization.

Mr. Rau is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is completing his
dissertation under Thomas P. Hughes. During his fellowship period, he will be working on his dissertation, "From the Endless Frontier to the Final Frontier: The Promise and Practice of Systems Management through the Age of Apollo, 1958-1969."

Mr. Rau notes that his work explores R&D management at NASA. Specifically, he examines its emergence through debates over government participation in R&D and the consequences of the NASA model for R&D management practices in general. Project Apollo, he contends, conferred enormous prestige upon NASA. The agency became a paradigm of effective government investment in industrial R&D. Its systems management approach seemed capable of surmounting all obstacles, realizing all aspirations, and opening new frontiers. Americans reached both upward and outward, as systems management became incorporated into the Great Society programs as the means to deploy expertise toward resolving not only technical but also social problems, such as poverty. Nevertheless, he finds that R&D issues raised during the postwar era remain far from resolved. Many of the social programs had disappointing results, and cutbacks and problems at NASA have deepened public suspicion of the government's role in such activities; meanwhile, the Clinton administration promotes a high-technology industrial policy supported by federally initiated R&D programs.

Mr. Rau's study offers important possibilities for historians of science and technology. He would welcome observations and suggestions about this research project, and can be reached directly via the internet at erau@sas.upenn.edu.

GODDARD HISTORICAL ESSAY COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The National Space Club is soliciting entries for the 1994 Robert H. Goddard Historical Essay Award. Essays may explore any significant aspect of the historical development of rocketry and astronautics, and will be judged on their originality and scholarship. They cannot be more than 5,000 words long and must be submitted by December 5, 1994. The prize is a plaque and $1,000 award. For further information contact the Goddard Historical Essay Contest, c/o National Space Club, 655 15th Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005.

CALLS FOR PAPERS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations has issued a call for papers for its June 21-24, 1995, annual meeting at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. Proposals are due by December 1, 1994, to Robert D. Schulzinger, SHAH Program Committee, History Department, CB 234, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0234.

A call for papers has been issued for a conference entitled "Einstein meets Magritte: An Interdisciplinary Reflection on Science, Nature, Human Action and Society" to be held at Vrije Universiteit Brussel on May 29-June 3, 1995, in Brussels, Belgium. For further information contact the conference secretary: Linda Dasseville, DINF, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. E-mail: einmag@vub.ac.be.

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.

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 periods and regions should be sent by November 15, 1994, to Marilyn Boxer and Robert W. Cherny, AHA-PCB Program Committee Co-Chairs, Department of History, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94122.

The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting on October 19-22, 1995, in Milwaukee, WI. Scholars and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and fields may submit by December 15, 1994, proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, and entire sessions. Contact Michael A. Gordon, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201; 414-229-4314; fax 414-229-6827; e-mail: mgordon@csd4.csd.uwm.edu; or Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis, Department of English, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5092; 616-387-2629; fax 616-387-3999; e-mail: etter_lewis@wmich.edu.

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Oklahoma announces junior and senior level Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the History of Science for 1995-1996. Applications are due by January 20, 1995. For further
information contact Dr. Gregg Mitman History of Science Department, 601 Elm St., Rm. 622, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73109-0315.

The Australian National University invites applications for visiting fellowships in the Humanities Research Centre in 1996. Each year the Centre concentrates upon a special theme. In 1996 the theme will be "Culture and Science." For further information contact the Centre Administrator, Humanities Research Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 0200, Australia. Fax (06)248 0054, e-mail: Leena.Messina@anu.edu.au.

The University of Minnesota offers two postdoctoral fellowships in its interdisciplinary program for Studies of Science and Technology. Applicants should contact Professor Alan E. Shapiro, Program in History of Science and Technology, 116 Church Street S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Applications must be received by January 16, 1995.

The Department of Science and Technology Studies at Cornell University invites applications for a one-year postdoctoral associateship. The associateship, for the 1995-1996 academic year, carries a stipend of $29,200 plus health benefits. For further information contact Postdoctoral Search Committee, Department of Science and Technology Studies, 726 University Avenue, Cornell, Ithaca, NY 14850-3995. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1995.

The Department of History, Philosophy and Communication of Science, University College, London, has a three-year post-doctoral researcher position available in the history of science. For further details, contact Jon Turney, Department of History, Philosophy and Communication of Science, University College, London. e-mail: j.turney@uc.ac.uk.

A one-year postdoctoral position is available at the Center for History of Electrical Engineering beginning September 1995, with the expectation of two one-year renewals. The Postdoc will teach one undergraduate course per year on the history of technology, medicine, and science. The main responsibility will be to work on one of the Center's research projects. For more information contact Postdoc Search, CHEE, Rutgers University, 39 Union Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

The Friends of the Princeton University Library are sponsoring several short-term visiting fellowships in order to promote scholarly use of the research collections of the Library. The Fellowships, which have a value of $1500 each, are meant to help defray expenses in traveling to and from and residing in Princeton. Fellowships are tenable from May 1995 to April 1996. To apply contact Fellowship Committee, Princeton University Library, One Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544. The deadline for applications is January 31, 1995.

The Huntington Library will award three fellowships funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for the academic year 1995-1996. These fellowships are designed to permit scholars to spend from four to twelve months at the Huntington. The deadline for applications is January 6, 1995. Please refer all inquiries to the Research Division, The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA, 91108.

American scholars in the humanities and social sciences are encouraged to apply for fellowships to study Baltic States, Central and Eastern Europe, Mongolia, and Newly Independent States. Please contact the International Research & Exchanges Board, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. E-mail: irex@irexmain@irex.org. Application deadline: November 1, 1994.

Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession, the Conference Group on Women's History, and the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians announce the annual competition for a graduate student award to assist in thesis work. Deadline: December 1, 1994. Contact: Peggy Pascoe, Award Committee, Department of History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

The ACLS, in cooperation with its constituent societies, announces a program of travel grants, awarded on a competitive basis, to enable scholars in all fields of the humanities and humanities-related social sciences to participate in international meetings held outside the United States and its dependencies. The deadline for applications is February 1, 1995, for travel to international meetings occurring between June 1, 1995 and May 31, 1996. For more information contact the ACLS Fellowship Office, 228 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017-3398.


Newberry Library offers 6-11 month residential fellowships, one specifically for a woman at an early stage of her career. Deadline: January 10, 1995. The Library offers Short-Term Resident Fellowships to scholars from outside the greater Chicago area whose research particularly requires study at the Newberry. Deadline: March 1, 1995. Contact: Awards Committee, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380.

The Rockefeller Archive Center invites applications for its program of Grants for Travel and Research at the Center. The competitive program is aimed at graduate students and postdoctoral scholars who are engaged in research that requires use of the Center's collections. Deadline: December 31. Contact: Darwin H. Stapleton, Director, Rockefeller Archive Center, 15 Dayton Ave., North Tarrytown, NY 10591-1598.
Stanford Humanities Center will offer external fellowships to senior and junior scholars for 1995-96. Deadline: November 15, 1994. Contact: Stanford Humanities Center, Mariposa House, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-8630; 415-723-3052; fax 415-723-1895.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The American Historical Association is holding its annual meeting in Chicago on January 5-8, 1995. For further information contact the AHA at 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

The National Association for Science, Technology, and Society is holding its annual meeting in Arlington, VA, on March 2-5, 1995. Further information can be obtained from NASTS, 133 Willard Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

The Society for History in the Federal Government will hold its annual meeting in College Park, MD, on March 28-29, 1995. For information contact SHFG, P.O. Box 14139, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

The Organization of American Historians annual meeting will be held in Washington, DC, on March 30-April 2, 1995. For information contact OAH, 112 North Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199.

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS

Rotundo, Louis. *Into the Unknown: The X-1 Story* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1994).
Sharman, Helen, and Priest, Christopher. *Seize the Moment* (Victor Gollancz, 1994), about the journalist who flew aboard a Soyuz spacecraft and spend one week aboard the Mir space station in May 1991.