NASA HISTORY: 1994 IN REVIEW

The year 1994 was productive for the History Office at NASA Headquarters. This program was established in 1959 to preserve and disseminate a record of agency activities for the public interest. Our efforts continued during 1994 toward building a significant collection of reference documents. The collection is used by both NASA personnel and the public, providing historical perspective and documentary support for agency executives, and researching and writing NASA history for publication in books, monographs, articles, and reports.

Reference Collection and Research Support:

During this past year the NASA Historical Reference Collection answered a total of 1,994 research requests from government, educational, and private organizations on all manner of divergent research interests. A priority during the year was providing background information and documentary records to aid NASA decision-makers in their work, an "applied history" goal, and of the total number of research requests answered, 1,074 were from NASA personnel or other official requesters. This required a total number of 1,408 work hours by the office staff. Also during this year, the History Office provided research services to 530 on-site researchers using the collection. The office also wrote several background papers on such topics as Apollo 11, government irradiation experiments, personnel reductions, and international cooperation in space.

Reference services have extended from providing essential facts and documents to preparing substantive background papers on a variety of subjects. Here is a chart showing the monthly breakdown of information requests and on-site researchers using the NASA Historical Reference Collection. In addition, there follow several examples of the substantive information requests handled by this office during the past year.

(a) Members of the History Office staff worked closely with investigators and provided significant assistance relative to NASA’s biomedicine programs for the President's Task Force for Irradiation Experiments.

(b) NASA history staff members worked closely with NASA personnel (especially Public Affairs and various speechwriters), the public, journalists, and scholars and provided considerable documentation about Project Apollo for the 25th anniversary of the lunar landing. As a result of the number of inquiries we worked up a series of standard handouts that are responsive to most of the requests. We also assisted no fewer than seven filmmakers--U.S., Japanese, and European--who are working on documentaries
about Project Apollo. The office also answered numerous information requests from museum personnel developing exhibits for the anniversary. These ranged from requests from the National Air and Space Museum to the National Museum of American History to the Kennedy Presidential Library.

(c) Office personnel prepared background studies and participated in briefings and working groups discussing the development of technology transfer strategies for governmental scientific and technological agencies in the twentieth century as a means of enhancing present-day NASA efforts in this area.

(d) The History Office staff worked with the Office of the Administrator and strategic planning personnel on long-range planning and organization for NASA.

One ongoing effort in the office has been the creation of a computer-based inventory and finding aid for NASA's historical reference collection. Beforehand, the only one who knew the contents of the collection in any detail was our archivist, Lee D. Saegesser. This computer database work is being done under contract in this office. With more than 1,000 linear feet of material now catalogued—still only about a third of the total holdings in the collection—the database is starting to fulfill its promise as an important reference tool to historians working in the NASA collections. We are planning to expand this effort in the near term by imaging some documents for electronic storage and retrieval. This will enable us to be more effective in meeting the needs of NASA executives for whom we provide information and to reduce the amount of paper documentation maintained on site at NASA headquarters.

Publication Program:

The hallmark of the NASA History Program continued in 1994, to be the preparation of solid, well-researched works on the history of the U.S. civil space program. During the year the NASA History Program published several major new books and other less ambitious publications.

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**Historical Reports**


**Monographs in Aerospace History**


**NASA-Sponsored Historical Works Published By Other Presses**


**NASA History Office Annual Reports**


**NASA Historical Publications in the News:**

"New Series in NASA History" by the Johns Hopkins University Press in 1993, has enjoyed an especially positive response. Using extensive interviews and complex management analyses, Inside NASA seeks to identify and trace the evolution of the organizational culture of NASA from its founding and expansion during the Apollo era through the changes in the 1970s and 1980s. The book examines the reasons for what the author calls the "decline of NASA's technical culture" in the post-Apollo era, shedding new light on the agency's overall situation in recent years.

Because of the book's timely analysis, in the fall of 1993 Dr. McCurdy was asked to testify about NASA's organizational culture before the House Committee on Government Operations. In addition, the book has been used by policy-makers elsewhere in Washington involved in the Clinton Administration's effort to "reinvent government." The ideas expressed in Inside NASA have also been cited by writers concerned with reforming government in the Washington Post, the Foreign Service Journal, and Government Executive. This type of use epitomizes "applied history" for decision-makers at its most visible in the Federal government.

In recognition of the contribution it has made to understanding the development of NASA as an institution, the Society for History in the Federal Government has awarded Inside NASA its 1993 Henry Adams Prize, annually given for the best analytical work in history emanating from Federal history programs. Paperback copies of Inside NASA may be ordered for $13.95 from the Johns Hopkins University Press, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211-2190, or by calling its order desk at 1-800-537-5487. The availability of the paperback moves this book into the college textbook market, so if you have a recent U.S. history, or history of technology, or political science, or public policy class please consider this book as a text.

Also during the year, NASA historians worked toward the publication of several other histories on a wide diversity of subjects. Here is a list of major projects presently nearing completion, along with projected publication dates. The dates of publication, of course, may slip due to the exigencies of funding.


Apollo 11 25th Anniversary:

This office was involved in several activities relative to Apollo 11's anniversary. In addition to those already mentioned, they include the following:

(a). Staff members prepared a short article, "Apollo 11 at Twenty-five," for use by the Public Affairs Office. This has been distributed through media channels for publication wherever appropriate.

(b). Office workers compiled a short annotated bibliography, "Project Apollo: A Selective Bibliography of Books" for use by the Public Affairs Office. This has been distributed through media channels for use wherever appropriate.

(c). Roger D. Launius prepared an electronic picture book (EPB) called "Apollo 11 at Twenty-five," which was made available on Macintosh computer disk and through the Internet. This work consisted of 48 photographs with explanatory captions of several paragraphs each. The Space Telescope Science Institute's (STSI) education program did the work on computer for the product. Its target audience is high school students and is one of a series of NASA electronic picture books STSI has produced. The earlier efforts have been oriented toward providing scientific information, but STSI saw an opportunity to move into an area that is appropriate for its educational charter and that has not been explored before. We used the documentation produced for other Apollo historical products to prepare the text for this EPB.

(d). The office members wrote an historical article for the Space Times: Magazine of the American Astronautical Society, on the 25th anniversary of the Apollo 11 flight. The basic text of this article was also distributed by NASA Public Affairs as a news release. It also appeared in the NASA HQ Bulletin.

(e). The archivists prepared two exhibits on Apollo 11 for display during the anniversary. The first was a more generic display that was placed in the West Lobby of the NASA Headquarters.
between 16 and 25 June 1994. The second was placed in the NASA Headquarters Library and is more textually oriented, displaying documents.

**Professional Activities:**

Members of the History Office staff were involved at several levels in professional activities germane to the aerospace history specialty. The first area was as a participant in various professional conferences. Dr. Roger D. Launius and Dr. J.D. Hunley each participated in conferences and symposia during the year, giving papers and participating in panels. Several staff members also published historical books, articles, and book reviews during the year. A total of 23 articles, two monographs, and several book reviews were published by members of the staff during the year.

**AHA Fellowship in Aerospace History:**

The American Historical Association awarded one fellowship for the 1993-1994 and a second for the 1994-1995 academic year; NASA funds this program as a means of fostering serious scholarship in aerospace history. Chris Hables Gray received this fellowship for the 1993-1994 term, and researched on "Cyborgs in Space: Space Research and the Spread of Cybernetic Organisms." The 1994-1995 fellow is Eric C. Rau, a Ph.D. candidate in the history of technology from the University of Pennsylvania. He will spend his fellowship term researching the management of large-scale technological projects.

**Conference Sessions and Symposia:**

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


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


"International Cooperation and Competition in the Space Program: A Personal Memoir," Arnold W. Frutkin, former NASA Associate Administrator for International Relations.

**THE HIGH VALUE OF NASA HISTORY SERIES BOOKS**

We would not have believed it had we not seen it for ourselves, but some NASA History Books have been purchased from the Government Printing Office and are being resold at outrageous prices by a commercial firm in New York City. We had no idea that our books, which we believe are excellent and worth far more than they are sold for by GPO, could fetch such a handsome price on the commercial market. The Gordon Press has several recent NASA History Series Books available, but we recommend that before paying its list price that you contact the 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. The Information Center has a wide variety of books available, including some that are out of stock from the Government Printing Office. If you would like a complete list of NASA History Series Publication, as well as ordering information about them contact NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546; 202-358-0384.

**SYMPOSIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS PLANNED**

The NASA History Office anticipates holding a symposium called "Beyond the Ionosphere: The Development of Satellite Communications," at the NASA Headquarters Auditorium on 17-18 October 1995, in Washington, D.C. The meeting will immediately precede the Society for the History of Technology meeting, scheduled for Charlottesville, VA, on 19-22 October 1995. The symposium is prompted by the importance of understanding the history of satellite communications as a theme in the development of technology in the twentieth century.

The discoveries of Karl Jansky and Grote Reber, often cited as the starting point of radio astronomy, launched the modern era of telecommunications. In the past, the ionosphere defined the limits of radio
communication; today, by going beyond the ionosphere, broadband telecommunication has entered a new age. This symposium will deal with the first attempts to go beyond the ionosphere, including both the earliest uses of the Moon as a passive, natural relay satellite and Project Echo, as well as with contemporary communications via human-made moons in geostationary orbit about the Earth. It will deal with both American and foreign satellite telecommunications, histories of satellite communications companies, the roles of government agencies (such as NASA, the ESA, and the British Foreign Office), state telecommunications offices (such as France Telecom), and research laboratories.

Historians and sociologists of science and technology, economists, political scientists, and public policy scholars are invited to attend, as well as scientists, engineers, technicians, and managers in the field of satellite telecommunications. One of the key objectives of the conference is to bring scholars and practitioners together. Another chief objective of the conference is to stimulate scholarly interest in satellite communication. In order to reach as large an audience as possible, the possibility of publishing the conference proceedings jointly through the presses of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Rutgers University will be explored.

As currently conceived, the conference will comprise three sessions and a tour of the COMSAT research and development laboratories in nearby Clarksburg, MD. Dr. John V. Evans, who witnessed the beginnings of lunar-relay communications at Jodrell Bank in England and the current President of COMSAT laboratories, will conduct the tour. Although a preliminary program follows, there is room for additional presentations. Those interested in participating in the symposium, either by giving a paper or by acting as a moderator or commentator are urged to contact Roger D. Launius, NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, telephone 202-358-0383, FAX 202-358-2866, or at rlaunius@codei.hq.nasa.gov. Deadline for proposing papers is 15 March 1995.

**Preliminary Program**

**Session 1.**


Andrew BUTRICA, *Initial attempts to explore beyond the ionosphere.*

Jon AGAR, *Moon-relay experiments at Jodrell Bank.*

David VAN KEUREN, *Moon-relay experiments at the Naval Research Lab.*

Don ELDER, *Project ECHO.*

**Session 2.**


John KRIGE, *Industrial policy and European communication satellites.*

Patrice CARRÉ, *Communication satellite research at France Telecom's CNET.*

Lorenza SEBESTA, *The Franco-German Symphonie Program.*

Nigel WRIGHT, *The Formulation of British and European Policy Toward an International Satellite Telecommunications System: The Role of the British Foreign Office*

**Session 3.**

David WHALEN, *COMSAT and commercial satellite communications.*

Adam GRUEN, *Satellite communications at MCI.*

Raman SRINIVASAN, *Indian satellite communications: technology, politics, and personalities.*

José ALTSHULER, *Cuban international radio and satellite communications, 1959-1985*

**NASA Historical Data Book for 1979-1988 Planned**

The NASA History Office is planning on issuing within the next three months a request for proposal (RFP) for the research and writing of the NASA Historical Data Book, Vol V: NASA Programs, Projects and Resources, 1979-1988. 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, 202-358-0383, FAX 202-358-2844, or at rlaunius@codei.hq.nasa.gov. No firm date for release of the RFP has yet been established.

**Call for Space History Papers Issued**

Papers on the history of space exploration are wanted for a possible special issue of an academic journal and/or book. The collection will focus on "softer" technological questions: human vs. machines
debate, human-machine integration, humans in space issues (biofeedback, sex, gender, social science problems), systems analysis/human factors, and the relationship between other institutions (i.e. the military) and ideas (such as Gaia) and space science. Please send proposals to Chris Hables Gray, 735 NW 16th St., Corvallis, OR 97330, by 1 May 1995.

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

Apparently not. In our last newsletter we raised the possibility of establishing a scholarly Journal of Aerospace History. This elicited several worthwhile responses from many different people. Most of those who responded were quite excited by the prospect, but almost everyone expressed concern about the practical problems of such an undertaking. Additionally, some raised the question about the very real danger of removing historians interested in aerospace history from the broader historical arena. They suggested that a new specialty journal would further “ghettoize,” to use a cumbersome if appropriate term, the field by having the group write only for each other. It looks like we do not have a critical mass at this time to begin a new journal. We should, however, hold it as a long-term possibility, but perhaps we should not press the issue any further at this juncture. Views on this subject should be sent to Roger D. Launius, NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, telephone 202-358-0383, rlaunius@codei.hq.nasa.gov.

SPECIAL CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE HISTORY SYMPOSIA OF THE IAF

The chairs of the two sessions of history to be held at the 46th International Astronautical Congress, Oslo, Norway, 2-6 October 1995, are soliciting paper proposals on all subjects related to the development of space flight. For further information contact, Frederick I. Ordway III, History of Astronautics Chair, 2401 N. Taylor Street, Arlington, VA 22207, Fax: 703-524-5856.

CALL FOR PAPERS ISSUED FOR THE SHOT ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for the History of Technology has issued its call for papers for the combined meeting with the Society for the Social Studies of Science to be held on 19-22 October 1995, in Charlottesville, VA. Session and individual paper proposals are invited. Proposals should be sent to the program committee by 15 March 1995. The chair is Jonathan Coopersmith, Department of History, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843; 409-845-7148; jcfax1@tamvm1.tamu.edu. This is an excellent opportunity to propose aerospace history papers and sessions. If anyone desires assistance in finding other people who are interested in proposing papers on aerospace history subjects and in creating a session on the subject please feel free to call Roger D. Launius at the NASA History Office, who is tracking this information.

CALLS FOR PAPERS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS

The Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society at the Hagley Museum and Library has issued a call for papers for a conference entitled, "Aftermath: The Transition from War to Peace in America, 1943-1949," to be held at the Hagley on 27-28 October 1995. Papers should discuss World War II's impact on postwar America. They especially invite proposals which address important but unexplored transitions in American culture, economy, and society. As the conference's primary concern is life in America, it will not include coverage of foreign relations. Honorarium and travel support may be offered to presenters. Send a one-page abstract and a c.v. by April 21, 1995 to Dr. Roger Horowitz, Associate Director, Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807, or fax to 302-658-0568. Direct queries to RH@STRAUSS.UDEL.EDU or 302-658-2401.

The Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science will hold its annual conference at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, on 8-11 July 1995. Proposals for papers are invited. The program committee is especially interested in papers on science, technology, and world peace; 19th-century natural history; history of medicine; and scientific and technological development in Asia. Early submission of abstracts is requested, with a closing date of 31 May 1995. Contact the Conference Secretary, Dr. David Miller, at the School of Science and Technology Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052, Australia. Telephone: +61 2 385 2359; Fax:
Bowling Green State University seeks proposals for papers from all interested scholars for a juried interdisciplinary conference entitled, "The Atomic Age Opens: America Culture Confronts the Atomic Bomb," to be held 13-15 July 1995. Interdisciplinary work is particularly welcome, and publication of conference proceedings is anticipated. Proposals (one page maximum) and inquiries about the conference itself should be sent to Christopher Geist, Chair, Department of Popular Culture, or Alison Scott, Director, Popular Culture Library at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403. A FAX is available at the Department of Popular Culture: (419) 372-2577. Deadline for proposals is 1 March 1995.

The North East Popular Culture Association (NEPCA), a regional chapter of the PCA/ACA, holds its annual conference in Worcester, MA, on 6-7 October 1995. Papers or panels on any culture studies or popular culture topic may be submitted (abstract & short CV) by 1 June to the program chair. Write to Professor James Hanlan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA 01609.

Brandon University will sponsor the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Brandon, Manitoba, 27-30 September 1995. Proposals for papers or sessions in ANY field of history are welcome. Please send a one-page prospectus and a brief vita by 31 March 1995 to Hans Burmeister, Department of History, Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 6A9. Phone: 204-727-9718; Fax 204-726-0473; E-mail: History@BrandonU.ca.

The American Astronautical Association will be holding its annual meeting at Marina Del Rey, CA, on 4-6 December 1995. The AAS History Committee is planning to organize a session on the development of solid rocketry. Anyone wishing to present a paper on this subject should contact, Dr. Donald C. Elder, History Department, University of Redlands, 1200 E. Colton Avenue, Redlands, CA 92373.

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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 National Endowment for the Humanities has issued a call for proposals for its research fellowships. They may be used to support full-time research for six to twelve months. The deadline for applying is 1 May 1995. Application forms are now available and can be obtained by using E-MAIL: cjerry@neh.fed.us. Telephone requests can be made to 202-606-8466 OR 202-606-8467; FAX: 202-606-8558.

The American Philosophical Society Library is accepting applications for a unique program of summer internships for graduate students in the humanities or social sciences. The fellowships, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, are intended to encourage graduate students to investigate the mission and functions of a specialized research library. To insure a wide range of perspectives and experience, staff members from the Library's Manuscripts, Archival Processing, Reference and Imprints, and Conservation departments will work with interns on a variety of behind-the-scenes and public service projects. Attempts will be made to match these projects to the interns' academic interests. Stipends are $3,200 for the two-month internship, which is to be held from 5 July through 25 August 1995. Applicants should contact Martin L. Levitt, Associate Librarian for Administration, American Philosophical Society Library, 105 South Fifth St., Philadelphia, PA 19106; 215-440-3400. Deadline is 28 April 1995.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The National Association for Science, Technology, and Society is holding its annual meeting in Arlington, VA, on 2-5 March 1995. Further information is available 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 28-29 March 1995. 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 30 March-2 April 1995. Contact OAH, 112 North Bryan St., Bloomington, IN 47408-4199.

The Society for Military History will hold its annual meeting at Gettysburg, PA, on 11-14 May 1995. Contact David A. Keough, SMH 1995 Meeting, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013, 717-245-3189.

An interdisciplinary conference on "The Women and Gender in Science Question" will be held on 12-14
May 1995, at the University of Minnesota. Contact Women and Gender in Science Conference, Professional Development and Conference Services, University of Minnesota, 218 Nolte Ctr., 315 Pillsbury Dr., S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455-0139.

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) will hold its annual meeting at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, on 21-24 June 1995. Contact Robert D. Schulzinger, SHAFR Program Committee, History Department, CB 234, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

The International Congress of International Sciences will be held in Montreal on 27 August-3 September 1995. The preliminary program and registration information are available on the Universite du Quebec a Montreal Gopher <gopher.uqam.ca>. Select "Calendrier des evenements a l'UQAM," then "Congres et colloques"; then "CISH 1995 / ICHS 1995." Please read file "A lire/Read Me" first. One can also register for the congress through the World Wide Web. A form is available at the following address: http://astro/umontreal.ca/bcoc/. Contact the Congress Organizing Committee at <cish95@uqam.ca>.

The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting at Milwaukee, WI, on 19-22 October 1995. Contact Michael A. Gordon, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS


