

# NASA HISTORY: NEWS & NOTES

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## Documentary History of the Space Age

In our last edition of News and Notes we alerted you to the probability that we would be soliciting proposals to compile and edit a documentary history of the space age. Unless current federal budget negotiations spell disaster for our own budget, launching a documentary history project will be our main undertaking this coming year.

The deadline for proposals will be August 1, 1988. As usual, we would like to hear in advance (preferably by July 1) from anyone who plans to make a proposal. Independent as well as affiliated scholars are invited to submit proposals. Because several areas of expertise would be involved, the project lends itself to a team approach. The scope of the documentary history should extend to non-U.S. space activities, and primary focus should be on the post World War II period. The completed volume should include appropriate introductory passages to accompany each document.

Proposals should demonstrate the ability to select and arrange a publishable collection of documents that represent not only seminal events in the history of space science and technology, but also the political, managerial, and cultural dimensions characteristic of the era's principal developments and processes. Proposers' conceptualization of the subject as a whole and their bases for selecting individual documents will be closely evaluated. The principal investigator should have substantial familiarity with the history of post World War II technology and policy. Experience in historical editing is essential.

The selected proposal should be awarded a contract during fiscal year 1989 to substantially fund the project for a period up to three years. The amount of funding will be negotiable. For further guidance in preparing proposals, please see History at NASA (HHR-50, 1986), available on request from the NASA History Office, Washington, DC 20546 (Tel: 202-453-8300). Those planning to develop proposals may wish to visit the NASA History Office in order to survey readily available documents, especially the unpublished collection "Documents in NASA History" (HHR-43).

## Fellowship in Aerospace History

The American Historical Association has announced this year's competition for the 1988-1989 Fellowship in Aerospace History, funded by NASA. The fellow will be expected to conduct significant and sustained advanced research in any aspect of the history of aeronautics and space travel, from the earliest interest in

flight to the present, including cultural and intellectual history, economic history, history of law and public policy, and the history of science, engineering, and management. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and possess a doctoral degree in history or in a closely related field or be enrolled as a student (having completed all course work) in a doctoral degree-granting program. The deadline for applications is February 1, 1988. For details, contact the American Historical Association, 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC, 20003 (Tel: 202-544-2422).

#### ...and Small Study Support

Depending on the availability of funds, the NASA History Office may make one or more small study awards during 1988-1989. These are small contracts (up to \$9,500) for research and writing in NASA-related aerospace history leading to the completion of publishable journal length essays. Subjects need not be limited to topics in aerospace science and technology, but may include topics in aeronautical and space policy, law, and R&D management. Bibliographical and historiographical studies will also be considered.

Proposals will be considered three times annually and should be submitted by the following deadlines: February 15, June 15, and October 15. Interested scholars should discuss proposal ideas with the Director, NASA History Office, prior to preparing their proposals. Contact: Dr. Sylvia D. Fries, Director, NASA History Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington DC, 20546; tel: (202) 453-8300.

#### New Series Proposals Invited

We have also reissued our request for proposals to research and write individual volumes for our New Series in NASA History. This series, published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, is designed to approach topics and themes in NASA-related history from broad or new perspectives and to reach general as well as academic audiences. The annual deadline for proposals is August 1, 1988. If you plan to make a proposal, please notify us by March 1.

#### Three New NASA Histories Published

We have had the happy chore this fall of making space in our cramped quarters for three new history publications. Longest in press was James R. Hansen's Engineer in Charge: A History of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, 1917-1958 (NASA SP-4305). To

purchase a copy, call or write the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 20402 (Tel: 202-783-3238.) Charge orders will be accepted. The price is \$35.00.

Second in line was the publication of James E. Tomayko's Computers in Spaceflight: The NASA Experience by Marcel Dekker, Inc. Tomayko's study is Volume 18, Supplement 3, of Dekker's Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Technology. Computers in Spaceflight is available from the publisher: Marcel Dekker, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016.

Last but by no means least is the first volume in our New Series, published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, Henry S. F. Cooper Jr.'s Before Lift-off: The Making of a Shuttle Crew (1987). Before Lift-off, a closeup account by one of our best space journalists of the rigors of astronaut training through simulation, should be available through your campus bookstore, and can be ordered directly from The Johns Hopkins Press, 701 West 40th Street, Baltimore, Md., 21211. \$18.50

#### Speaking of Books...

We have a limited number of courtesy copies of three NASA History Series publications available for consideration: Homer E. Newell, Beyond the Atmosphere: Early Years of Space Science (NASA SP-4211, 1980); Alex Roland, Model Research: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 1915-1958 (NASA SP-4103, 1985); and some years of the Astronautics and Aeronautics chronology. If you would like a courtesy copy, please write us, indicating the course for which the book is being considered. For the chronology, please give the year(s) desired.

#### New History Advisory Committee Chairman Named

Arthur L. Norberg, director of the Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Processing, has been appointed chair of the NASA History Advisory Committee, effective January 1, 1988. As History Advisory Committee chair, Arthur will also serve on the NASA Advisory Council, the agency's senior outside advisory group. Also on the History Advisory Committee are Daniel Kevles, Henry Lambright, Glenn Porter, W. David Lewis, and Richard P. Hallion. Melvin Kranzberg is the outgoing chairman.

Under Mel Kranzberg's leadership the committee worked closely with our office to strengthen the program within both NASA and within the academic community. Of the principal program accomplishments during Mel's tenure, two long thought impossible were brought about partly through the committee's efforts. They are (1) the development of an agreement with a university press to publish a series of NASA-related historical studies addressed to

non-specialist audiences, and (2) the creation of a fellowship program in cooperation with the American Historical Association to encourage capable scholars to develop a competence in aerospace history.

The third major accomplishment was less visible, perhaps, but no less important. Through the process of developing a five year plan, the committee and our office arrived at a consensus about the fundamental missions of the NASA history program. While, predictably, we have not been able to follow every detail of the plan, its emphases on documentation and the encouragement of creative historical scholarship have been effective guides as we have defined individual projects during the past three years.

Substantial credit for these achievements belongs to a strong committee under a strong chairman. Our office, like the historical profession, owes Mel a considerable debt of gratitude.

#### New Projects

We are happy to welcome to our growing "family" of scholars Thomas J. Lewin, Vadake K. Narayanan, Tom Gates, and Mike Wright. Tom Lewin is associate professor of history at the University of Kansas and Vadake Narayanan is associate professor of management at the University of Kansas. Together they will be researching and writing, under contract to NASA, a historical study of early Space Station program management. Mike Wright has recently been appointed center historian at Marshall Space Flight Center. Mike has a M.A. in history and extensive experience in journalism. Tom Gates, a graduate student in history at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, will serve as center historian for the Space Station program at Marshall Space Flight Center. We are especially glad to welcome Marshall Space Flight Center as an active participant in NASA's history program. Meanwhile, not new by any means to NASA history, but starting a new project, is John M. Logsdon, who will be working on a study of the international dimension of NASA's Space Station program.

#### NASA's Support of Scholarship in Aerospace History and Policy

After seeing so many familiar faces at the joint meeting of the Society for the History of Technology and the History of Science Society in Raleigh, N.C. in October, we thought our readers might like to know who has received support from NASA for research, writing, and publication in aerospace history. Since the beginning of fiscal year 1984, they are:

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NASA History Projects Since FY 1984

\* = Completed; being edited

<u>PI/Institution</u>		<u>Project Name</u>
Roger E. Bilstein University of Houston		<u>Orders of Magnitude</u> (rev. & updated)
Virginia P. Dawson		History of Lewis Research Center
James H. Capshaw University of Maryland		History of Goddard Space Flight Center
W. David Compton	*	Apollo Lunar Missions
Tom Gates University of Alabama		Space Station History (at MSFC)
Adam L. Gruen Duke University (Ph.D. cand.)		Space Station History (Program Historian)
John F. Guilmartin, Jr. Ohio State University	*	Space Shuttle Chronology; Documents Collection
James R. Hansen Auburn University		Langley Research Center, 1958-1988
Karl Hufbauer University of California		Exploring the Sun: Galileo Through the Space Age
Thomas J. Lewin University of Kansas		Space Station History (Early Mgnt.)
John M. Logsdon George Washington University	*	Halley's Comet Missions: U.S. Non-Participation
John M. Logsdon George Washington University		Space Station History (International Aspects)
Howard E. McCurdy American University		History of NASA's Organizational Culture
Howard E. McCurdy American University	*	Space Station History (Task Force History)
A. Michal McMahon New Jersey Inst. of Tech.	*	NASA and the Industry-University Relationship

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John Mauer	* Space Shuttle Chronology; Documents Collection
Robert W. Smith Johns Hopkins University National Air & Space Museum	* Space Telescope History Project
Craig B. Waff	Galileo Project History

Fellowship:

American Hist. Assoc.	Fellowship Program
* Norriss P. Hetherington	Early U.S. Aviation: Policy and Public Opinion
Glenn E. Bugos	Tech. Mgnt. Concepts: F-14 Aircraft

"Small Studies" Program:

Glenn E. Bugos	* Tech. Mgnt. Concepts, NASA and Dod
John M. Logsdon George Washington Univ.	* Halley Mission Decision
John M. Logsdon George Washington Univ.	Solar System Exploration Program, 1979-1985
John E. Naugle	Selection of Space Science Experiments
Lawrence H. Suid	* Literature Survey: Manned Spaceflight in Fiction and Film

Publications:

Henry S.F. Cooper, Jr., Before Lift-Off: The Making of a Space Shuttle Crew (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987). N.b.: first volume in New Series in NASA History.

Edward C. and Linda N. Ezell, On Mars: Exploration of the Red Planet, 1958-1978. (NASA SP-4212, 1984)

Linda N. Ezell, NASA Historical Data Book, Vol. II & Vol. III (NASA SP-4012, in press)

Richard P. Hallion, On the Frontier: Flight Research at Dryden, 1946-1981 (NASA SP-4303, 1984)

James R. Hansen, Engineer in Charge: A History of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory (NASA SP-4305, 1987)

Elizabeth A. Muenger, Searching the Horizon: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940-1976 (NASA SP-4304, 1985)

John A. Pitts, The Human Factor: Biomedicine in the Manned Space Program to 1980 (NASA SP-4213, 1985)

Alex Roland, A Spacefaring People: Perspectives on Early Spaceflight (NASA SP-4405, 1985)

James E. Tomayko, Computers in Spaceflight: The NASA Experience Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Technology, Vol. 18, Supp. 3 (New York, 1987)

The NASA History Office, NASA Headquarters

The new year marks for us, among other things, some staff changes in our office. Eleanor Ritchie, writer-editor, retired at the end of 1987 after many years of service preparing volumes for the Astronautics and Aeronautics annual chronology series and struggling mightily to teach us clean, lean, and grammatical prose.

Joining us as a writer-editor is Sherrie Kale, who has been writing policy and planning studies for NASA since 1985. Sherrie has her M.A. in international affairs from the American University and has also studied the University of Virginia and the Sorbonne.

The office also has, at long last, a permanent administrative assistant and secretary. After having been ably assisted on a temporary basis by Deborah Plenty and Maryann Keck, we welcomed in December Patricia Shephard, who comes to us from NASA's technical information office. Both Sherrie and Pat promise to add measurably to the competence and good humor of the NASA history office.

So, on this note we join in sending you our very best wishes for 1988. May it be a happy and productive year!

The NASA History Office

Sylvia Fries - Lee Saegesser - Jim Delaney

Sherrie Kale - Patricia Shephard