

NASA HISTORY NEWSLETTER

October 14, 1966

(EH)

Number 6

THE NASA Historical Program was given Hq. Division status and transferred to the Office of Policy Analysis, which is headed by Assistant Administrator Breene W. Kerr. Action followed a management analysis study of the historical function in NASA and will provide the basis for management review and support of the NASA Historical Program.

THE NASA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE held its third meeting on May 20, 1966, chaired by Professor Melvin Kranzberg of Case Institute and the Society for the History of Technology. Highlights of the meeting were the challenges presented the Committee by Administrators Webb and Seamans on the utility, scope, and meaning of history. The report of the Committee is due any time now.

AN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF NASA, 1958-1963 (SP-4101), by Dr. Robert Rosholt, made its appearance in July, the first NASA history published and the first in the Administration and Management History Series. Its reception within NASA was immediate and pleasing, and a second printing was undertaken in September. While professional reviews must await the process of time, brief mentions have appeared in Foreign Affairs, Science Newsletter, and favorable response has been received by Administrator Webb who sent information copies to a number of Federal and academic officials. It is generally appreciated that the value of Rosholt's effort lies in the considerable amount of documentation collated and organized close to the events despite its limited treatment of policy and program aspects of NASA's management story. The latter area, which will be more prominent in future NASA history volumes, was clearly delineated in the Foreword by Administrator Webb. Further, the quality hard cover edition demonstrated the potential of publishing via the Scientific and Technical Information Division and the Government Printing Office. The content and scope of the NASA Historical Program is more easily communicated when a solid first product is in hand.

THIS NEW OCEAN: A HISTORY OF PROJECT MERCURY (SP-4201) by Messrs. Loyd Swenson, James Grimwood (MSC), and Charles Alexander is at the press, hopefully for distribution in late November. It will be the first NASA history published in the Program Series. The Foreword by the Chairman of the NASA Historical Advisory Committee should assist communication with the academic community concerning the unique contribution and opportunity of the NASA Historical Program.

ASTRONAUTICS AND AERONAUTICS, 1965 (SP-4006) is in printing and will be available in November. Delay of the annual chronology was dictated this year by higher priority publications demanding attention of the staff.

SUMMER SEMINAR on "History, Social Science, and Space" convened in June with five graduate students and resulted in the following Historical Notes in addition to the support of office operations and healthy seminar discussions:

- . Charles M. Atkins (Pol. Sc., M.I.T.), "List of Academic Theses Since 1961 Related to the History of Aeronautics and Astronautics" (Comment draft issued in July; revision to be issued when all possible additions can be made) (HHN-61)
- . Charles M. Atkins (M.I.T), "The Space Science Board and NASA" (First draft completed in September, to be revised with inputs from Webb interview and NAS comment and review)(HHN-62)
- . Loftus E. Becker, Jr. (Law, Penn.), "Long-Range Planning: An Historical Analysis" (Comment draft circulated in September) (HHN-63)
- . John M. Kemp (Law, G.W.U.), "Evolution Toward a Space Treaty" (Comment Edition issued in October) (HHN-64)
- . Michael Keller (History, Arizona), "Fifty Years of Flight Research: A Chronology on Langley Research Center, 1917-1966" (In progress for issue in October) (HHN-65)
- . John Cooper (History, Oklahoma), "Microclimates and Astronauts" (Comment draft circulated in October) (HHN-66)

PUBLICATIONS OF HUGH L. DRYDEN (HHN-59 Rev.) compiled by Helen Wells, was issued in July. It will followed by a list of Dr. Dryden's numerous unpublished writings. The Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress, which continues to draft the monthly edition of the Astronautics and Aeronautics chronology, has also drafted a preliminary bibliography of bibliographies on the history of aeronautics and astronautics (Katherine Dickson). This compilation will be issued as a research tool for historians in the near future.

PERSONAL PAPERS OF JOHN F. VICTORY have been given by Dr. Victory to the Library of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Dr. Victory had been provided duplicate copies of numerous NACA policy documents along with his personal papers. He recently moved to Tucson, Arizona.

REVIEW OF NASA HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS: Pleasing to the staff has been a growing tide of reviews of our publications in pertinent literature. Citations can be provided upon request. In any case, copies of reviews noted by our readers are requested so that we can complete our file.

AIAA COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS is pointing to its program on "The Process of Innovation in Aerospace Technology" at the annual meeting in Boston, December 2, 1966. The NASA Historian has passed the Chairmanship of this Committee to Frederick C. Durant, Assistant Director for Astronautics of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. A program on "Historical National Decisions on Aerospace Technology" is currently being planned for 1967.

RECENT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NOTE:

- . "A Century of British Aeronautics, the Royal Aeronautical Society, 1866-1966," Journal of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Vol. 70 (January 1966).
Special issue containing 70 articles and many photographs.
- . Auerbach, Lewis E., "Scientists in the New Deal," Minerva, Vol. III (Summer 1965), pp. 457-82.
- . Briddon, Arnold E., and Ellmore A Champie, Federal Aviation Agency Historical Fact Book: A Chronology, 1926-1963. Washington: FAA, 1966.
- . Cochrane, Rexmond C., Measures for Progress: A History of the National Bureau of Standards. Washington: Department of Commerce, 1966.
A pioneering governmental history spanning the 100 years of the Bureau of Standards, one as important to the history of technology as the AEC's The New World by Hewlett and Anderson.
- . Dupree, A. Hunter, "The History of American Science - A Field Finds Itself," American Historical Review, Vol LXXI (April 1966), pp. 863-74.
A challenging call.
- . Dupree, A. Hunter, Science and the Emergence of Modern America, 1865-1916. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963.
- . Eisenhower, Dwight David, Waging Peace, 1956-1961 (The White House Years). Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1965.
Chapter VIII, "Sputnik and a Sputtering Economy" (pp. 205-226), and Chapter IX, "Science and Defense" (pp. 239-261), recount General Eisenhower's reaction to Sputnik and the creation of NASA.
- . Emme, Eugene M., "Early History of the Space Age," The Aerospace Historian Vol. XIII (Summer and Fall 1966), pp. 74-78, 127-32.
Printing of lecture at Univ. of Wisconsin, April 8, 1965.
- . Heath, Sir Thomas, Aristarchus of Samos: The Ancient Copernicus. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1965.
- . James, N. J., "The Voyage of Mariner IV," Scientific American Vol. 214 (March 1966).
- . Jones, R.V., "Scientists and Statesmen: The Example of Henry Tizard," Minerva, Vol IV (Winter 1966), pp. 202-14.

- . North, J.D., The Measure of the Universe: A History of Modern Cosmology.
London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1965.
Treats first half of the 20th century but ignores radio astronomy.
- . Winter, Frank H., "Danish Rocketry in the 19th Century," The Aerospace Historian, Vol XIII (May 1966), pp. 81-84.
Printing of the Goddard Historical Prize Essay for 1965.
- . Wright, Helen, Explorer of the Universe: A Biography of George Ellery Hale. New York: Dutton, 1966.
Biography of major figure in American astronomy and astrophysics.