

N A S A H I S T O R Y N E W S L E T T E R

January 9, 1967

Office of Policy Analysis (EH)
Washington, D. C. 20546

Number 7

THE YEAR 1966 was rather eventful in the NASA historical venture, featuring rising demands, few additional resources, and notable milestones. Major events were the appearance of the first volumes of the NASA Historical Series: Robert L. Rosholt's An Administrative History of NASA (1958-63), with a Foreword by Administrator Webb (SP-4101); and This New Ocean: A History of Project Mercury (SP-4201) by Loyd Swenson, Charles Alexander and James Grimwood. Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1965 (SP-4006) made a tardy but welcome appearance because of the overload in Frank Anderson's publication shop during the year.

IN PERSPECTIVE, NASA's manned space flight efforts have been historically covered in most timely fashion. Jim Grimwood's Project Mercury: A Chronology (SP-4001) appeared in 1963 as our first documented program chronology. Mae Link's Space Medicine and Project Mercury (SP-4003) appeared as the first historical study related to a specific discipline in 1964. At this writing, we can report that the Project Gemini Chronology is well enroute to publication in 1967, and the MSC chronology on Apollo research and development is also in progress. A documented Saturn chronology and full Saturn program history are launching at Marshall Space Flight Center, and the launch facilities and pre-operational Apollo story is shaping-up at Kennedy Space Center. Bill Putnam is spearheading the outline plan for the monograph volumes which, in sum, may constitute the ultimate Apollo history. Fortunately, monographs for publication in the Center Historical Series (SP-4300's) are not being neglected at KSC, MSFC, or MSC.

PROGRAM HISTORIES are moving in non-manned space flight areas as the Vanguard history is again active, and the Ranger and Mariner histories are in developmental stage at JPL. Preliminary tracking histories on contract are being sponsored by Goddard, and its "Early Years" manuscript, much revised, will be the first NASA Center History in print. Progress is also reported from the histories underway at Wallops and Ames but drafts have not yet been received. Numerous other projects are aborning. The past twelve months have been the most hopeful to date. The Administrative History and This New Ocean, of course, provide the most eloquent proof.

THIS NEW OCEAN, which may have some impact nationally, has a publication date of January 16, 1967, and NASA historians and monitors will recall that both paperback and hardback copies will be available. Paperbacks are to be confined to inhouse distribution. As for the hardback, which is being distributed externally, NASA has requested the Superintendent of

Documents of GPO to stock it for sale (price: \$5.50). Paperbacks are to be shipped on January 10 and hardbacks on January 14. All copies for each center will arrive addressed to the Technical Information Officer, who, in turn, has been informed that his copies include those intended for the historian or monitor. We have previously requested that each historian and monitor make best effort at comprehensive external distribution (as per areas of responsibility in NIM 1380.2 of 7/18/66) to cover university interests in history, history of science, political science, and management; local journals and newspapers; key libraries; and key individuals of potential value to local as well as the NASA-wide historical program. By our works, we shall be known; it is submitted that the professional historians can contribute usefully to comprehension of the meaning of space exploration and its study.

NASA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE's Third Report went to the NASA Administrators, and its citation and use is recommended. Processing of a new NASA Management Instruction continues on the historical program.

SUMMER SEMINAR on "History, Social Science, and Space" is being planned for 1967 in Headquarters. Please advise quality graduate students to submit completed Form 57's directly to us, along with a recommendation from their major professors. Students in history, political science, sociology, law, or any graduate level discipline are invited. We have no assurance of actual positions but planning must proceed if we are to obtain quality young scholars. Center historians, we suggest, might also consider this kind of activity of mutual use to historical needs and to the needs of higher education. Comment drafts of all NASA Historical Notes prepared this last summer are now in circulation (See NEWSLETTER No. 6), except for final processing yet being undertaken on the excellent NASA-SSB paper by Charles Atkins of M.I.T.

HISTORY PROGRAMS of interest to NASA have taken place or are scheduled. The AIAA program on "The Process of Innovation in Aerospace Technology" in Boston in early December 1966, featured excellent papers which may be published in some collected form. Loyd Swenson gave a paper on the Mercury history to the Society for the History of Technology in Washington last week, and is scheduled for the joint SHOT-OAH session in Chicago on April 27-29, 1967. Also scheduled for an Organization of American Historians general session is a program on "Man's First Steps Into Space: The History of Project Mercury," chaired by James L. Cate, (Univ. of Chicago), and featuring papers by James Grimwood and Charles Alexander (Univ. of Georgia). Commentators will include James A. Allen, (Univ. of Colo.), Robert L. Perry (RAND), and Colonel John H. Glenn (tentative). Planned for the AIAA Fourth Annual Meeting at Anaheim, California, October 23-27, 1967, is a program on "Decision Turning Points in American Aerospace History," being organized by the NASA Historian.

AIAA HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT PRIZE has achieved final approval, hopefully to be

announced later this month. A prize of \$500.00 will be awarded for the best documented monograph on the history of aeronautics or astronautics submitted, plus publication in the AIAA Historical Monograph Series. Also to encourage budding inhouse or academic scholars, the National Space Club has raised the prize for the Goddard Historical Essay Award to \$500.00 for the 1967 competition. Mr. Frederick C. Durant, III, Assistant Director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum is the new Chairman of the AIAA History Committee, thus relieving the NASA Historian of this three-year missionary chore.

RECENT READING OF NOTE:

- . Air Ministry, The Origins and Development of Operational Research in the R.A.F. London: H.M.S.O., 1963. The only official R.A.F. history published.
- . Lloyd V. Berkner, "Space Now -- Only the Beginning," Air Force/Space Digest (January 1967), pp. 54-55. Excerpts from address at NASA Honors Ceremony, October 1966.
- . Harold L. Burstyn, "Early Exploration of the Role of the Earth's Rotation in the Circulation of the Atmosphere and the Ocean," Isis Vol. 57 (Summer 1956).
- . Richard Collier, Eagle Day: The Battle of Britain -- 1940. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1966. Excellent gleaning of personal exploits within reasonably accurate framework, thus a contribution.
- . Paul G. Dembling and Daniel M. Arons, "Space Law and the United Nations: The Work of the Legal Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses," Journal of Air Law and Commerce, Vol. 32 (Summer 1966), pp. 329-86.
- . David Divine, The Broken Wing: A Study of the British Exercise of Air Power. London: Hutchinson, 1966. A controversial historical examination of policy role of the R.A.F., one technologically and militarily wanting but useful for study of policy impact.
- . Herbert Feis, "The Shackled Historian," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 45 (January 1967), pp. 332-343. Required reading for NASA historians.
- . G.C.H. Gibbs-Smith and others, Aeronautics. London: H.M.S.O., 1966. Beautifully illustrated in color, a popular summary issued by the Science Museum for the 100th anniversary of the R.A.S.
- . Richard Rutkowski, The Politics of Military Aviation Procurement, 1926-1934, Columbus: Ohio State Univ. Press 1966. A somewhat disjointed if interesting documentation on competition in procurement sans appreciation of technology, or as the author says, "a study in the political assertion of consensual values."

NASA HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

HISTORIES:

- . Robert L. Rosholt, An Administrative History of NASA, 1958-1963, with Foreword by James E. Webb, NASA SP-4101, 1966; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$4.00).
- . Loyd S. Swenson, James M. Grimwood, and Charles C. Alexander, This New Ocean: A History of Project Mercury, NASA SP-4201, 1966; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$5.50).
- . Alfred Rosenthal, The First Five Years of the Goddard Space Flight Center, with Foreword by Esther C. Goddard, NASA SP-4301 (1967).

HISTORICAL STUDIES:

- . History of Rocket Technology, Edited by Eugene M. Emme, Special issue of Technology and Culture (Fall 1963); augmented and published by Society for the History of Technology (Detroit: Wayne State Univ., 1964)
- . Space Medicine in Project Mercury, by Mae Mills Link, with Foreword by Hugh L. Dryden and Introduction by W. Randolph Lovelace, II, NASA SP-4003, 1965; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$1.00).

CHRONOLOGIES AND SPECIAL STUDIES:

- . Aeronautics and Astronautics: An American Chronology of Science and Technology in the Exploration of Space, 1915-1960 compiled by Eugene M. Emme with Foreword by Hugh L. Dryden, Washington: NASA, 1961 (Out of Print).
- . Aeronautical and Astronautical Events of 1961, with Foreword by James E. Webb, published by the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 1962 (Out of Print).
- . Astronautical and Aeronautical Events of 1962, with Foreword by George L. Simpson, Jr., published by the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 1963; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$1.00).
- . Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1963, with Foreword by Hugh L. Dryden, NASA SP-4004, 1964; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$1.75).
- . Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1964, with Foreword by Robert C. Seamans, Jr., SP-4005, 1965; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$1.75).
- . Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1965, with Foreword by James E. Webb, NASA SP-4006, (August 1966); for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$2.25).
- . Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1966, NASA SP-4007 (1967).
- . Project Mercury: A Chronology, by James Grimwood with Foreword by Hugh L. Dryden, NASA SP-4001, 1963; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$1.50).
- . Historical Sketch of NASA, NASA EP-29, 1965; for sale by Supt. of Documents (\$.25).