

NASA HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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A new phase in the NASA Historical Program has begun. General Jacob E. Smart (USAF Retired) has become Assistant Administrator of Policy, responsible for the historical venture. Briefings, review of policies and practices, and constructive action have taken place. Positions for an archivist and an additional clerk-typist were obtained. Mr. Lee D. Saegesser of the National Archives will be joining the Historical Staff in several weeks to organize the office archives, monitor NASA records retirement program, and to support historical research efforts. Planning for the naming of the NASA Historical Advisory Committee for 1968 proceeds. Everyone was saddened by the sudden passing of Dr. Lloyd Berkner who had served on the Advisory Committee and commented on draft histories most helpfully.

Reviews of the first published NASA histories are beginning to appear and providing food for thought. Robert L. Rosholt, An Administrative History of NASA, 1958-63 (SP-4101), has been cited in some newspapers and a wide variety of journals such as the Administrative Science Quarterly, American Historical Review, Science Military Affairs, Ordnance, Naval Institute's Proceedings, Foreign Affairs, and International Review of Administrative Sciences. The last one referred to this volume as "certainly a remarkable feat," and suggested that "comparison with a similar work from the USSR would be fascinating."

THIS NEW OCEAN: A History of Project Mercury (SP-4201), by Messrs. Swenson, Grimwood, and Alexander which appeared in late December 1966, is just now being reviewed. Cover and major review status in Science (May 12, 1967, pp. 774-75) is most notable to date. It has not been advertised by the GPO to date, or mentioned in other obvious places except for the Washington Star, Foreign Affairs, etc. The difficulty of launching a GPO-published history and other aspects of our major publications to date will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the NASA Historical Advisory Committee. To date, such critical reviews of histories as have appeared have not been unreasonably accepted in NASA.

Summer Seminar on "History and Space" is underway with all members being graduate students in history for the first time: Bruce Byers (University of Maryland), Maurice Callahan (Brandeis), Patrick Kelly (Georgetown), and Arnold Levine (Wisconsin), the latter being an employee of Goddard Space Flight Center, Dr. Robert Rosholt of Wooster College, author of the Administrative History, is also a summer employee. He is ramrodding the compilation of a "NASA Historical Data Book," which will cover NASA's first ten years of existence.

In Progress: Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1966 (SP-4008), and Venture into Space: Early Years of the Goddard Space Flight Center, (SP-4301) are currently in press. Helen Wells is completing her "Origins of NASA Names" for publication as a NASA educational pamphlet. SP-4008, being a recurrent publication will be distributed to the Center historians and monitors in the amounts they asked for the previous year. Anyone who wishes to change his quota should do so promptly. SP-4301 has been separately circulized; it will be handled like This New Ocean. One bulk shipment will be sent direct from the Government Printing Office to each of the Centers; this shipment will contain both the Technical Publications copies and the historian's copies. The Technical Publications Officer at each Center is also being informed of this procedure. Mrs. Constance McLaughlin Green and Milton Lomask are at full steam on the Vanguard history. The Gemini history project, under Jim Grimwood with Bart Hacker and University of Houston support, has produced a draft chronology and has been conducting oral history interviews the past year. The Apollo history project is likewise in various stages of definition and action at the Manned Spacecraft Center, at Marshall Space Flight Center, and at the Kennedy Space Flight Center. The addition of R. Cargill Hall as JPL Historian has brought the Ranger history project into being. Hall won the first two Goddard Historical Essay Competitions in 1962 and 1963, and was a historian of USAF space projects before moving to Pasadena. Mrs. Katherine Dickson of the Library of Congress completed a preliminary bibliography of bibliographies on the history of aeronautics and astronautics and it was published in a comment edition.

Progress is also being made in the Center History Series. Michael Keller of the University of ~~Arizona~~ is undertaking on contract a history of the first 30 years of Langley Research Center. Center histories at Ames (Hartman), KSC (Frank Jarrett), Manned Spacecraft Center (Robert Merrifield), MSFC (David Akens), and Wallops (Joseph Shortal) are in various of promising development.

## RECENT READING OF NOTE:

1. Bester, Alfred, The Life and Death of a Satellite. Boston: Little, Brown, 1966. Stories from the history of Goddard Space Flight Center.
2. Blaganrovov, A.A., and others Soviet Rocketry: Some Contributions to Its History (Moscow: 1964), translated for NASA and NSF (NASA TT F-343). Jerusalem: Israel Program for Scientific Translation, 1966.
3. Cameron, A.G.W., "The Early History of the Sun," Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections (Vol. 151, No. 6). Washington: Smithsonian Pub. No. 4674, 1966.
4. Cockcroft, Sir John, (ed.), The Organization of Research Establishment. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1965, Chapter 3 on "The Royal Aircraft Establishment by M.S. Light-hill, pp. 28-54. Volume should be of interest to all Center historians. Founded in 1905, R.A.E. currently embraces a Space Department.
5. Corliss, William R., The Evolution of the Satellite Tracking and Data Acquisition Network (STADAN) Greenbelt, Maryland: Goddard Space Flight Center (Historial Note 3), January 1967. Welcomed documentation on a first chapter of the NASA tracking history.
6. Crawl, Phillip, "The Dulles Oral History Project," A.H.A. Newsletter, Vol. V (February 1967), pp. 6-10. Outlines the archival function of oral history.
7. Von Braun, Wernher, and F. I. Ordway, History of Rocketry and Space Travel, with a foreword by F.C. Durant, Jr. New York: Crowell, 1967.