
NASA HISTORY: NEWS AND NOTES

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH



The NASA History Division plans to award three new historical research contracts between now and the end of September 1992. All are being competitively advertized and information will be

available in NASA Research Announcements (NRA). Proposals for the first project are already being solicited. An NRA was released in January 1992 for a cooperative project with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, to fund a history of planetary radar astronomy from the immediate post-World War II period to the present. This study will describe both the evolution of the technology used in the efforts as well as the scientific experiments and their results. Proposals for this research effort should be sent to the NASA History Division by May 15, 1992.

A second history solicitation will appear in March 1992 to analyze the history of ground- and space-based equipment designed to obtain scientific data about the planets and their satellites in the Solar System. The research will focus on the historical record of planetary astronomy since the invention of the telescope, although some discussion of ancient planetary astronomy will also be a part of the project. While the study should emphasize the scientific activities of the twentieth century, when technology was sufficiently advanced to study these bodies much more thoroughly, it will not exclude earlier efforts. The intent of this project will be to discover and record the broad history of this scientific field. It should result in the publication of a full-length historical work on the subject.

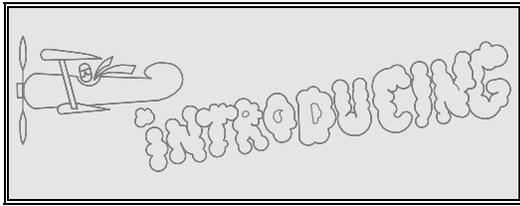
Finally, the History Division plans to release during the Summer of 1992 a NASA Research Announcement soliciting proposals for research in the history of the manner in which NASA has interfaced with its industrial partners from its origins through the release of the Augustine Commission Report in 1990. The research to be undertaken in this project will focus on the historical record of NASA/industry relations, although some discussion of similar issues for the earlier National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics may be required for comparison. The focus of the research should be on large-scale engineering activities in which NASA was involved, since they lend themselves most readily to analysis. The intent of this solicitation is to analyze the broad history of this aspect of NASA's history. It should lead to the publication of a full-length history.

For further information about any of these historical projects and copies of the NASA Research Announcements please write to Roger D. Launius, Chief Historian, Code ADA-2, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, 20546, 202-453-8300.

NASA HISTORY SYMPOSIUM AT GODDARD

On 7-8 November 1991 the NASA History Division sponsored a history symposium at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland. The two day activity included sessions on the issues surrounding the writing of the history of the Space Shuttle, the nature and evolution of NASA's organizational culture, the challenges of writing contemporary history, the dissemination of the historical understanding as it relates to NASA, and documentary sources and preservation of NASA primary source materials. About 40 people attended this meeting, and all remarked that it was an interesting and useful gathering. We would like to continue holding NASA History Symposia on a biennial basis. If

anyone has suggestions for themes for sessions or individual presentations please contact Roger D. Launius at the NASA History Division.



INTRODUCING A NEW NASA HISTORIAN

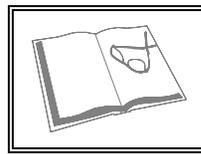
Some of you may recall that last summer the writer/editor with the NASA History Division departed for a new position, and we rewrote the position description to hire an academically qualified historian. Accordingly, Dr. John Dillard Hunley joined the NASA History Division as a historian on November 5, 1991. He has brought a wide range of skills and experience to the position. In June 1963 he graduated from the University of Virginia with a major in history, receiving his B.A. with High Distinction. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, he received the C.S. Ashby Henry Prize in History as an undergraduate. Following three years of military service in the U.S. Marine Corps, Dill--as he prefers to be called--received his M.A. in European History from Harvard University and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 1968 and 1973 respectively.

He taught European History at Allegheny College from 1972 to 1977 and subsequently joined the Air Force History Program, where he served at every level, finishing up as deputy command historian at Air Training Command. He earned numerous awards during his tenure with the Air Force, including the USAF History Program's monograph award for 1990. On his own time, he has also published two books, numerous articles, and several book reviews. Garland Publishing, Inc. printed his *Boom and Bust: Society and Electoral Politics in the Duesseldorf Area, 1867-1878* in 1987, and in 1991 Yale University Press published his *The Life and Thought of Friedrich Engels: A Reinterpretation*.

In the NASA History Division, Dill is responsible for the annual *Aeronautics and Space Report of the President*. In addition to other duties, he is also researching a book comparing efforts to develop rockets in the U.S. and Germany through 1945. As

projected, the book will not only compare the achievements of the two countries' efforts in terms of their contributions to future spaceflight endeavors, especially in the U.S.; it will also evaluate those achievements in relation to education and the cultures of Germany and the U.S., to innovation theory, to the personalities of key players, and possibly to theories of group dynamics. He would welcome the opportunity to discuss this research project with any other historians who might have insights and perspectives that should be considered in the project.

NEW NASA HISTORY PUBLICATIONS APPEARING



Three new NASA-sponsored history publications are in production and will be appearing in the coming months. Scheduled to appear during April 1992 as part of the NASA

History Series published by the Government Printing Office is *NASA Engineers and the Age of Apollo*, a study of the Apollo engineers by former NASA Chief Historian, Sylvia D. Fries. This study analyzes the perspectives and ideals of space flight as they were applied by NASA engineers working on the Apollo program of the 1960s.

Additionally, Howard E. McCurdy's study, *Inside NASA: The Changing Culture of the American Space Program*, is being published in the NEW SERIES IN NASA HISTORY by Johns Hopkins University Press in the fall of 1992. This book seeks to characterize the institutional culture of NASA as it developed over time, analyzing in depth the culture of the organization during the Apollo era and how it has changed in the more recent past.

Finally, Henry C. Dethloff's history of the Johnson Space Center, a comprehensive institutional study of the center from its origins in the 1960s until 1989 is in editorial work and will be published as NASA Special Publication (SP)-4307 in the NASA History Series.

NASA HISTORY DIVISION RELOCATION

The NASA History Division has been at its present location for over 25 years, so it is with some sense of bereavement, but also excitement, that we report on our pending move to a new building. Gone will be the stacks of cardboard storage containers in every

direction, gone the dull grey, World War II-surplus filing cabinets.

Instead of our familiar but overcrowded reference collection, we will have a greater square footage and more adequate archival storage facilities. After about 29 May 1992 we will no longer be located at Room 714 in the Reporters Building. The NASA Headquarters is moving to Two Independence Square. This is on the corner of 4th and "E" streets, Southwest, overlooking the Southwest Freeway, Washington, DC. The closest Metro stop will be Federal Center, Southwest. The mail address will remain: NASA History Division, Code ADA-2, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, 20546.

During the transition to the new office, while we are packing and unpacking, it will be necessary to decrease the frequency and intensity of our research efforts. In some cases, due to the possible dislocation of files, we will not be able to provide reference services at all. During this period please bear with us. Mark your calendars; we look forward to seeing you when you visit the new digs.

NEW NASA HISTORY PROGRAM PAMPHLET PUBLISHED

Within the next three weeks a new pamphlet describing the NASA History Program will appear. Titled, *Research in NASA History: A Guide to the NASA History Program*, it is a revision and updating of *History at NASA*, last printed in 1986. This pamphlet describes the efforts of NASA to capture the events of its past and to make that past accessible to others. It also offers a concise guide to the historical documentary resources available at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, at NASA facilities located around the country, and through the federal records systems.

In this connection, *Research in NASA History*, will contain expanded contributions by archivist Lee D. Saegesser and by those responsible for historical documents and records at some NASA centers. Anyone wanting a free copy of this publication can request one from the NASA History Division.

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST TO SPACE HISTORIANS

Several new books have appeared relating to space history, not sponsored by the NASA History Division, that we want to call to your attention.

Rip Bulkeley, *The Sputniks Crisis and Early United States Space Policy* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991).

William E. Burrows, *Exploring Space* (New York: Random House, 1990).

Michael Collins, *Mission to Mars: An Astronaut's Vision of Our Future in Space* (New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990).

Thomas Mallon, *Aurora 7: A Novel* (New York: Tichnor and Fields, 1991).

Frederick Ordway III and Randy Liebermann, eds. *Blueprint for Space: From Science Fiction to Science Fact* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991).

A. Ingemar Skoog, ed. *History of Rocketry and Astronautics: Proceedings of the Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth History Symposia of the International Academy of Astronautics, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, 1978, Muenchen, Federal Republic of Germany, 1979, and Tokyo, Japan, 1980* (San Diego, CA: Univelt, 1990).

John L. Sloop, ed. *History of Rocketry and Astronautics: Proceedings of the Seventeenth History Symposium of the International Academy of Astronautics, Budapest, Hungary, 1983* (San Diego, CA: Univelt, 1991).

Joseph N. Tatarewicz, *Space Technology and Planetary Astronomy* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990).

Frank H. Winter, *Rockets into Space* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990).

AND FINALLY

Many of this newsletter's readers have worked with Sarah Turner, one of the

Division's contract archivists, at some time over the last three years. She departed this office for a civil service position as archivist with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol on February 21, 1992. We wish her the best. With her departure her co-worker, Bill Skerrett, was promoted to the position of archival data base project head. We hope to name his new assistant in the near future.

Roger Launius
Dill Hunley
Lee Saegesser
Patricia Shephard
Bill Skerrett