

NASA HISTORY: NEWS & NOTES

NASA History Office · NASA Headquarters · Washington, D.C. 20546

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*** Sponsored Historical Research Opportunities on page 3 ***

New NASA History Program Guide - "History at NASA"

Our usual midsummer edition of "NASA History: News and Notes" was supplanted this past summer by a mailing of our new program guide, History at NASA. Replacing the "Guide to Research in NASA History" originally assembled by Alex Roland, History at NASA incorporates many of Roland's suggestions for historical research in federal and NASA documents, adding up-dated information about our program and telling how to compete for NASA-funded historical research and writing.

In a larger, typeset format, and bound in a red cover, History at NASA --judging from the number of requests we have filled--has been a success. We sent it to everyone on our mailing list; if you did not receive a copy and would like one, call us at (202) 453-8300 or drop a note to LBH/History Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC, 20546.

Deadlines: Nota Bene!

In order to synchronize History Office contract awards with NASA's procurement cycle and fiscal year, the deadline for all proposals for historical research and writing contracted through this office will be September 1 unless otherwise noted. The rain of federal procurement regulations designed to reduce mischief falls on the just and the unjust alike; as we try to cope with them using our limited staff, we will also try to simplify the process as far as we can. History at NASA sets forth the procedure for making proposals and proposal evaluation on pp. 8-9.

Bibliographies Available

The NASA History Office staff has recently prepared two finding aids: Marion Davis, comp., "NASA Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Practices, Manned Spaceflight: 1958 to Present. A Select Bibliography;" and James Delaney, comp., "Register of NASA History Office Bibliographies and Finding Aids." Limited copies of these research tools are available by calling (202) 453-8300.

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New Series in NASA History

Having weathered this year's budgetary crisis, we may be able to award two contracts on proposals already received for volumes in our New Series. These will be announced when contracts are awarded. If our luck holds out, we may be able to entertain New Series proposals again as of October 1, 1988.

The New Series--which is being published by The Johns Hopkins University Press--is designed to approach NASA's programs from broader historical contexts and to interest nonspecialist as well as academic audiences. The broader historical context need not be limited to historical time; it can include the study of a NASA-related event or development from innovative or interdisciplinary perspectives as well.

Henry S. F. Cooper, Jr., whose sensitive reporting on the space program has appeared for two decades in The New Yorker magazine, will inaugurate our New Series with an on the scene account of training the crew for Space Shuttle mission 41-G. Tentatively entitled "Before Flight: The Making of a Shuttle Crew," Cooper's book will be a unique documentary record of the process that turns a handful of highly trained--and highly individual--personalities into a Shuttle crew, one of the most critical elements in modern manned spaceflight technology.

Cooper's book will be followed by Karl Hufbauer's examination of the rise of solar physics since Galileo through the age of space-based solar science. Next in line is Lawrence H. Suid's study of the treatment of space travel in modern fiction and film. Another candidate for the New Series is our own portrait of NASA's first generation of engineers, a study based on extensive personal interviews with a cross section of the engineers who came to NASA between 1958 and 1970.

The New Series concept has already produced a diverse group of projects to broaden and enrich the documentary and interpretive historical record of the Space Age. If you have an idea for a project that might be appropriate for the New Series, now is the time to begin thinking about a proposal for 1988. As always, we welcome the chance to explore your plans with you.

History Advisory Committee

The NASA History Advisory Committee--reconstituted in the winter of 1983--will undergo a change in membership as several original three-year membership terms expire. The most recent new member

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1987-1988 FELLOWSHIP IN AEROSPACE HISTORY

Deadline for application: February 1, 1987

Funded by the NASA History Office, the annual AHA fellowship in aerospace history funds at least one fellow to undertake for a period of six months to one year a proposed research project related to aerospace history. The fellow will have an opportunity to engage in research in all aspects of aerospace history from the earliest human interest in flight to the present, including cultural and intellectual history, economic history, history of law and public policy, and history of science, engineering, and management. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and possess an earned doctorate 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 maximum fellowship stipend is \$25,000. Graduate students are eligible for a maximum stipend of up to \$12,000. Funds may not be used to support tuition or fees. Application forms and information can be obtained from:

Fellowship in Aerospace History
 American Historical Association
 400 A Street SE
 Washington, DC 20003.

HISTORY OF JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

The NASA History Office invites proposals from qualified historians to research and write a book-length history of NASA's Johnson Space Center. First established in 1961 as the Manned Spacecraft Center, the center has been responsible for the NASA design, development, and testing of manned spacecraft; selection and training of astronauts; and operation of manned space flights. To qualify, proposers should have a Ph.D. in history and successful research and publication experience. Strong proposals will clearly identify principal questions to be explored in understanding the technological and organizational developments that have shaped the center, and effectively relate its history to that of U.S. aerospace activities in general. For further information contact the NASA History Office at (202) 453-8300 or Code LBH, NASA, Washington, DC, 20546. Deadline: September 1, 1987.

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is Arthur L. Norberg, executive director of the Charles Babbage Institute for the history of computing. Melvin Kranzberg will stay on as chairman for one more year.

As some members will have left the committee by the time we issue another "News and Notes," we would like to acknowledge now the guidance and support we have received from the present group. Besides Arthur Norberg and Mel Kranzberg, the committee has included Sally Kohlstedt (history of science, Syracuse University), John M. Logsdon (space policy, George Washington University), Thomas K. McCraw (business history, Harvard Business School), Richard P. Hallion (history of aeronautics, U.S. Air Force), Carroll W. Pursell, Jr. (history of technology, University of California), Alex Roland (military history, Duke University), and Walter Vincenti (history of aeronautics, Stanford University, ret.).

NASA's history advisory committee most recently met in November at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The committee toured the Center as well as JSC's own history office and documents collection, reviewed the NASA history program generally, and discussed nominations of new members for NASA to appoint to the committee.

History at Goddard Space Flight Center

We are glad to report that a history project is now under way at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, with James H. Capshaw of the University of Maryland serving as project historian and Robert Friedel, also of the University of Maryland, as project director. Enconced in an office in the Center Director's suite, Jim will devote three years to establishing a historical documents collection at Goddard and writing a history of the Center. We are proud to have scholars of Jim's and Robert's caliber working on the project--and grateful to Center Director Noel Hinners, former director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, for his support.

Jim was one of several members of the NASA history family who gave papers at the joint 1986 meeting in Pittsburgh of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) and the History of Science Society (HSS). His paper, "Engineering a Technology of Behavior: B.F. Skinner's Kamikaze Pigeons in World War II," which was both thought-provoking and entertaining, won for Jim this year's Joan Cahalin Robinson prize for the best paper presented by a young scholar at an annual SHOT meeting.

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Soviet Delegation Visits SHOT, NASA

To commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of manned space flight, the Soviet Union sent to the annual SHOT meeting in Pittsburgh a delegation of distinguished space scientists and engineers from the U.S.S.R. to participate in a well-attended evening symposium on the history of the Soviet Union's space program. The session was chaired by Edward C. Ezell, who co-authored with Linda N. Ezell NASA's history of the Apollo-Soyuz test project (The Partnership: A History of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, 1978; NASA SP-4209).

Following their visit to Pittsburgh, the delegation visited NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, including the NASA history office. Our Soviet visitors suffered our crowded conditions with gracious good humor and showed considerable interest in our program. The delegation included K. V. Frolov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and Academy colleagues V. N. Sokolskii, A. P. Bessenov, and A. S. Ushakov, as well as pilot-cosmonaut P. R. Popovich.

Prizes and Papers

Once again, the NASA history family has proven thoroughly peripatetic in its ability to spread the fruits of its labors among the profession--and to receive its share of the profession's rewards for exceptional contributions. In addition to the Robinson prize won by Jim Capshew, Richard P. Hallion received the 1985 honorable mention for nonfiction books given annually by the Aviation and Space Writers Association for his On the Frontier: Flight Research at Dryden, 1946-1981 (1984, NASA SP-4303). The Robert H. Goddard Historical Essay prize for 1985 went to James R. Hansen for "Transition to Space: A History of 'Space Plane' Concepts at Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, 1952-1957." (Jim's history of Langley Research Center, Engineer in Charge, is due off the press in January.) Honorable mention went to James E. Tomayko for his essay, "The Evolution of Automated Launch Processing." Jim's history of the development of computers for NASA's space programs is being readied for publication next year. Finally, Walter A. McDougall--who has been generous in acknowledging the help given him by NASA as he researched his political history of the space age, ...The Heavens and the Earth (1985)--has received not only the Pulitzer Prize but the 1986 Dexter Prize, awarded by the Society for the History of Technology.

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Papers given by NASA-sponsored historians this past year are almost too numerous to mention. (If we have overlooked your paper, let us know, forgive us, and we will try to include it in our next "News and Notes.") Karl Hufbauer presented papers on the discovery of the solar wind phenomenon at a symposium at Sonoma State University and again at the SHOT-HSS meeting in Pittsburgh. He also presented papers on the history of solar physics at the ninth annual seminar on social history and theory at the University of California (Irvine), the Eastbay Astronomical Society, and Utrecht University's 350th anniversary symposium on "New Trends in the History of Science."

History Advisory committee members Carroll Pursell and Sally Kohlstedt participated in sessions at the SHOT meeting in Pittsburgh, as did NASA supported historians Glen E. Bugos ("The Development of DOD-NASA Project Management Concepts, 1954-1963"), Craig Waff ("Planning the Scientific Exploration of Jupiter, 1965-1977"), Robert W. Smith ("Astronomical Detectors for the Space Telescope, 1965-1977"), A. Michal McMahon ("The Computer and the Complex: NASA, MIT, and the Apollo Computer"), Lawrence H. Suid ("Hollywood and Space"), and John F. Guilmartin, Jr. ("Eugen Sanger and the Origins of the Space Shuttle"). We appreciated the comments received on Sylvia Fries's paper describing our study of NASA's first generation of engineers.

Last but not least, the Air University Review (Sept.-Oct. 1986) has published Dick Hallion's "Girding for War: Perspectives on Research, Development, Acquisition, and the Decisionmaking Environment of the 1980s." Dick is a splendid example of the practical value of historical analysis in taking on the responsibilities of his new position as Director, Special Staff Office, Aeronautical Systems Division (Air Force Systems Command) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Lee and Ruth Saegesser's A History of Dunn Loring, Virginia was published this year to commemorate the centennial of that community.

New Publication--Astronautics & Aeronautics for 1977

The most recent of our annual chronologies, Astronautics and Aeronautics for 1977, is now available. Eleanor Ritchie of the NASA History Office is working on compendium volumes for 1979-1984, and contract writer Bette Janson has joined in producing the 1978 and 1985 chronology. Their combined efforts should bring this reference series up to date.

* * *

We wish all of you well in the new year. Let us have your news, and drop in to see us when you can.

RECENT NASA HISTORY BOOKS ORDERING INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE

Use the form below to order recent NASA history publications from the Government Printing Office. List the GPO stock number after the book title. Stock numbers and prices for current volumes are:

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Alex Roland, ed. A Spacefaring People: Perspectives on Early Spaceflight (SP-4405) S/N 033-000-0093-0 \$ 3.50

Elizabeth A. Muenger, Searching the Horizon: A History of Ames Research Center (SP-4304) S/N 033-000-0096-6 \$13.00

John A. Pitts, The Human Factor: Biomedicine in the Manned Space Program to 1980 (SP-4213) S/N 033-000-00977-1 \$23.00

Eleanor H. Ritchie, Astronauts and Aeronautics, 1977 (SP-4022) (Can be obtained from the National Technical Information Service. Telephone Order Department: (703) 487-4650. Give SP number and price, \$28.95.)

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