

NASA HISTORY: NEWS & NOTES

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Opportunities for Funded Research

NASA is offering four opportunities for funded research in the coming year. The first, an annual aerospace history fellowship, is administered by the American Historical Association in cooperation with the History of Science Society, the Society for the History of Technology, and the Economic History Society. Although the deadline for the 1987-88 fellowship has passed, begin thinking about 1988-89. For details, contact the American Historical Association at 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003 (Tel: 202-544-2422).

In addition to the aerospace history fellowship, we are seeking three historian-authors to research and write histories of NASA's Johnson Space Center, the Advanced Communications Technology Satellite program, and the Deep Space Network. See pages 2-5 of this newsletter for more information on each of these opportunities.

History Advisory Committee

Since our last News and Notes we have had to bid adieu to those members of the NASA History Advisory Committee whose three-year terms expired this winter. They are: Carroll Pursell, Alex Roland, Thomas McCraw, Walter Vincenti, and John Logsdon. We wish them well and are grateful for the enlightened support they have given the NASA history program.

When the committee meets again in June, it will be to introduce new members to the NASA history program and the work of our advisory committee. We welcome: Daniel Kevles (history of science, California Institute of Technology), Henry Lambright (public administration, Syracuse University), Glenn Porter (business history, Hagley Museum and Library), and David Lewis (history of technology, Auburn University). Each brings a unique background of achievement to NASA as it continues to broaden the scope of its research in aerospace history. They will be joining Sally Kohlstedt (history of science, Syracuse University), Richard P. Hallion (U.S. Air Force historian), Arthur Norberg (Charles Babbage Institute), and Melvin Kranzberg (Georgia Institute of Technology).

Mel Kranzberg, chairman of the advisory committee, made a presentation of NASA's history program at the March 1987 meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, NASA's senior external advisory group.

Mel described the growth of the history program over the past three years from three to twenty active projects, including the American Historical Association's aerospace history fellowship program (funded by NASA).

Current projects include thematic studies, such as a history of NASA's organizational culture, as well as more traditional histories of NASA research centers and individual R&D programs. Several projects entail the creation of historical documents collections along with monograph research and writing. Mel pointed out that the growth of NASA's history program is partly attributable to the increased interest among NASA's program offices in sponsoring NASA research in aerospace history.

Mel also alerted the council to the publication by The Johns Hopkins University Press of the first volume (due in October) in our New Series in NASA History. Inaugurating the series is

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NASA Johnson Space Center History

The NASA History Program 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 the U.S. space program in general.

Proposals should be submitted no later than September 1, 1987, to Dr. Sylvia D. Fries, Code XH/History Office, NASA, Washington, DC 20546. For guidance in preparing proposals, see "History at NASA," (NASA HHR-50, pp. 8-9), available from the above address, or the History Office at Johnson Space Center, Code BY, Houston, TX 77058.

Henry S. F. Cooper's Before Liftoff, an account of the crew training for Space Shuttle mission 41-G. Cooper's writing about the space program is well known to readers of The New Yorker magazine.

Publications and Presentations

NASA's history program continues to bear fruit in a number of publications and presentations. Lee Saegesser, our archivist in Washington, who has assisted innumerable historians in their work, has published a bibliographic article on Sputnik I in Book of Days: An Encyclopedia of Information Sources On Historical Figures and Events (1987). Politics and the U.S. led Space Station program was the subject of Howard McCurdy's presentation March 31 in Boston at the annual conference of the American Society for Public Administration. His presentation was part of the panel on "The Space Station: Politics and Administration on a Higher Plane." Howard is completing a book-length manuscript on NASA's Space Station Task Force and the decision to build a permanently occupied space station.

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History of the Deep Space Network

NASA invites proposals from qualified scholars to research and write a history of NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN). Established to support missile technology of the 1950s and developed to track NASA's scientific satellites, the Deep Space Network has enabled NASA to communicate with spacecraft at vast interplanetary distances through a single network adaptable to a variety of space missions. At the same time, the DSN has been an important vehicle for technological innovation and scientific research.

NASA offers to support up to three years of full time work, beginning in 1988, to research and write a publishable book-length history of the DSN. Proposers should have an earned doctorate in the history of science and technology, or research experience providing comparable preparation for a study of this kind. Publication experience is preferred. For guidance in preparing proposals and evaluation criteria, please consult "History at NASA" (HHR-50) which may be obtained from Code XH, History Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546 (tel: 202-453-8300). Deadline for proposals: October 1, 1987.

We trust that those who saw the PBS-TV program, "The Rocky Road to Jupiter," recognized the acknowledgments at the end of the film to the NASA History Office and to Craig B. Waff, who was historical consultant for the program. Ostensibly an examination of NASA's Galileo Project to send a probe to Jupiter, the program took a hard look at the political travails of the space program over the past twenty years. Among those interviewed on the program was John M. Logsdon, who served on NASA's History Advisory Committee from 1984 to 1987. John recently completed for us a study of the mission that wasn't--a U.S. mission to the Comet Halley.

Craig was ideally suited to provide historical background to the producer of the PBS program, for he is working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as NASA historian for the Galileo Project. Craig has also published the first in a series of short articles on observers of the 1759 apparition of Comet Halley, entitled "Tales from the First International Halley Watch (1755-59): Boston Waits for and Watches the Comet," in International Halley Watch Newsletter for September, 1986.

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Advanced Communications Technology Satellite History

NASA invites proposals from qualified scholars to research and write a concise monograph history of the Advanced Communications Technology Satellite (ACTS) program. This joint NASA-industry program promises substantial increases in the capacity of space-based telecommunications for commercial and military use. At the same time, it has been the object of policy debates over the appropriate roles of the government and the private sector in furthering communications technology.

Qualified proposers should be familiar with the history of modern space technology and policy. Ph.D. and demonstrable writing ability preferred. NASA is prepared to provide support for two years' full-time research and writing. Salary and work schedule are negotiable. Deadline for proposals is August 1, 1987. For guidance in preparing proposals and evaluation criteria, please contact Code XH, History Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546 (tel: 202-453-8300).

In April 1987 Karl Hufbauer participated in a session on stellar structure and the origin of stellar energy during the annual meeting of the American Physical Society. Karl's paper, "Solutions to the [Stellar] Energy Problem Proposed Before 1938," is based on research he has been doing, under contract to NASA, for a book on the history of solar science. Karl also gave a paper entitled "From [Sir Arthur S.] Eddington to [Hans A.] Bethe, 1924-1939," at the 169th meeting of the American Astronomical Society held in Pasadena, CA in January.

"Small Study" Awards

NASA may be able to award a limited number of small contracts (under \$10,000) for research in NASA related aerospace history leading to the completion of publishable journal length essays. Bibliographical and historiographical studies will also be considered. Funding will depend on the nature and scope of the project proposed. Deadline for proposals is October 1, 1987. Interested scholars should discuss possible proposals with the Director, History Office, Code XH, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC, 20546; tel: (202) 453-2999.

AHA Fellowship in Aerospace History

Norriss S. Hetherington, first recipient of the American Historical Association (AHA) fellowship in aerospace history, presented a public lecture in April at the National Air and Space Museum. His lecture, "Public Perception, Politics, and War: Three Factors in U.S. Aviation Research," was based on work done during his fellowship year. Norriss received his Ph.D. in history and philosophy of science from Indiana University.

Meanwhile, Glenn E. Bugos has recently been named the AHA aerospace history fellow for 1987-88. A doctoral candidate in the history of technology at the University of Pennsylvania, Glenn is currently a Smithsonian Institution fellow at the National Air and Space Museum. He plans to spend his AHA fellowship year continuing work on his study of engineering practice in the development of American Military Aircraft, 1954-1972.

The AHA fellowship in aerospace history, funded by NASA, is jointly administered by the AHA, the Society for the History of Technology, the Economic History Society, and the History of Science Society. Inquiries about the fellowship program should be addressed to: Executive Director, American Historical Association, 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Coming Soon!

Two long awaited NASA history publications are due from their printers soon. Engineer in Charge: A History of Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, 1917-1958 by James R. Hansen should be available by June. Call or write Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 20402 (202-783-3238. Charge orders will be accepted. \$35.

Meanwhile, by special arrangement with NASA, Marcel Dekker will publish this fall James E. Tomayko's Computers in Spaceflight: The NASA Experience. Engineer in Charge and Computers in Spaceflight were researched and written with support from the NASA History Office.

Walter G. Vincenti Elected to National Academy of Engineering

We are proud to report that Walter G. Vincenti was recently elected to the National Academy of Engineering. This fine honor has come to one who has successfully crossed the bridge between technology and history.

A member of NASA's History Advisory Committee from 1984 to 1987, Walter is professor emeritus of aeronautics and astronautics at Stanford University, where he taught most recently in Stanford University's Program in Values, Technology, and Society.

Walter received his baccalaureate and aeronautical engineering degrees from Stanford University, and began a distinguished engineering career in 1940 at Ames Aeronautical Laboratory under the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and received the Rockefeller Public Service Award in 1956, among his many honors.

His publications include articles in Technology and Culture examining the processes of aeronautical research, including an essay, "Control-Volume Analysis: A Difference in Thinking between

Engineering and Physics," that received the Albert Payson Usher prize for 1984 awarded by the Society for the History of Technology.

Call for Papers

Georgia Institute of Technology and the National Archives and Records Administration will co-sponsor a symposium on "Southern Technology, Past, Present, and Future," February 25-27, 1988 at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta. NASA historians knowledgeable about aerospace activities in the southeastern United States are especially invited to submit proposals for papers. Contact Mr. Gayle Peters, National Archives-Atlanta Branch, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, GA 30344, as soon as possible.

PLAN AHEAD!

The NASA History Office expects to be able to fund in FY 89 and FY 90 two major research, editing, and writing projects. The first is a history of aeronautical research. Ideally, such a history would not be limited to aeronautical research in the United States. Advances in research should be placed in their institutional and political context, while the proposed monograph should make a clear contribution to the historiography of twentieth century technology and society.

The second project is a documentary history of the space age. Such a volume should serve as a primary resource for scholars and general readers, providing a comprehensive selection of critical or illustrative documents of unpublished as well as published origins. The editor should expect to prepare substantial introductory comment on each document selected.

Proposers should be able to demonstrate successful writing experience as well as the ability to conduct a substantial research undertaking requiring disciplined, sustained effort. Each project, if awarded, will be fully funded. We are prepared to devote considerable time and effort to preliminary planning discussions with historians considering making proposals. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the schedule and funding requirements of university affiliated historians as well as independent scholars. Estimated deadline for proposals will be September 1, 1988 and September 1, 1989.