

---

---

# NASA HISTORY: NEWS AND NOTES

---

---

Vol. 8, No. 2

Autumn 1991

## **NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH**

The NASA History Division, through the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, plans to fund in the Spring of 1992 a scholar to write a history of planetary radar astronomy from the immediate post-World War II period to the present. This research project will describe both the evolution of the technology used in the efforts as well as the scientific experiments and their results. A NASA Research Announcement describing this project in detail, and providing information on how to apply will be issued about October 31, 1991. For further information and copies of the NASA Research Announcement please contact Roger D. Launius, Chief Historian, Code ADA-2, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, 20546.

## **NASA HISTORY SYMPOSIUM AT GODDARD**

The NASA History Division will sponsor on 7-8 November 1991 a history symposium at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland. The two day activity will include 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.

The agenda for this meeting includes the following sessions and participants:

### Session I

#### NASA and the History of the Space Shuttle

John M. Logsdon, George Washington University

John E. Naugle, Former NASA Chief Scientist  
Philip Culbertson, Former NASA Associate Deputy Administrator

### Session II

#### Disseminating History: Insider/Outsider Perspectives

Michael Hooks, Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
Janelle Warren-Findley, CEHP Inc.  
Richard Layman, Langley Research Center  
Ken Nail, Kennedy Space Center

### Session III

#### Documentary Sources and Archives

Michael Wright, Marshall Space Center  
Joey Pellarin, Johnson Space Center  
Jean Sadlowe, National Archives  
Craig D. Waff, Deep Space Network History Project

### Session IV

#### The Many Cultures of NASA

Howard E. McCurdy, American University  
Virginia P. Dawson, Lewis Research Center History Project  
Henry C. Dethloff, Intaglio, Inc.  
Karl Hufbauer, University of California, Irvine  
W. Henry Lambright, Syracuse University

### Session V

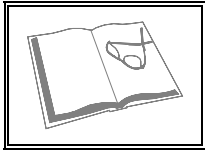
#### The Challenge of Writing Contemporary History

Adam L. Gruen, Space Station History Project  
James R. Hansen, Auburn University  
Linda Ezell, National Air and Space Museum  
Arthur L. Norberg, Charles Babbage Institute

This meeting is free and open to the public, however, available seating is limited. Registration

materials and further information about the symposium can be obtained from the NASA History Division, Code ADA-2, Washington, DC, 20546, 202-453-8300.

### NASA-SPONSORED HISTORY BOOKS IN THE NEWS



Karl Hufbauer's new book, *Exploring the Sun: Solar Science Since Galileo* appeared from The Johns Hopkins University Press in May 1991 as one of the New Series in NASA History volumes. It has enjoyed a warm reception, being named the alternate selection of the Astronomy Book Club in the midsummer catalog. It was referred to in this advertisement as a "brightly written summary of our quest to understand our stellar companion." To carry the analogy of sunlight further, the reviewer noted that *Exploring the Sun* "will illuminate admirably as it instructs the solar scientist or interested lay reader."

In this new book Hufbauer argued that solar science has passed through three epochs and may now be entering a fourth. The first was the period between 1610 and 1810 when natural philosophers and astronomers came to think of our sun as a star with an attendant planetary system, and they determined its rotation, distance, size, and mass to within 10 percent of today's values. During the second period, 1810-1910, scientists developed instruments, techniques, and theories capable of providing new insights into the nature of the sun. During this period the discipline of solar physics began to emerge.

The third period, 1910-1940, was characterized as a period in which scientific observers, most of whom had done little or no previous research on the sun, presented revolutionary views on the its physical and chemical composition, energy generation, and coronal temperature. Finally, Hufbauer asserts that the period since World War II is a new epoch in solar science with the use of complex ground based and space observing systems.

The publication is available for \$39.95 from The Johns Hopkins University Press, 701 West 40th Street, Suite 275, Baltimore, Maryland 21211.

A second book also appeared this summer which develops an important theme in NASA's history. Published as SP-4215 in the NASA History Series, *First Among Equals: The Selection of NASA Space Science Experiments* was written by John E. Naugle, a former chief scientist of NASA. In this book Naugle

analyzes the origin and evolution of the agency's methods of selecting scientific experiments for flight. He found this activity's origins in the period immediately following World War II as scientists began using captured V-2 rockets to conduct research beyond the atmosphere. Although the process was taking shape before NASA was formed in 1958, it evolved rapidly during the agency's formative years. By 1962 its essentials as a NASA policy had been established, and the agency has followed the general selection process since that time. *First Among Equals* is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The stock number for this paperbound publication is 033-000-01100-8, the cost is \$6.00.

### 1991-92 FELLOWS IN AEROSPACE HISTORY

Roger E. Bilstein and Timothy R. Mahaney are the sixth annual recipients of the Fellowships in Aerospace History, a program supported by NASA. The fellowships, administered by the American Historical Association in cooperation with the Economic History Association, the History of Science Society, and the Society for the History of Technology, are awarded in an annual competition by a joint committee of representatives from each organization. Chaired by Joseph P. Harahan, Department of Defense On-sight Inspection Agency, the other members of the committee include Alfred Hurley, University of North Texas; Larry Schweikart, University of Dayton; Karl Hufbauer, University of California, Irvine; and Joseph Tatarewicz, Center for the History of Electrical Engineering, Rutgers University.

Dr. Bilstein is professor of history in the School of Human Sciences and Humanities at the University of Houston, Clear Lake. He received a B.A. degree in European history from Doane College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in recent American history from the Ohio State University. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and has been at Houston-Clear Lake since 1974, joining as one of its charter faculty. He has been a Summer Faculty Fellow with NASA and the American Society for Engineering Education at Marshall Space Flight Center and at Johnson Space Center as well as a visiting scholar in Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum. He has received the National Space Council's Goddard Historical Essay Award and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics'

History Manuscript Award. His major works include *Stages to Saturn: A Technological History of the Apollo/Saturn Launch Vehicles* (1980); *Flight Patterns: Trends of Aeronautical Development in the United States, 1918-1929* (1983); *Flight in America: From the Wrights to the Astronauts* (1987); and *Orders of Magnitude: A History of NACA and NASA* (1989).

Dr. Bilstein's fellowship research will focus on the history of the American aerospace industry, examining trends in the internationalization of both aviation and space projects. He notes that "from the flight of the Wright brothers in 1903, to the first supersonic flight in 1947, to the manned lunar landing in 1969, it has been an article of faith that America's aerospace industry has always been in the forefront . . . While there is much to be said for this assumption, it most certainly does an injustice to historical reality. American aviation and space technology has always borrowed significantly from foreign sources." The study conducted during the fellowship will be incorporated into his book on the American aerospace industry.

Mr. Mahaney is a Ph.D. candidate in American history at Auburn University. He previously earned a B.A. in history and political science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and a Master's degree from Auburn. He has served as a consultant for public history firms, collecting documents, arranging oral interviews, and working in archives and museums, as well as state and federal agencies. In addition to researching and writing his dissertation "American Beatles: From Popular Culture to Counterculture," he is revising his M.A. thesis for publication. Mr. Mahaney's principal interests are in the history of technology and United States history. During the fellowship he will continue work on his dissertation, a study focusing on the effect the arrival of the space age had on the print and electronic media and the resulting impact on the nation's popular culture. In addition, he will examine the relationship between the U.S. space program and the counterculture of the 1960s. He notes: "It is well worth remembering that the emergence of NASA and the embryonic period of the American space agency did not occur in a vacuum. Rather, the agency evolved . . . during the same decade in which the United States was simultaneously embroiled in the seemingly endless conflict in Vietnam and beset by domestic upheaval, both culturally and politically."

The application deadline for the 1992-1993 fellowship will be 15 February 1992. The fellowship is

for both pre- and post-doctoral research in any area of aerospace-related history. For information and application forms, write Executive Assistant, American Historical Association, 400 A Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

#### **NEW NASA HISTORY PUBLICATIONS APPEARING**

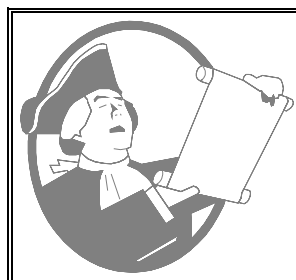
Two new NASA-sponsored history publications are in production and will be appearing in the coming months. Soon to be published by the Government Printing Office is *NASA Engineers and the Age of Apollo*, a study of the Apollo engineers by former NASA Chief Historian, Sylvia D. Fries. Look for it in mid-1992.

In addition, Howard E. McCurdy's manuscript, "Organizational Culture and Crises: NASA's Changing Organizational Culture," will be published in 1992 in the NEW SERIES IN NASA HISTORY by The Johns Hopkins University Press. 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.

#### **AERONAUTICS AND SPACE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

*The Aeronautics and Space Report of the President*, which had been several years behind schedule, has now been brought up to date and three volumes are available. The NASA History Division has copies of the 1987, the 1988, and the 1989-1990 report on hand. Anyone who would like to have individual copies please make a request to the NASA History Division, Code ADA-2, Washington, DC 20546.

#### **NEW NASA HISTORICAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY**



The NASA History Division has recently contracted for two new historical works. The first is a history of planetary geosciences, which describes and analyzes

the development of planetary geosciences in the last 100 years, although concentrating on the more recent period. The development of planetary geosciences has been an especially interesting and important discipline since the period when G.K. Gilbert and his associates began to define the field in new ways near the turn of the twentieth century. The competition for this contract was rigorous and we thank all who submitted proposals. This work will be undertaken by Dr. Joseph N. Tatarewicz, for several years a member of the staff of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. In 1990 he published an important book, *Space Technology and Planetary Astronomy* (Indiana University Press).

In June Rebecca Miller of the NASA History Division left this office to work as a writer-editor for the Defense Contract Audit Agency. We have undertaken a search for a replacement and anticipate hiring a new employee by October 1991.

As we start into the new academic year and another season on historical inquiry, best wishes for the fall.

Roger Launius  
Lee Saegesser  
Patricia Shephard  
Sarah Turner  
Bill Skerrett

The second project underway is the fourth volume of the *NASA Historical Data Book*, this one on NASA resources between 1969 and 1978. The book is being prepared by Ihor Y. Gradiak at the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress. This set of books has become a fundamental reference tool for information, much of it statistical, about NASA and its work. This effort is a continuation of the multi-volume series.

**AND FINALLY**