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# NASA HISTORY: NEWS AND NOTES

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## **INSIDE NASA IN THE NEWS**

Howard E. McCurdy's NASA-sponsored book, *Inside NASA: High Technology and Organizational Change in the U.S. Space Program*, published in the "New Series in NASA History" by the Johns Hopkins University Press in 1993, has enjoyed a good response. Using extensive interviews and complex management analyses, *Inside NASA* seeks to identify and trace the evolution of the organizational culture of NASA from its founding and expansion during the Apollo era through the changes in the 1970s and 1980s. The book examines the reasons for what the author calls the "decline of NASA's technical culture" in the post-Apollo era, shedding new light on the agency's overall situation in recent years.

Because of the book's timely analysis, in the fall of 1993 Dr. McCurdy was asked to testify about NASA's organizational culture before the House Committee on Government Operations. In addition, the book has been used by policy-makers elsewhere in Washington involved in the Clinton Administration's effort to "reinvent government." The ideas expressed in *Inside NASA* have also been cited by writers concerned with reforming government in the *Washington Post*, the *Foreign Service Journal*, and *Government Executive*. This type of use epitomizes "applied history" for decision-makers at its most visible in the Federal government.

In recognition of the contribution it has made to understanding the development of NASA as an institution, the Society for History in the Federal Government has awarded *Inside NASA* its 1993 Henry Adams Prize, annually given for the best analytical work in history emanating from Federal history programs. Copies of *Inside NASA* may be ordered for \$32.95 from the Johns Hopkins University Press, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211-2190, or by calling its order desk at 1-800-537-5487. The History Office has just learned that the press has decided to issue *Inside NASA* in a paperback edition, which should be available by the fall of 1994. This moves the book into the college textbook market, so if

you have a recent U.S. history, or history of technology, or political science or public policy class please consider this book as a text.

## **VALUE OF SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM PLANNED**

In commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing, NASA's Mission from Planet Earth Study Office is planning a two-day symposium on the value of space exploration. It will take place on July 18-19, 1994, at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. For more information about this meeting contact Linda Billings, Code SX, Mission to Planet Earth Study Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546.

## **NEW NASA HISTORIES TO APPEAR**

Stand by for the publication of three new NASA historical works in 1994. This spring *Airborne Trailblazer: Two Decades with NASA Langley's Boeing 737 Flying Laboratory* will appear as NASA SP-4216 in the NASA History Series. Written by aeronautical writer Lane E. Wallace, this illustrated history of a single research aircraft looks at larger questions about the expansion of technological knowledge concerning aviation and its transfer to those who can use it in the broader government scientific establishment, the aerospace industry, and the public. It is set to appear at the time of the twentieth anniversary of the Boeing 737's entrance into the NASA inventory on May 17, 1994.

In addition, the *NASA Historical Data Book, Vol. IV: NASA Resources, 1969-1978* (NASA SP-4012), will appear in June 1994. Compiled by Ihor Y. Gawdiak of the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, this book will continue the series of three volumes already published, serving as a reference tool of largely statistical information that documents the resources allocated to NASA in the 1969-1978 era. Late in the year the first volume of a projected three volume documentary history will

appear under the general editorship of John M. Logsdon. *Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program, Volume I, Organizational Developments* will be published in the NASA History Series as NASA SP-4407. This reference work will contain introductory essays on specific aspects of the space program and about 150 key documents grouped by topic and arranged chronologically. The second volume should follow in about a year, and the last volume in 1996. Once published, all of these books may be purchased from the Government Printing Office.

#### **"NEW SERIES IN NASA HISTORY" PUBLICATION SET TO APPEAR**

The next volume in the "New Series in NASA History," published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, will appear in early spring 1995. *Powering Apollo: James E. Webb of NASA*, written by W. Henry Lambright of Syracuse University, is an organizational biography of NASA's administrator between 1961 and 1968 when the race to the Moon was the central effort of the agency. Lambright focuses on Webb's leadership style and method of management in accomplishing the tasks assigned to complex technological organizations.

*Powering Apollo* will be the fifth volume in the "New Series in NASA History." Previous works in the series include: Henry S.F. Cooper, Jr., *Before Lift-Off: The Making of a Space Shuttle Crew* (1987); Howard E. McCurdy, *The Space Station Decision: Incremental Politics and Technological Choice* (1990); Karl Hufbauer, *Exploring the Sun: Solar Science Since Galileo* (1991); and Howard E. McCurdy, *Inside NASA: High Technology and Organizational Change in the U.S. Space Program* (1993).

#### **NASA HISTORY PROGRAM SPONSORS FIRST TRANSLATION SINCE 1972**

Some time ago, at NASA Chief Archivist Lee D. Saegesser's suggestion, the History Office renewed its sponsorship of translations of early important works dealing with spaceflight. As a result, we arranged for the NASA Scientific and Technical Information program to have Hermann Noordung's *Das Problem des Befahrung des Weltraums: Das Raketen-Motor* (Berlin: Richard Carl Schmidt & Co., 1929) translated as *The Problem of Traveling in Outer Space: The Rocket Motor*. It appeared as NASA TT-10002 in 1993 and can be obtained by writing to the Center for Aerospace Information, Attn: Document Ordering, 800 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934. In ordering, please cite it by accession no. 94N14463. The price, including shipping and handling, will be approximately \$40.00. If you want

to telephone, the number is 301-621-0390. If you care to wait, however, J.D. Hunley, of the NASA History Office, has edited the translation and we will be publishing it in the NASA History Series as SP-4026 in 1995. This edition will include an introduction by Dr. Hunley, setting the context for the book and providing biographical information about its author, plus a foreword by Frederick I. Ordway III, neither of which is included in the technical translation.

#### **NEW EXHIBIT ON THE SPACE RACE OPENS**

The Eisenhower Presidential Library opened the exhibit, "Race for Space: NASA at 35," in November 1993. It chronicles the history of NASA from 1958 to the present. It will remain on view until October 1994.

#### **NASA PUBLICATIONS FOR THE ASKING**

The NASA History Office has a limited supply of historical and policy publications that are available free of charge to anyone who might have an interest. The following items are now available:

*Aeronautics and Space Report of the President, 1986 Activities* (NASA Annual Report, 1988).

*Aeronautics and Space Report of the President, 1987 Activities* (NASA Annual Report, 1989).

*Aeronautics and Space Report of the President, 1988 Activities* (NASA Annual Report, 1990).

*Aeronautics and Space Report of the President, 1989-1990 Activities* (NASA Annual Report, 1991).

*Aeronautics and Space Report of the President, Fiscal Year 1991 Activities*. (NASA Annual Report, 1992).

*Aeronautics and Space Report of the President, Fiscal Year 1992 Activities*. (NASA Annual Report, 1993).

Anderson, Frank W., Jr., *Orders of Magnitude: A History of NACA and NASA, 1915-1980* (NASA SP-4403, 1981). Note that this is an earlier edition than the Roger E. Bilstein 1989 update of this book.

*Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1977: Chronology of Science, Technology, and Policy* (NASA SP-4023, 1986).

*Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1978: Chronology of Science, Technology, and Policy* (NASA SP-4023, 1986).

*Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1979-1984: Chronology of Science, Technology, and Policy* (NASA SP-4025, 1988).

*The First "A": NASA Aeronautics Research* (NASA, 1992).

Hoban, Francis T., editor, *Issues in NASA Program and Project Management* (NASA SP-6101 [06], 1993).

Hoffman, Ed, and Kishiyama, Jenny S., editors, *Issues in NASA Program and Project Management: Special Report, 1993 Conference* (NASA SP-6101 [07], 1993).

Lewin, Thomas J., and Narayanan, V.K., *Keeping the Dream Alive: Managing the Space Station Program, 1982-1986* (Contractor Report 4272, multilith).

*NASA Pocket Statistics, January 1993* (NASA Annual Report, 1993).

*One Giant Leap for Mankind: Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the First Lunar Walk* (NASA, 1994).

*Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Accident* (1986).

*Seventy-Five Years of Excellence: NASA/NASA, 1915-1990* (NASA NP-132, 1990).

To obtain copies, on a first come/first served basis, write to Roger D. Launius, Chief Historian, NASA History Office, Code ICH, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546.

#### ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION LISTS OF INTEREST TO HISTORIANS

Dramatic changes are underway in electronic communications infrastructures worldwide, especially the Internet and Bitnet systems that link academic computers together. H-Net is an initiative of the History department at the University of Illinois, Chicago, to assist historians to go on-line, using their personal computers and the Internet and Bitnet networks.

H-Net sponsors 37 electronic discussion groups or "lists" for historians. Subscribers automatically receive messages in their computer mailboxes. These messages can be replied to, saved, discarded, downloaded to a PC, copied, printed out, or relayed to someone else. The lists are like free newsletters that are published daily. Currently our lists have 3,000+ subscribers (2,500+ separate people) in 35 countries. They receive an average of 3 messages a day. Membership is open to any scholar or graduate student, and is free.

Each list is moderated by a historian and has a board of editors. The moderators control the flow of messages and reject those unsuitable for a scholarly discussion group. The primary purpose of each list is to enable scholars to easily communicate current research and teaching interests; to discuss new approaches, methods and tools of analysis; to share information on electronic databases; and to test new ideas and share comments on current historiography. Each list is especially interested in methods of teaching history in diverse settings. The lists feature dialogues in the discipline and publish book reviews, job announcements, syllabi, course outlines, class handouts, bibliographies, listings of new sources,

guides to online library catalogs and archives, and reports on new software, datasets and CD-ROMs.

The H-Net lists in operation are:

- |              |                                |          |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. H-Albion  | British and Irish history      |          |
| 2. H-AmStdy  | American Studies               |          |
| 3. H-Asia    | Asian History                  |          |
| 4. H-CivWar  | US Civil War                   |          |
| 5. H-Diplo   | diplomatic history, foreign    | affair   |
| 6. H-Ethnic  | ethnic & immigration history   |          |
| 7. H-Film    | scholarly studies & uses of    | media    |
| 8. H-German  | German history                 |          |
| 9. H-Grad    | for graduate students only     |          |
| 10. H-Ideas  | intellectual history           |          |
| 11. H-Italy  | Italian history and culture    |          |
| 12. H-Judaic | Judaica and Jewish Studies     |          |
| 13. H-Labor  | labor history                  |          |
| 14. H-LatAm  | Latin American History         |          |
| 15. H-Law    | Constitutional history         |          |
| 16. H-Pol    | US Politics                    |          |
| 17. H-Pcaaca | Popular Culture Assoc &        | Amer     |
| 18. H-Rhetor | history of rhetoric & com      | municati |
| 19. H-Rural  | rural and agricultural history |          |
| 20. H-Russia | Russian history                |          |
| 21. H-Shgape | US Gilded Age & Progres        | sive Era |
| 22. H-South  | US South                       |          |
| 23. H-Teach  | teaching college history       |          |
| 24. H-Urban  | urban history                  |          |
| 25. H-Women  | women's history                |          |
| 26. Holocaus | Holocaust studies;             |          |
| 27. IEAHCnet | Colonial America               |          |

Affiliated e-mail lists:

- |                                    |                          |               |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 28. ECONHIST@MIAMIU.ACS.MUOHIO.EDU | (Economic History)       |               |
| 29. HABSBURG@purccvm               | Austro-Hun               | garian Empire |
| 30. H-Africa                       | African History          |               |
| 31. H-AmArt                        | Art History              |               |
| 32. H-AntiS                        | Antisemitism             |               |
| 33. H-Demog                        | Demographic history      |               |
| 34. H-NZ-OZ                        | New Zealand & Australian | history       |
| 35. H-War                          | Military History         |               |
| 36. H-West                         | US West, Frontier        |               |
| 37. H-World                        | World History & world    | survey te     |

To subscribe: send this message to LISTSERV@UICVM

SUB xxxxxxx Firstname Surname, Your affiliation where xxxxxxx = list name; for example, sub H-Women Leslie Smith, Southern Kansas U [DO NOT USE QUOTES ""; abbreviate University to U; you have only 45 spaces for Firstname-Lastname-School].

If you use internet send the message to LISTSERV@uicvm.uic.edu.

#### INTERNET DISCUSSION LISTS FOR HISTORIANS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

There are also several discussion lists that have been developed specifically for historians of science and technology. These include:

1. EPP-L@BUACCA Albert Einstein Papers and Discussion.
2. HOPOS-L@UKCC History of Philosophy of Science.
3. HOST History of Science and Technology (e-journal, contact editor at jsmith@epas.utoronto.ca)
4. HTECH-L@SIVM History of Technology.
5. HASTRO-L@WVNM History of Astronomy. Subscribe as shown in the previous article.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS OF INTEREST TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS**

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is accepting applications for 1995-1996. Located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the Center awards approximately 35 residential fellowships each year for advanced research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Men and women from any country and from a wide variety of backgrounds (including Government, the Corporate world, and Academia) may apply. Applicants MUST hold a doctorate or have equivalent professional accomplishments. Fellows are provided offices, access to the Library of Congress, computers or manuscript typing services, and research assistants. For more information contact, Fellowships Office, Woodrow Wilson Center, 1000 Jefferson Drive, S.W., SI MRC 022, Washington, DC 20560. The Application deadline is October 1, 1994.

#### **THE HERBERT FEIS AWARD COMPETITION**

The American Historical Association announces its competition for the Herbert Feis Award recognizing the work of historians outside academe. The award recognizes a book, article or series of articles, or an in-house publication that had a major impact on the policy formulation process. Works considered for the award must have been published between May 1, 1993 and April 30, 1994. Entries must be postmarked by May 15, 1994. For further information about this award contact Executive Associate, American Historical Association, 400 A Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20003.

#### **AEROSPACE HISTORY BOOKS RECEIVE MAJOR AWARDS**

Although they were not produced under NASA History Program auspices, we would like to recognize that two books in aerospace history received important awards for excellence.

Donald R. Baucom's book, *The Origins of SDI, 1944-1983* (University Press of Kansas, 1992), received the prestigious Richard W. Leopold Prize awarded by the Organization of American Historians. The citation for this award read: "During the 1980s Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative generated considerable controversy. Many critics of the program were mystified by how such a questionable policy could have been embraced by the Reagan Administration. Donald R. Baucom's study of the origins of the Strategic Defense Initiative provides a dispassionate analysis of why and how SDI came to pass. His book is a splendid work of scholarship. It rests on extensive research in government documents and interviews with scientists, military officers, and policy makers. It convincingly demonstrates how SDI evolved out of the strategic, technical, and political developments of the post-1944 era. It is notable for its balance and capacity to explain technical matters in understandable language. Baucom's book will stand as the best study of the subject for the foreseeable future. It is a model of how to write a first-rate history of a contemporary subject."

Frederick I. Ordway III and Randy Liebermann's edited volume, *Blueprint for Space: From Science Fiction to Science Fact* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992) received the Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award given by the American Astronautical Society. The citation for the award noted that it "is an outstanding example of the type of work the Emme Literature Prize was created to honor. Drawing on the expertise and experience of astronauts, historians, and writers, it explores how humankind's age-old yearning to understand the unknown began to be realized in the twentieth century. Moving from pictographs to science fiction, from early rockets to the Apollo landings, *Blueprint for Space* details how imaginary plans actually became blueprints for working spacecraft and looks forward to the exploration of new frontiers."

Our congratulations to the individuals and institutions involved in the production of these two aerospace historical works.

#### **NICHOLAS MULLINS AWARD COMPETITION UNDERWAY**

The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) announces the competition for the Nicholas Mullins Award for an outstanding piece of scholarship by a graduate student in the field of science and technology studies: unpublished papers, published articles, dissertation chapters, etc. The length of a paper should not exceed 10,000 words, including notes and references. Two copies should be sent by July 1, 1994, to Peter Whalley, Department of

Sociology and Anthropology, Loyola University Chicago, 6525 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626.

founding and development of the Lowell Observatory. Proposals should be sent to

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The annual meeting of the West Coast History of Science Society will be held May 7-8, 1994, in Berkeley and Palo Alto, CA. Registration fees, which include lunch on Saturday, are \$20.00. Saturday's program (May 7) at Berkeley and will feature presentations from Guenter Stent, Patrick Suppes, Ken Carpenter, and Tim Lenoir who will speak to the theme of "Is there any practical value of the history or philosophy of science for the research scientist." Additional information can be obtained from Mike Osborne, History Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410.

The Smithsonian Institution is sponsoring a workshop on "A Long Twilight Struggle: The Cold War, 1945-90," on May 11, 1994 in the Ripley International Center. The morning session will deal with the race to the Moon. Attendance is limited, for information contact Jo Ann Bailey, Space History Department, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, telephone, 202-357-2828.

A conference on the "Architecture of Science" will be held at Harvard University on May 21-22, 1994. It will bring together scientists, architects, historians, and anthropologists to examine aspects of the relationship between architecture and science. Participants will explore the role that buildings play in defining the practice of science and the nature of scientific knowledge; scientific ideas as aesthetic motivation for the design of structures; how architectural theory has affected the development of scientific philosophies; and how the scientific and technical aspects of construction affect the design process. For more information contact Emily Thompson, Fellow in History of Science, Harvard University, e-mail: ethomps@husc.harvard.edu.

The Society for Social Studies of Science will hold its annual meeting with the History of Science Society and the Philosophy of Science Association in New Orleans, LA on October 12-15, 1994. Contact Linda Layne, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Sage Lab 5508, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12180.

The Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual meeting on October 6-9, 1994 in Lowell, MA. Contact Bruce E. Seely, SHOT Executive Secretary, Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 44931-1295.

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific will hold its annual meeting in Flagstaff, AZ, June 25-July 1, 1994. The ASP history committee will present several sessions on the history of astronomy, especially the

Joseph S. Tenn, Department of Physics & Astronomy,  
Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA  
94928-3609.

**CALLS FOR PAPERS OF INTEREST  
TO AEROSPACE HISTORIANS**

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting August 4-7, 1995, in Maui, Hawaii. Proposals for panels and individual papers for all time periods and regions should be sent by November 15, 1994, to Profs. Marilyn Boxer and Robert W. Cherny, AHA-PCB Program Committee Co-Chairs, Department of History, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94122.

The conference of the New England Historical Association will be held at the University of Hartford, Connecticut, on October 22, 1994. Proposals should be sent by June 1, 1994, to Patricia Herlihy, Brown University, History Department, Providence, RI 02912.

**AIAA HISTORY MANUSCRIPT  
COMPETITION**

The American institution for Aeronautics and Astronautics invites nominations for its History Manuscript Award. The award is presented annually for the best historical manuscript dealing with the science, technology, and impact of aeronautics and astronautics on society. The purpose of the award is to provide professional recognition to the author making a major and original contribution to the history of flight. Deadline for submission of manuscripts is July 8, 1994. Nomination forms can be obtained from Merrie J. Scott, AIAA Honors and Awards, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW, Washington, DC 20024-7400, telephone 202-646-7534.