



HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter attempts to highlight professional notes of interest for contemporary historians of science, technology, and public policy, particularly those interested in aeronautics, rocketry, and astronautics.

NASA Historical Advisory Committee:

Chaired by Professor Louis Morton, the Advisory Committee met on December 11, 1970. A large part of their annual assessment of the overall NASA Historical Program was their review of plans for the official history of the Apollo Program. A luncheon discussion was held with Acting Administrator George M. Low and Assistant Administrator for Policy Alfred J. Eggers, Jr. Budgetary and other constraints may limit NASA's historical program in the 1970's. Thus NASA's historical needs have greatly increased at a time when the agency's resources are severely limited. It is also a time when the history of aerospace affairs and their impact seems of higher interest to professional historians.

Publications:

During the past six months the following NASA historical volumes have appeared:

- . Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1968 (SP-4010)--the sixth annual chronology published by NASA.
- . Edwin Hartman, Adventures in Research: A History of the Ames Research Center, 1940-1965 (SP-4302)--the first NACA/NASA research laboratory treated in historical format.

Forthcoming in February 1971 is the long-awaited Vanguard: A History (SP-4202) by Constance McL. Green and Milton Lomask, with a Foreword by Charles A. Lindbergh. A commercial edition will be made available by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Other NASA historical publications to appear in 1971 are:

- . Astronautics and Aeronautics, 1969 (SP-4014)--the seventh annual chronology published by NASA which contains coverage of the Apollo 9, 10, 11, and 12 missions.
- . William Corliss, A History of NASA Sounding Rockets (SP-4401)--inauguration of the NASA Historical Report series, intended for manuscripts of less than book length.
- . Mary Louise Morse and Jean Kernahan Bays, The Apollo Spacecraft: A Chronology, Vol. II, November 8, 1962-September 30, 1964--continuation of the detailed chronology of the Apollo spacecraft.
- . Jane Van Nimmen, et. al., NASA Ten-Year Data Book, 1958-1968, Vol. I--compilation of statistical data on NASA's resources--money, people, facilities--during NASA's first decade.

Program Notes:

Concern for the Apollo Program History animated the Headquarters staff and the Center historical shops and their academic contractors. A summary report on the Apollo History Workshop of May was transmitted to all interested parties including the Advisory Committee. Particular attention developed before and after their meeting to focus best professional effort toward definition of the official history volumes. In the meantime, Apollo monographs and related studies were underway as reported in the previous Newsletter. Admiral Fred Boone (USN, Ret.), former head of the NASA-DOD Liaison Office, completed his office memoir by the end of the year, thus documenting the Washington portions of this important story for the Apollo historians.

Much of the basic research leading to the writing of key Apollo monographs has been accomplished at MSC, MSFC, KSC, and NASA Headquarters. For 1970, the following represents progress on oral history interviews of management, industry, and program people, and select documentation acquired:

	<u>Select Documentation</u>	<u>Taped Interviews</u>
NASA Headquarters	160 cu. ft.	39
Manned Spacecraft Center	73.5 cu. ft.	169
Marshall Space Flight Center	17 cu. ft.	12
Kennedy Space Center	<u>112 cu. ft.</u>	<u>84</u>
TOTALS	362.5 cu. ft.	304

* (A five-drawer file cabinet contains between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 10 cubic feet.)

NASA Historian's writing efforts on "The History of NASA, Volume I" (1958-61) were minimal because of program workload, although research continued in-depth on the pre-Apollo period. Appearance of the Ames history also stimulated interest in getting at the neglected history of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), and its laboratories (1917-1958).

Prior to Dr. Thomas O. Paine's resignation as Administrator a series of oral history interviews concerning his NASA tour (10/68-9/70) were taped.

The Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress continues to prepare for NASA the running chronology of astronautics and aeronautics which NASA circulates in monthly comment editions, edits, and publishes in annual volumes. Another part of their work for NASA is Leonard Bruno's research on the NASA Ten-Year Data Book, Vol. II, on analysis of NASA's program, project by project, from 1958 through 1968.

It is anticipated that the Summer Seminar on "History, Social Science, and Space" will be held in 1971. Interested graduate students with recommendations from their major professor are invited to apply. Many more apply than can be given summer employment, so preference is given those interested in developing thesis topics. Papers of the 1970 Summer Seminar (previously reported) were given appropriate circulation for comment.

Professional Notes:

Series of history programs on aeronautics and astronautics (paper titles previously reported) apparently will be summarized in future issues of Technology and Culture: 4th IAA History Symposium at Constance, West Germany (10/9/70), the AIAA Annual Meeting at Houston, Texas (10/14/70), and the SHOT session on "Perspectives on Apollo" at Chicago (12/29/70). Section 12 of the history of "Aviation, Rocket and Space Science and Technology" of the International Congress for the History of Science is scheduled for Moscow in August 1971. The 5th IAA History Symposium will be at Brussels in September 1971, and is being organized by JPL Historian, R. Cargill Hall. The Southern Historical Society is organizing a session on the social impact of the space program in the Southland for their next annual meeting under the aegis of Loyd Swenson of the University of Houston.

Dr. Barton Hacker, co-author of the Gemini history, has joined the History Department at Iowa State University at Ames.

Dr. Roger Bilstein of the Wisconsin State University, at Whitewater, has joined the staff at the University of Alabama (Huntsville) to work with John Beltz on the Saturn V history.

NASA Historian Emme was elected Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, and Co-Vice Chairman of the History Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics. Attempts to tape interviews on early space age history with President Lyndon B. Johnson (with Professor Joe B. Frantz) and retiring Speaker John McCormack (with Charles Sheldon, II, LC) proved unsuccessful to date.

Tom Ray, Assistant NASA Historian for Manned Space Flight, has published the first of three pre-NASA-authored articles: "Naval Aviation--The Beginning," U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, Vol. 97 (January 1971), pp. 32-42.

Richard Hirsch, former staff member of the National Aeronautics and Space Council (1958-69), preparing a book on NASA for the Praeger Federal Agency Series, died suddenly on January 14, 1971.

Professor Robin Higham of Kansas State University has assumed the editorship of The Aerospace Historian, quarterly of the non-governmental Air Force Historical Foundation. Intent of the new look is to include scholarly articles in addition to the human interest and derring-do, and to improve the book reviewing section. Suggestions and articles are invited.

Mr. George James of the Aerojet Corporation is the new Chairman of the History Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Announcement of the AIAA History Awards for 1969 and 1970 is expected soon. Manuscripts for the 1971 competition are due November 1st.

Mr. Robert Sherrod is a few months away from completion of his book, Conquest of the Moon, to be published by Macmillan.

Professor John Logsdon of George Washington University is continuing his research for the Office of Policy on NASA post-Apollo planning.

Mr. James Dewar of Kansas State University is continuing his thesis research on the history of nuclear propulsion.

Mr. Howard Margolis of the Institute of Defense Analyses is finishing an in-depth study of the technological basis for the early Apollo decisions. The study is funded by the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Mae M. Link of Ohio State University is completing her history of NASA Life Sciences.

Guide for Thesis Research:

Graduate students interested in the history of science, technology, and public policy will find ready assistance in the NASA Historical Office for possible subjects with recommended primary source materials and living participants. The internal histories of most aerospace disciplines in science and engineering (i.e., propulsion, structures, electronics, bioscience, etc.) are much neglected aside from the institutional and biographical treatments of significant aspects of the history of flight. The Historical Staff is preparing a list of potential subjects, supported by available primary source materials. Inquiries are invited.

Readings of Note:

- . The Aerospace Corporation, 1960-1970, Serving America, El Segundo, California: Aerospace Corporation, 1970. Ten-year report, with a Foreword by Board Chairman T. Keith Glennan, former NASA Administrator.
- . Raymond A. Bauer, and others, Second-Order Consequences: A Methodological Essay on the Impact of Technology, with a Foreword by E. Q. Daddario, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M.I.T. Press, 1969, 240 p. The analysis theory on technological utilization derived from NASA's program.
- . Esther C. Goddard and Edward Pendray (eds.), The Papers of Robert H. Goddard, 3 Vols., New York: McGraw Hill, 1970, \$150. A monumental contribution to historians of American rocketry and astronautics.
- . Patrick Hughes, A Century of Weather Service : A History of the Birth and Growth of the National Weather Service, 1870-1970, New York: Gordon and Breach, 1970, 212 p. Informal history, illustrated, with a chronology.
- . A. Krylov, Chronicle of the Space Era, translation of "Letopis Kosmicheskoy Ery," Aviatsiya i Kosmonavtika, No. 10, October 1969, pp. 40-41 (NASA TTF-12, 950).
- . Charles A. Lindbergh, Wartime Journals, 1937-1945, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovarovich, 1970, 1,038 pp., \$12.95. Valuable, almost daily commentary, with key items on the NACA role of the author.

Readings of Note (cont'd):

- . John M. Logsdon, The Decision to Go to the Moon: Project Apollo and the National Interest, Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1970, 187 p. Best documentation to date on JFK decision of 1961, featuring a most unique typography.
- . Norman Mailer, Of a Fire on the Moon, Boston: Little, Brown, pp. 472, \$7.95. Upgrading of glandular reporting on Apollo 11 in Life Magazine by a former engineering student at Harvard unable to dismiss Apollo as "plastic technology."
- . Edward McWhinney and Martin A. Bradley (eds.), New Frontier in Space Law, Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, 1969, 134 p. Papers by international specialists at closed conference on "Law of Outer Space" at McGill University in October 1968. Includes paper of NASA General Counsel Paul G. Dembling (Chapter 8) on "A Liability Convention: The Next Step in the Legal Regime for Outer Space Activities."
- . Mitchell R. Sharpe, "Robert Emmet's Rockets," The Irish Sword, Vol. 9 (Summer 1970), pp. 161-64. A plot in 1803 to capture London using rockets manufactured in five secret arsenals failed. Author points out that William Congreve did not actually make a rocket until 1805.
- . Albert Speer, Inside the Third Reich: Memoirs, New York: Macmillan, 1970, 596 pp., \$12.50. Of particular interest for aerospace historians for its inside commentary on the Anglo-American bomber operations, and on the V-2 development and operations.
- . Michael Stoiko, Soviet Rocketry: Past, Present, and Future, New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1970, 272 p. General summary of a diffuse subject.
- . F. von Opel, Historical Development of Rockets and the Purpose and Limits of Technology, lecture at Deutsches Museum (Munich), April 3, 1968 (NASA TT F-13, 436).
- . A. S. Yakovlev, Fifty Years of Soviet Aircraft Construction (Moscow: 1968) (NASA TT 70-50076), 186 p. General treatment, profusely illustrated. Available from CFSTTI.