

NASA HISTORY: NEWS & NOTES

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This summer finds us at the NASA History Division in Washington welcoming two new undertakings to our array of research in various aspects of NASA-related aerospace history, and announcing the availability of three long-awaited NASA publications.

New Summer Reading --and a new Reference Work

The first is John F. Guilmartin's and John W. Mauer's A Shuttle Chronology, 1964-1973: Abstract Concepts to Letter Contracts, 5 vols. (JSC-23309). Guilmartin's and Mauer's chronology traces the development of the Space Shuttle from its early precursors through the selection of the design, development, test and evaluation contractor for the shuttle Orbiter. The five-volume set is a compilation of chronologically arranged entries describing both the technical and programmatic evolution of the Space Transportation System. Individual copies may be requested from Mr. Don Hess, Mail Code BY-4, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas 77058, Attn: Chronology.

First scheduled for publication in early 1990, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the creation of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the latest edition of Orders of Magnitude: A History of the NACA and NASA, 1915-1990 arrived on our doorstep in July month just in time for the twentieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 first landing of a human on the moon. Originally authored by Frank W. Anderson and revised and updated by Roger E. Bilstein, this third edition of Orders of Magnitude commemorates the NACA anniversary with a more extensive treatment of aeronautics, brings the NACA and NASA story up to 1989 (not quite 1990, as its commemorative title suggests), and features a brief bibliographical essay. Long used for supplementary reading in college courses, Orders of Magnitude has been NASA's most popular historical publication. It can be bought through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (phone: 202-783-3238), stock number 033-000-01053-2, \$6.00.

Also out this summer is W. David Compton's history of the post-Apollo 11 human exploration of the moon, Where No Man Has Gone Before: A History of Apollo Lunar Exploration Missions (SP-4214). Compton's new book is not only a narrative account of Apollo missions 12 through 17; he explores as well the tensions between scientists and engineers in this effort to reap a scientific harvest from the engineering tour-de-force that was the Apollo program. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (phone: 202-783-3238), stock number 033-000-01047-8, \$19.00.

Hay Receives AHA Aerospace History Fellowship

David L. Hay has been awarded the 1989-1990 Aerospace History Fellowship by the American Historical Association. The Aerospace History Fellowship is funded by NASA. A doctoral candidate in history at the University of Notre Dame, Mr. Hay has a B.A. in economics from the University of Michigan, a Master of Management degree from Northwestern University, and an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame. Mr. Hay's principal interest is in U.S. business history and the role of management theory in the military industrial complex. He will use his fellowship to complete work on his dissertation, tentatively entitled "Bomber Businessmen: The Army Air Forces and the Ascendancy of Quantitative Management Control, 1940-1946."

A 1988-1989 AHA aerospace history fellow, Eric Schatzberg, was the recipient this past October of the Levinson Prize awarded by the Society for the History of Technology for Schatzberg's essay "In Defense of the Wooden Airplane: Choice of Materials in American Transport Airplanes between the World Wars."

Documentary History of the Space Age Contract Awarded

We are pleased to report that our latest contract award will bring some new faces to the NASA history family. George Washington University has received a contract from us to research, compile, edit, and prepare for publication a documentary history of the space age. The project--scheduled for completion in 1993--is designed to provide in shelf-reference form seminal or representative documents of the Space Age's social, cultural, economic, managerial, and political as well as scientific and technical aspects. Primary documents will be introduced with essays to explain their significance and give coherence to the collection as a whole. Principal Investigator John M. Logsdon is well known to most of our readers; new to the current NASA history program are project co-investigators Raymond A. Williamson, Janelle Warren-Findley, Linda J. Lear, and Charlene Bickford. Williamson is an astronomer and technology/space policy expert, who will be taking leave from his position as senior analyst at the Office of Technology Assessment to work on the project. Warren-Findley was trained in intellectual and cultural history, and has had extensive experience in federal archives and historic preservation work. A twentieth-century U.S. political historian, Lear is the author of a biography of New Dealer Harold L. Ickes and has had considerable experience in documentary editing. They will be joined by Charlene Bickford, currently project director of the First Federal Congress project. This team, which brings together an impressive array of documentary editing experience, will be assisted by an advisory committee of persons knowledgeable in the history of aerospace science and technology.

Biography of James E. Webb

W. Henry Lambright, author of the classic Governing Science and Technology (1976) and, more recently, Presidential Management of Science and Technology: The Johnson Presidency (1985), as well as other books, monographs, and dozens of articles and papers, has received a NASA contract to research and write an administrative biography of Apollo-era NASA Administrator James E. Webb. A "swashbuckler" in some accounts, this country's most accomplished public administrator in others, Webb and his career will be explored by one of our most accomplished scholars in the public administration of "R & D." Lambright hopes to complete his work by mid-1991.

Goddard Historical Essay Award Competition

The call is out for submissions for the National Space Club's annual Goddard Historical Essay competition. Competing essays may explore any significant aspect of the historical development of rocketry and astronautics, and will be judged on their originality and scholarship. They may bring new information to light or may cast a new and different light upon events or individuals influencing rocketry and astronautics in the United States. Entries must be submitted by December 8, 1989, to the Goddard Historical Essay Contest, c/o National Space Club, 655 15th Street, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C., 20005. The winner, who will be announced at the National Space Club's annual Awards Ceremony in March, 1990, will receive the Goddard Historical Essay Plaque and a \$1,000 prize. Previous award winners include NASA supported historians James R. Hansen, Virginia P. Dawson, Michael Aaron Dennis, James E. Tomayko, W. David Compton, and Richard P. Hallion.

NASA: A Unique Culture?

Howard E. McCurdy of American University, who is putting the finishing touches on his manuscript history of the origins of NASA's current Space Station "Freedom" program, has been

spending much of his sabbatical year completing research on his historical analysis of NASA's organizational culture. Extensive interviews complement a survey instrument, for which he received unusually high responses as social science surveys go--a sure indication that he is on to something. His preliminary findings (which, when refined, may reinforce some characterizations of NASA as they destroy others) were the subject of a presentation he gave in April at Hagley Museum and Library on "Corporate Culture, Organization Behavior and Crises." Meanwhile, our own story of Apollo's Engineers, rendered largely in the words of over fifty randomly selected engineers who joined NASA during the now fabled "golden era," has run the gauntlet of several critical readers and is being revised for publication.

NASA (Hq) History Division Archive Project

We welcome to our midst William Skerrett, who has joined Sarah Turner in the enormous task of indexing the documents collection at the NASA headquarters history office and creating a computerized data base for easy access to the collection. Bill is a 1988 graduate of SUNY at Oswego and has a B.A. in history and American studies. Thanks to the enthusiasm and talents of Sarah and Bill, the archive project has progressed to the installation of the Inmagic data-base software for indexing and retrieving records and rapidly searching text records of varying length. Sarah and Bill have abstracted, indexed, and entered into the database over 800 of our files, as well as prepared a procedure manual for using the system. We expect soon to add to our database SearchMagic, menu-driven software that will make use of our computerized index "quick and easy" for occasional or novice users.

NASA to Recruit New Director, NASA History Program

Sylvia D. Fries, who has served as NASA's Chief Historian and Director of the NASA History Division since October, 1983, has been given a new assignment by NASA Administrator Richard H. Truly. Effective July 3, she is to serve as executive secretary to the NASA Advisory Council, providing professional staff support to the Council and its various committees and task forces. Since the work of the NASA history program director was enough for two people to begin with, Sylvia will relinquish the job of director and NASA will begin recruiting shortly for someone to replace her. She intends to retain a strong institutional connection to the program to do what she can to assure that the program benefits from the critical support of those at top levels in NASA. The new director will be appointed at GM-14 or GM-15, depending upon her or his qualifications. Those considering making an application should begin to work on their Standard Form 171s, the federal government's universal job application form. We intend a nationwide recruitment and appeal to you for nominations, including self-nominations. Official announcement materials should be available by the end of August.

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We close on a personal note of congratulations to Adam Gruen, who successfully defended his doctoral thesis on a hot and humid day at Duke University June 16. His thesis is an historical analysis of the evolution of space station designs. He managed to overcome this hurdle while pressing forward as NASA's space station historian, collecting documents, answering questions, and researching a narrative history of the space station program. This he does with the help of Nancy Covington and Debbie Griggs, a veteran of the history office at Johnson Space Center.

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Sylvia Fries - Lee Saegesser - Rebecca Miller

Patricia Shephard - Sarah Turner - Bill Skerrett

Erratum: The June 1989 edition of the "Albatross Newsletter" repeated a 1987 NASA History Office Announcement of a small "grant" program with awards up to \$9500, and deadlines for submissions. Our ability to continue to make these small contract awards is highly contingent on our annual budgets which, like most federal agency budgets, are becoming less certain as to their total amounts. We do not anticipate being able to award small contracts in response to unsolicited proposals in coming year. SDF