



## FROM THE CHIEF HISTORIAN

One aspect of my job that continues to amaze and engage me is the sheer variety of the work we do at NASA and in the NASA History Division. As a former colleague used to say, NASA is engaged not just in human spaceflight and aeronautics; its employees engage in virtually every engineering and natural science discipline in some way and often at the cutting edge. This breadth of activities is, of course, reflected in the history we record and preserve. Thus it shouldn't be surprising that our books and monographs cover such a wide range of topics. So to whet your appetite, here's a quick rundown on some upcoming publications.

Currently at the printer we have a fascinating book co-edited by former NASA Chief Historian Steve Dick and Mark Lupisella, *Cosmos and Culture*. The second volume in our Societal Impact subseries, this book examines the three stages of cosmic evolution: physical, biological, and cultural. I'm sure many readers will enjoy it.

In layout we have three publications covering lesser-known topics and facilities. From NASA's Stennis Space Center, we will be publishing a conference proceedings monograph regarding wisdom gained from the testing of Saturn rockets during the Apollo era. From Glenn Research Center, Bob Arrighi has written a full-length book on the Altitude Wind Tunnel. His innovative CD-ROM on this subject already won an award from the Society for History in the Federal Government. Michael Meltzer, whose history of the Galileo

*continued on page 2*

## HOMESPUN HISTORY: DOCUMENTING APOLLO ON THE WEB

By David Woods, editor, *The Apollo Flight Journal*  
Bearsden, Scotland

In 1994 I got access to the Internet via a 0.014 Mbps modem through my phone line. As happens with all who access the Web, I immediately gravitated towards the sites that interested me, and in my case, it was astronomy and spaceflight. As soon as I stumbled upon Eric Jones's burgeoning Apollo Lunar Surface Journal (ALSJ), then hosted by the Los Alamos National Laboratory, I almost shook with excitement.

Eric was trying to understand what had been learned about working on the Moon by closely studying the time that 12 Apollo astronauts had spent there. To achieve this, he took dusty, old transcripts of the air-to-ground communication, corrected them, added commentary and, best of all, managed to get most of the men who had explored the surface to sit with him and add their recollections. The result was far too unwieldy for a book but Eric recognized that the Web could give it an excellent home. Almost every day, I looked to see if Eric had added more material. As soon as something became available, I laboriously downloaded it through my painfully slow modem for fear that this goldmine would disappear. I found that reading

*continued on next page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| From the Chief Historian .....                              | 1  |
| Homespun History (AFJ) .....                                | 1  |
| News from Headquarters and the Centers .....                | 4  |
| Ares Historian Views Ares I-X Flight Development Test ..... | 10 |
| Recent Publications .....                                   | 13 |
| Online Resources .....                                      | 21 |
| Historic Preservation News .....                            | 21 |
| Other Aerospace History News .....                          | 22 |
| Upcoming Meetings .....                                     | 25 |
| Obituaries .....  | 25 |

*Other Aerospace History News (continued)*

More information about the types of artifacts that may be available is included in a brochure, "Space Shuttle Program Artifacts," located at <http://www.nasa.gov/transition>.

## Fellowships

Monique Laney defended her dissertation, titled "Transnational Migration and National Memory: How German Rocket Engineers Became Americans in Huntsville, Alabama," on 20 August 2009. As the recipient of this year's postdoctoral fellowship offered by the Society for History of Technology and supported by NASA, Dr. Laney is currently revising her dissertation for a book publication and seeking employment in the DC area.

## The Future in the Stars: German Research Foundation Funds New Emmy Noether Group with More than One Million Euros

Alexander C.T. Geppert, who teaches cultural history at Freie Universität Berlin, was recently awarded an Emmy Noether Research Grant by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Over the course of the next five years, Geppert will receive more than 1.1 million Euros to set up and direct an independent research group composed of several Ph.D. students and postdocs working on European astrofuturism in the 20th century.

How have European conceptions of the cosmos and extraterrestrial life changed parallel to the continuous exploration of outer space? Has a specifically European perspective on space evolved since the Second World War? And how can the European paradox of comprehensive space enthusiasm concomitant with a decades-long abstinence from actual spaceflight be explained?

The Emmy Noether Grant, the most valuable award for young researchers in Germany, will allow Alexander Geppert to help integrate the cultural history of space into mainstream historiography, and to contribute to the development of a hitherto largely unestablished research field in Europe.

The Emmy Noether Program enables outstanding and highly qualified young researchers to become eligible for tenure-track positions at a German university. This program offers an alternative to the traditional professorial track requiring the so-called Habilitation by giving researchers the opportunity to achieve the qualifications by directing an independent junior research group and assuming an appropriate amount of relevant teaching duties.

Two research positions, one postdoc and one for a Ph.D. student, will be advertised in January 2010.

For additional information please contact Dr. Alexander C.T. Geppert at [alexander.geppert@fu-berlin.de](mailto:alexander.geppert@fu-berlin.de) or consult <http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/astrofuturism>.