



IAA Study Group 6.7 *50th Anniversary of the Space Era 2007*

Information Note No 12

1. Introduction

The IAA spring meetings and the IPC for the IAC 2008 in Glasgow were conducted last week in Paris. We now have 4 full history sessions with a total of 27 papers for Glasgow. (See more below.)

An interesting interdisciplinary conference “IMAGINING OUTER SPACE, 1900-2000” was held at the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, University of Bielefeld in Germany, February 6-9, 2008. More details from Kerrie Dougherty below.

The location of the 2010 IAC will be Prague, Czech Republic, September 20-24, 2010.

2. 42nd History Symposium, Glasgow

A total of 40 abstracts were received for the Glasgow History Symposium. The Programme Ctee finally selected 27 papers distributed on 4 sessions (see list of Christophe Rothmund as attachment 1.) Some proposed papers dealt with the same subject or the topic had been presented before during the last 7-8 years. Also a number of proposed papers were not directly related to History of Astronautics or did not obey to the > 25 years rule. But at the end it was a difficult task and some papers had to be recommended for next year.

As to the first session on the IGY 50th Anniversary, only two good papers were proposed and thus the session was renamed “IGY History and Organisational Histories”, by including some papers on organizational history originally planned for session 2 with a large number of proposed papers.

3. History Group Meetings in Glasgow

In Glasgow the IAA History study group (SG 6.7) will meet twice:

- Saturday September 27, at 16:00 – 18:00 to check the programme and discuss any issues that should be brought up to CM VI and the IAA BOT.
- Wednesday October 1, at 09:00 – 13:00 for the general meeting.

4. Conference on “Imagining Outer Space, 1900-2000”

Contribution by Kerrie Dougherty

Several members of the History of Astronautics group participated in the conference “Imagining Outer Space 1900-2000”, which was held February 6-9 at the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZiF) in Bielefeld University, Germany.

Organised by Dr. Alexander Geppert of the Freie Universität, Berlin and Harvard University, USA and with the support of Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, the conference was intended to explore the cultural history of space travel and space exploration with a focus on the way in which Europeans imagined outer space over the course of the twentieth century. The conference was particularly aimed at investigating the socio-cultural rationale behind the investment of enormous resources in space, from a European perspective, and analysing the connections between science and fiction/fantasy.

History Group members participating in the conference included Steven Dick, Michael Neufeld and Kerrie Dougherty, each of whom presented papers, and Ingemar Skoog and Philippe Cosyn as audience participants. Other distinguished speakers at the event included Prof. Debora Battaglia (Mount Holyoke College), Pierre Lagrange (CNRS), Claudia Schmoelders (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), James Schwoch (Northwestern University) and Helmuth Trischler (Deutsches Museum).

Steven Dick, Chief Historian for NASA, presented the conference’s opening keynote address, *[Space, Time and Aliens. The Role of Imagination in Outer Space](#)*, as well as chairing the final session of the conference. Michael Neufeld presented *[Smash the Myth of the Fascist Rocket Baron. East German Attacks on Wernher von Braun in the 1960s](#)* and Kerrie Dougherty’s paper was *Spaceport Woomera*, exploring the vision of Woomera Rocket Range as a major spaceport in British, Australian and European imagination.

The conference was divided into ten sessions, in each of which papers were grouped to address a particular theme. These themes included Theorising Outer Space, Screening Outer Space, Localising Outer Space, Fictionalising Outer Space and Communication Outer Space. Each session offered two or three papers, allowing ample time for extensive discussion of the concepts, ideas and issues raised within them. A full list of session themes, papers and author biographies can be found on the conference website at http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/fmi/arbeitsbereiche/ab_nolte/Bielefeld/Hauptseite.html

Intensive audience participation in the discussions following each paper was a hallmark of this conference, with the total number of delegates being held below 100 in order to allow maximum opportunities for interaction between speakers and delegates. This strategy produced some extremely fruitful and fascinating discussions and ideas for further exploration of issues raised in various papers.

In addition to the paper sessions, the conference also included two special presentations devoted to cultural expressions of popular interest in space. The first of these was an art installation, SpacePlace. Art in the Age of Orbitization, curated by Philip Pocock from the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany. This Web2.0-based experiment in ‘user-generated media’, is a Bluetooth-enabled mobile media curatorial work,

database. The database is accessed by the audience using mobile phones to navigate the online content and upload the images and media works they select to their mobile phones.

The second special presentation was a screening of a rare science fiction and spaceflight documentary material compiled by Jürgen Ast from Dialog Film, Berlin and conference speaker Burghard Ciesla of the Universität Potsdam/Universität der Künste Berlin. This fascinating presentation included excerpts from rare Soviet science fiction films and segments from television science magazine program featuring Wernher von Braun.

Thanks to the generosity of NASA, all participants at the congress each received a copy of the recently-published *Societal Impact of Spaceflight*, (NASA SP-2007-4801, edited by History Group members, Steven Dick and Roger Launius.

Overall, this conference provided a unique and fascinating insight into the European perspective on space exploration and the relationships between science fact, science fiction and fantasy, politics and popular culture.

Thank you Kerrie for this report.



The IAA History Study group (SG 6.7) at the Conference on “Imagining Outer Space, 1900-2000”. From Left to right: Steven Dick, Alexander Geppert, Conference Organiser, Philippe Cosyn, Kerrie Dougherty and A. Ingemar Skoog

5. History Celebration of the IAA 50th Anniversary 2010

A set of ideas have been collected, and after proper editing sent to the IAA Board of Trustees for consideration. The proposed activities are:

- *Chronology of IAA 50 Years as a publication*
- *IAA Academy Day in 2010 devoted to "IAA 50th Anniversary Celebration" as a member and media event, with special IAA 50th Anniversary session(s) at the IAA History Symposium during the 2010 IAC.*
- *IAA Web site dedication to 50th Anniversary*

The IAA BOT will have reviewed these proposals at its meetings last week, and after proper feedback we might have to become active to support one or the other of the recommended activities. More to come on this.

6. Promotion of the IAA History Proceedings

A document "Recommendations for Securing and Improving the Sales of the IAA History Symposia Proceedings", dated February 29, 2008, was sent to the IAA Publications Ctee and the IAA Scientific Activities Ctee for review and actions. We are now waiting the feedback from last week's meetings.

7. Personal Activities of Study Group Members

Marsha Freeman has provided following overview of her personal activities in 2007:

"In June 2007, I gave a presentation at the Rutgers University Lunar Symposium, on Krafft Ehrlicke's concept of lunar industrialization, and his array of broad-reaching applications of space technology. This garnered interest from a member of the IAA Space and Society section to present similar material to one of the sessions, on human factors, at the IAC in Glasgow, for which I am preparing an abstract.

Most of October and November were spent attending conferences celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sputnik, and the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year. I include my comment that much of the space history that was presented, perhaps under the rubric that the material had to be "new," I found disappointing, in that it dealt with, at best secondary or tertiary (if not irrelevant) subjects. By far, the most informative was the symposium on the history of the IGY.

I published a history article on the 50th anniversary, for EIR magazine, which attempted to dispel some of the myths about the history of the U.S. space program, and put it in the proper context.

For 2008, my major space history project is writing a biography of Krafft Ehrlicke which will include a selection of reprints of his own work, and should be published this coming Fall.

In addition, as it is the 50th anniversary of NASA this year, I will be attending activities, and doubtless, be writing about, what the space agency has accomplished over this half century."

Thank you Marsha for this input.

Attachment 1

42nd IAA History of Astronautics Symposium

Session 1: IGY History and Organisational Histories

AN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF THE IGY: EISENHOWER, SPUTNIK, AND THE FOUNDING OF NASA

Roger D. Launius

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20013-7102, United States

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR: THE FRENCH PARTICIPATION AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH

Hervé Moulin

Institut Français d'Histoire de l'Espace, Paris, France

U.S. SPACE POLICY DURING THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS: COMPETITION AND COOPERATION THROUGH PROJECT APOLLO AND ASTP

Hirota Watanabe

Osaka University, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka, Japan

THE REMOTE SPACE AGE: THE ECONOMICS OF 19TH CENTURY SPACE EXPLORATION

Mr. Alexander MacDonald

NASA Ames Research Center, Palo Alto, United States

NASA'S OFFICE OF ADVANCED RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE SPACE STATION

John Mankins

Ashburn, United States

MANAGING THE UNMANAGEABLE: APOLLO, SPACE AGE MANAGEMENT, AND AMERICAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Roger D. Launius

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20013-7102, United States, launiusr@si.edu

Session 2 : Memoirs

MINORU ODA AND HIS PIONEERING ROLE IN SPACE SCIENCE IN JAPAN

Yasunori Matogawa

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Kanagawa, Japan

JAMES H. WYLD (1912-1953): AMERICAN ROCKET PIONEER

Frank H. Winter

National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC 20013-7012, United States

ROBERT L. FORWARD: A SCOTLAND CONNECTION TO TETHERS, ANTIMATTER, AND PROPULSION

Anne Coleman

University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL, United States
CASIMIR COQUILHAT'S THEORY ON ROCKET MOTION - THE ROCKET EQUATION ESTABLISHED IN 1871!

Philippe Jung
AAAF, Grasse, France
Jean-Jacques Serra
AAAF, Font Romeu, France

RICARDO DYRGALLA (1910-1970), PIONEER OF ROCKET DEVELOPMENT IN ARGENTINA.

Pablo De Leon
Argentine Association for Space Technology, Buenos Aires, Argentina

LUIGI BROGLIO: THE FIRST ITALIAN SPACE-DREAMER.

Ms. Daniela Cipollone
Scuola di Ingegneria Aerospaziale, Roma, Italy

ACADEMICIAN GLUSHKO - PIONEER AND CREATOR OF SOVIET ROCKET ENGINEERING

Mr. Vladimir S. Sudakov, Vladimir K. Chvanov
NPO Energomash, 141400 Khimki, Moscow Region, Russia

PHASE ROLE OF MISSILE DEFENSE MEANS IN THE COLD WAR HISTORY

Irina Fedorenko
National aerospace educational center of youth named after A. Makarov,
Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine,

Session 3 : Scientific and Technical Histories

SPACE AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION SYSTEM OF SOVIET PROJECT FOR MANNED FLY BY MOON

Viacheslav V. Ivashkin, Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics, RAS, Moscow, Russia
Timur M. Eneev, Russian Academy of Sciences - KIAM RAS, Moscow, Russia
Victor A. Sharov, S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia, Korolev, Russia
Jury V. Bagdasaryan, Scientific-Technical Association "Geofizika-Cosmos", Moscow, Russia,

THE ALFRED NOBEL ROCKET CAMERA. AN EARLY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ATTEMPT

Ake Ingemar Skoog
Immenstaad, Germany

THE ARGUS EXPERIMENT

Dr. Charles Lundquist
University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, United States

THE SOVIET METEOR ROCKETS HISTORY 1946-1991

Mr. Christian Lardier
Air & Cosmos, Paris, France

WRESAT: AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SATELLITE

Kerrie Dougherty
Power House Museum, Haymarket, NSW, Australia

THE PROPULSION SYSTEM FOR THE "LUDION" ONE-MAN HOPPER, AN ANGLO-FRENCH

ROCKET ENGINE COOPERATION 40 YEARS AGO

Christophe Rothmund
Snecma, Vernon, France

GRAVITY ASSIST MANEUVER IN PLANETARY PROGRAMS

Leila Khaladjzadeh, Mehran Mirshams
K.N. Toosi University, Tehran, Iran

Session 4 : History of UK Contribution to Astronautics

A REVIEW OF UK SPACE ACTIVITY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY, 1957-2007

Douglas Millard
The Science Museum, London, United Kingdom

HISTORY OF UK CONTRIBUTION TO ASTRONAUTICS: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Colin Hicks
EURISY Association, Teddington, United Kingdom

THE UK CONTRIBUTION TO SPACE SCIENCE—THE EARLY YEARS

Peter Willmore
University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

SOME BEGINNINGS OF SPACE ACTIVITY IN UK INDUSTRY

John Allen
Ipswich, United Kingdom

ROOTED IN THE EARTH - THE BUILT HERITAGE OF BRITAIN'S ROCKET INDUSTRY

Wayne Cocroft
English Heritage, Cambridge, United Kingdom

UK SPACE INDUSTRY HISTORY OR HERITAGE - A CASE-STUDY, STEVENAGE UK

Alistair Scott
EADS Astrium Ltd., Stevenage, United Kingdom