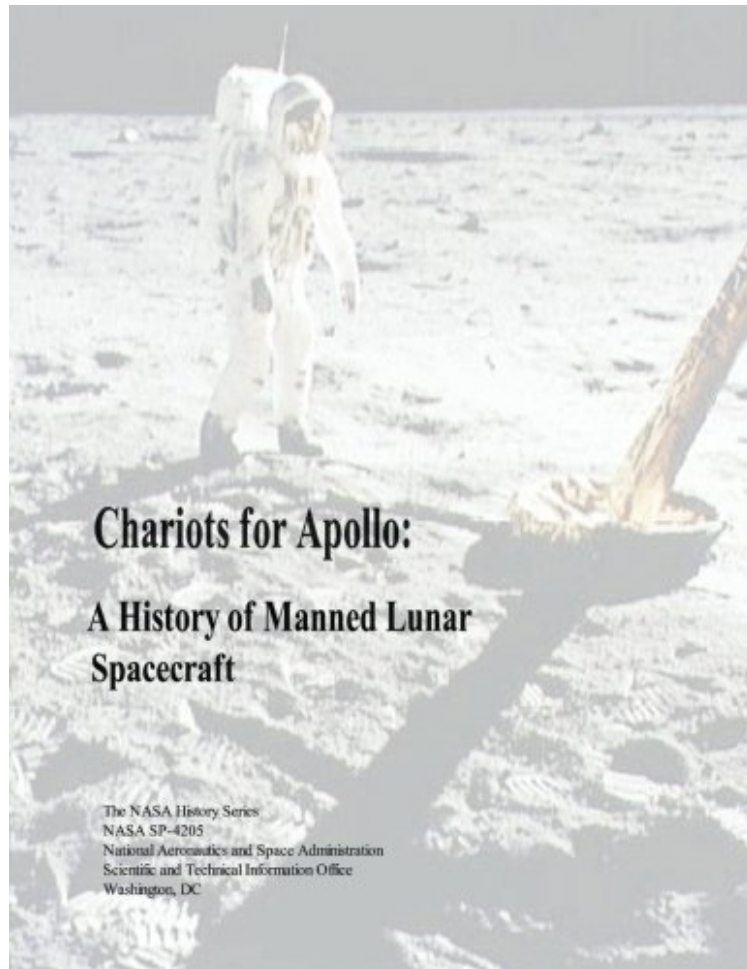


(Library ebook) Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft (The NASA History Series)

Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft (The NASA History Series)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Courtney G. Brooks, James M. Grimwood, Jr., Loyd S. Swenson

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Courtney G. Brooks, James M. Grimwood, Jr., Loyd S. Swenson : Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft (The NASA History Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft (The NASA History Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, a valuable resource and a good read. By Narut Ujnat This volume, originally published in 1979 in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing is one terrific history of the development of the Apollo program from the beginning. Most people think and believe that Al Shepard's flight gave way to President Kennedy's speeches regarding landing a "man on the moon and returning him safely to

earth before the decade was out" was the start of a crash course in lunar technology that culminated in the Apollo 11 landing June 20, 1969 and his murder in 1963 was the serious spur. Not true. In fact, NASA and predecessor NACA, along with adjunct organizations and the military had been studying the problems of space travel for some time, and Von Braun's team had also pushed for a lunar mission as well. This book gives an outstanding history of this period through the rest of the Apollo program through 1969. This is a fascinating book and very well-written. Coupled with other volumes available, this gives a great course in the massive engineering effort that went to solving this forbidding physics problem. Honestly, it is amazing that the spacecraft were fairly conceived by 1963, with the innards being developed as the spacecraft was tested. The book delivers the story plus much information that is somewhat obscure by today's standards but still interesting for those readers wanting to delve further into the program. The book isn't particularly science based, but does have a good technical basis (If you are looking for a more technical examination, this probably isn't the book for you). Overall: a terrific read and very well done. Even though now we approach the 50th (!) anniversary of the landing, this is still a great achievement. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Wiseguy59 Great book with lots of little-known information. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kevin M. Extremely in depth about the space race. One of my favorites so far.

Apollo was America's program to land men on the moon and get them safely back to the earth. In May 1961 President Kennedy gave the signal for planning and developing the machines to take men to that body. This decision, although bold and startling at the time, was not made at random nor did it lack a sound engineering base. Subcommittees of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), predecessor of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), had regularly surveyed aeronautical needs and pointed out problems for immediate resolution and specific areas for advanced research. After NASA's creation in October 1958, its leaders (many of them former NACA officials) continued to operate in this fashion and, less than a year later, set up a group to study what the agency should do in near-earth and deep-space exploration. Among the items listed by that group was a lunar landing, a proposal also discussed in circles outside NASA as a means for achieving and demonstrating technological supremacy in space. From the time Russia launched its first Sputnik in October 1957, many Americans had viewed the moon as a logical goal. A two-nation space race subsequently made that destination America's national objective for the 1960s. America had a program, Project Mercury, to put man in low-earth orbit and recover him safely. In July 1960 NASA announced plans to follow Mercury with a program, later named Apollo, to fly men around the moon. Soon thereafter, several industrial firms were awarded contracts to study the feasibility of such an enterprise. The companies had scarcely finished this task when the Russians scored again, orbiting the first space traveler, Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, on 12 April 1961. Three weeks later the Americans succeeded in launching Astronaut Alan Shepard into a suborbital arc. These events and other pressures to get America moving provided the popular, political, and technological foundations upon which President Kennedy could base his appeal for support from the Congress and the American people for the Apollo program. The Apollo story has many pieces: How and why did it start? What made it work? What did it accomplish? What did it mean? Some of its visible (and some not so visible) parts the launch vehicles, special facilities, administration, Skylab program, Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, as examples, have been recorded by the NASA History Office and some have not. A single volume treating all aspects of Apollo, whatever they were, must await the passage of time to permit a fair perspective. At that later date, this manuscript may seem narrow in scope and perhaps it is. But among present readers, particularly those who were Apollo program participants there are some who argue that the text is too broad and that their specialties receive short shrift. Moreover, some top NASA leaders during Apollo's times contend, perhaps rightly, that the authors were not familiar with all the nuances of some of the accounts set down here. Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft begins with the creation of NASA itself and with the definition of a manned space flight program to follow Mercury. It ends with Apollo 11, when America attained its goal of the 1960s, landing the first men on the moon and returning them to the earth. The focal points of this story are the spacecraft the command and service modules and the lunar module.