

Tom D. Crouch  
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National Air and Space Museum  
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BIRTH: February 28, 1944, Dayton, Ohio

EDUCATION: BA, History (Honors), Ohio University, 1966;  
MA, History (Honors), Miami University, 1968;  
Ph.D., American History, The Ohio State University, 1976;  
Doctor of Humane Letters, Wright State University, 2001

RESEARCH Aerospace History  
US Social and Cultural History

INTERESTS: US History to 1940  
History of Technology

EMPLOYMENT: 1967-1969: Social studies teacher, Grades, 7-12, South Charleston, Ohio

1969-1973: Director, Education Department, Ohio Historical Society

1973-1974: Director, Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Commission, Ohio Historical Society

1974-1985: Associate Curator to Full Curator of Astronautics and Aeronautics, National Air and Space, Smithsonian Institution

1985-1987: Curator/Supervisor, Division of Engineering and Industry, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

1987-1989: Chairman, Department of Social and Cultural History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

1989-1998: Chairman, Department of Aeronautics, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution

1998-Present: Senior Curator, Aeronautics, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution

2000-2003 (Concurrent as Presidential Appointee): Chairman, First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board

TEACHING: 1974-1975: Lecturer in American History, Northern Virginia Community College, Loudon County Campus

1975-1983: Lecturer in the History of Technology, Department of History, Department of History, University of Maryland. During this period I was responsible for all departmental offerings in the History of Technology as part of the program of the Center for the History and Philosophy of Science.

1990-1998: Lecturer on Lighter-Than-Air flight and early aviation, History of Air Power Course, Office of Air Force History

1987-1999: Occasional appointments as a Lecturer/Professor responsible for a graduate course in the George Washington University Museum Studies Program: "Curatorial Research and Exhibition Development."

PROFESSIONAL: In the past, Dr. Crouch has served as a member of both the history committees of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Astronautical Society. He had also been a member of the history advisory committees of both the NASA and the EPA. In the fall of 2000, President Clinton appointed Dr. Crouch to Chair the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board. He is currently a member of the History Committee of the AIAA, and a member of the historic sites board of that organization.

SPEAKING: Dr. Crouch averages 5-10 lectures annually away from Washington. He is an AIAA Distinguished Lecturer.

CONTRACTS: I have served as a consultant to a variety of organizations, including: the National Park Service; the National Geographic Society; Time-Life Books; the USAF History Program; a variety of university presses, including Princeton, the University of California, Johns Hopkins, the University of North Carolina and Ohio University; WGBH/NOVA, and a variety of other television and radio programs.

SPECIAL Management for Supervisors, Smithsonian Institution, 1984

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BOOKS

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Ohio '76: A Guide for Bicentennial Planners in the Buckeye State (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, 1973).

Charles A. Lindbergh: An American Life (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977). Edited.

Apollo: Ten Years Since Tranquility Base (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1979). Edited with Richard P. Hallion. Awarded Aviation/Space Writers Association prize for literary merit.

A Dream of Wings: Americans and the Airplane, 1875-1905 (New York: W.W. Norton, Inc., 1981). Original manuscript won AIAA History Manuscript Prize, 1976.

Bleriot XI: The Story of a Classic Airplane (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1982).

The Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution, 1983). Awarded Best Non-Fiction Book of the Year prize by the Aviation/Space Writers Association, 1983.

The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright (W.W. Norton, Inc., 1989). Awarded Christopher Prize, 1989

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NY: Chelsea House, 1990).

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with Alex Spencer, eds., History of Rocketry and Astronautics (San Diego, CA: AAS, AAS History Series, Vol. 14, 1993).

Co-Editor, National Aerospace Conference Proceedings (Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University, 1999)

Aiming for the Stars: Dreamers and Doers of the Space Age (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999)

First Flight: The Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Airplane (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2003)

with Peter Jakab, The Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Aerial Age (Washington, D.C.: The National Geographic Society, 2003)

Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003),  
Won the 2005 AIAA Gardner-Lasser Aerospace History Literature Award.

Rocketeers and Gentlemen Engineers: A History of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics...and What Came Before (Reston, VA: AIAA, 2006)

Lighter-Than-Air: An Illustrated History of Balloons and Airships (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

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Web Contributions:

A regular contributor to the NASM Blog

Tom D. Crouch, “Mr. Lincoln’s Air Force,”

<http://www.smithsonianconferences.org/2009/lincolnsairforce/>

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I have been a professional museum curator, or a manager of curatorial operations for a quarter of a century. I have played a major curatorial role in opening three important museums: The Neil Armstrong Museum, The Ohio Historical Center, and the National Air and Space Museum. I have served as a department chair/assistant director at both the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of American History.

Over the course of my career, I have curated or supervised perhaps as many as a dozen important exhibitions. In addition to those museum displays focusing on the history of technology and the history of flight, I have scripted and planned several exhibitions exploring aspects of social and political history that have attracted national attention. I am especially proud of "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution," which opened at the National Museum of American History in October 1987 and remained in place for over two decades. .

### HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 1966-1968 | Two full graduate fellowships, Miami University   |
| 1971      | Inducted into membership in the Ohioana Library, an organization honoring Ohio authors  |
| 1973      | Smithsonian Institution Dissertation Fellowship   |
| 1976      | Smithsonian Institution Certificate of Award for Exceptional Service  |
| 1976      | National Air and Space Museum, Certificate of Award for Exceptional Service   |
| 1976      | American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Award for the Best History Book Manuscript of the Year, <u>A Dream of Wings: Americans and the Airplane, 1875-1905</u> (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1980) |

- 1977-1978 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Distinguished Lecturer
- 1979 Aviation/Space Writers Association Award for Literary Merit, Apollo XI: Ten Years Since Tranquility Base (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1979)
- 1980-1984 American Audio-Visual Society and the Independent Film Producers Association. Various awards for film scripting, including: Early Flight: A Film for the National Air and Space Museum, (1981); Balloons and Airships, filmstrip (1982); Treasures of the National Air and Space Museum, film (1984)
- 1984 Aviation/Space Writers Association, Best Non-Fiction Book of the Year, Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America, (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1984)
- 1985 Smithsonian Institution Certificate of Award for Exceptional Service
- 1987 National Japanese American Historical Society, Certificate of Appreciation for Dedication to Justice and Historical Accuracy
- 1987 Japanese American Citizens League, Certificate of Award for Work on exhibition "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution
- 1988 United States Information Agency, Certificate of Appreciation for Participation in US-USSR Bilateral talks on cultural cooperation, Moscow, October 1988
- 1989 The Christopher Award, a national literary prize honoring works of "significant literary merit representing the highest values of the human spirit, for, The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1989)
- 1990 Ohio University, College of Arts and Sciences, Significant Achievement Award: Distinguished Alumnus
- 1997 Ralph S. Barnaby Memorial Lecturer, National Soaring Society



1998	Wright Brothers Memorial Lecturer, NASA Langley Flight Research Center, Wright Brothers Memorial Lecturer, NASA Langley.
1999	Awarded Senior Member Status, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
2000	Appointed by President Clinton to membership on the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board
2001	Appointed by President Clinton to Chair the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board
2003	Re-appointed to Chair, FFCFAB by President George W. Bush
April 2001	Trailblazer of the Year Award, Aviation Trail Foundation, Dayton, Ohio
June 2001	Doctor of Humane Letters, Wright State University
2002	Smithsonian Distinguished Research Lecturer Award for 2002
June 2003	San Francisco Aviation Society, Aviation Man of the Year
June 2003	Aerospace Medical Association, Bauer Lecturer for 2003
July 2003	University of Texas at Dallas, The George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Memorial Distinguished Lecturer for 2003
October 2003	United States Air Force, Harmon Lecturer for 2003 (The most important lecture offered annually at the US Air Force Academy)
2003	William F. Shea Distinguished Contribution to Aviation Award, University of Nebraska, Omaha
2003—Present	AIAA Distinguished Lecturer
2003	Gardner-Lasser Aerospace History Literature Award, from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, honoring the best book on aerospace history published in the last five years, for, <u>Wings: A History of Aviation From Kites to the Space Age</u>
September 2006	Inducted into the Wright-Dunbar Walk of Fame, Dayton, Ohio
October 2006	Inducted as a Caballero of the Orden Merito Santos-Dumont by the Brazilian government.
September 2007	Elected an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and

## Astronautics

- February 1, 2008 Named an Honorary Member of the Engineer's Club of Dayton, Ohio
- December 17, 2009 The Col. "Red" Smith Distinguished Service Award for 2009, First Flight Society, Kill Devil Hills, NC
- March 2010 First Flight wins the National Park Service Play-off, a competition to select the best and most popular handbook in the National Park Service series.
- November 2011 Named to list of 100 Top Buckeyes to Know, by the Ohio State University Alumni Association
- June 2012 Paul S. Kerr History Prize for – "The Aeronautic Society of New York and the Birth of American Aeronautics, 1908-1918" – Paul S. Kerr Prize given by the New York State Historical Association for the best article of the year published in New York History.
- November 2013 Smithsonian Secretary's Award for Collaborative Spirit – to the team creating The Smithsonian Civil War: Inside the National Collection
- November 2013 Elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- March 2014 Paul E. Garber Award for contributions to the history and culture of kiting in the Washington D.C. area.
- March 2016 AIAA Member of the Month
- June 2016 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Distinguished Service Award for 2016

Short Vita

Tom D. Crouch

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Tom Crouch is Senior Curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum. A Smithsonian employee since 1974, he has served both the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) and the National Museum of American History (NMAH) in a variety of curatorial and administrative posts. Prior to coming to the Smithsonian he was employed by the Ohio Historical Society as director of education (1969-1973) and as Director, Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Commission. (1973-1974).

Tom Crouch holds a BA (1962) from Ohio University, an MA (1968) from Miami University and a Ph.D. (1976) from the Ohio State University. All of his degrees are in history. In addition, he holds the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, conferred in June 2001 by the Wright State University.

He is the author or editor of a number of books and many articles for both popular magazines and scholarly journals. Most of his work has been on aspects of the history of flight technology. Some of Crouch's books include: The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright (New York: W.W. Norton, 1989); Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983); Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age (NY: W.W. Norton, 2003); A Dream of Wings: Americans and the Airplane, 1875-1905 (New York: W.W. Norton, Inc., 1981); Bleriot XI: The Story of a Classic Airplane (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1982); and Rocketeers and Gentlemen Engineers (Reston, Va: AIAA, 2006), and Lighter-Than-Air: An Illustrated History of Balloons and Airships (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).

Tom Crouch has won a number of major writing awards, including the history book prizes offered by both the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Aviation/Space Writers Association. He received a 1989 Christopher Award, a literary prize recognizing "significant artistic achievement in support of the highest values of the human spirit," for The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright. His book, Wings: A History of Aviation From Kites to the Space Age, won the AIAA Gardner-Lasser Literature Prize for 2005, an award presented to the best book selected in that year from all books in the field of aerospace history published in the last five years.

Throughout his career, Dr. Crouch has played a major role in planning museum exhibitions. He was involved in planning exhibitions for the Neil Armstrong Museum, Wapakoneta, Ohio; the Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio; the National Air and Space Museum; the National Museum of American History; and the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the National Air and Space Museum.

In the fall of 2000, President Clinton appointed Dr. Crouch to the Chairmanship of the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board, an organization created to advise the Centennial of Flight Commission on activities planned to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of powered flight.

Tom Crouch has been married to the former Nancy Anne Gochenouer for more than forty years. They are the parents of three grown children and the grandparents of Emma and Alex.