

Tom D. Crouch  
Senior Curator, Aeronautics  
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  
INTERESTS: Aerospace History  
US Social and Cultural History  
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

**PROFESSIONAL:** 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 has also served on 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.

#### SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY BOOKS

The Giant Leap: A Chronology of Ohio Aerospace Events and Personalities (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio Historical Society, 1971). Won Ohioana Book Award, 1972.

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).

A Dream of Wings: Americans and the Airplane, 1875-1905 (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989). A new paperback edition with a new forward.

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)

#### ARTICLES IN MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

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"Up, Up, and-Sometimes-Away," Journal of the Cincinnati Historical Society, Vol. 28-29 (Winter 1971), 108-132.

"Mason's Aerial Steamboat," Journal of the American Aviation Historical Society, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Spring 1974), 155-157.

"Americans and the Airplane: A History of American Aviation, 1822-1905," Aviation Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 4 (Winter 1975).

"Americans and the Airplane, Part II, The Early Years, 1822-1875," Aviation Quarterly, (Spring 1976).

"Americans and the Airplane, Part III, Octave Chanute and the Glider Years," Aviation

Quarterly, (Summer 1976).

"Americans and the Airplane, Part IV, The Wright Triumph," Aviation Quarterly, (Fall 1976).

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"The Gasbag Era in America," Aviation Quarterly, (Summer 1977).

"December 1903--The Month of the Flying Machines," Smithsonian (December 1978).

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"The Road to Kitty Hawk," US Air (June 1980).

"Wings Over the Dunes," Singing Sands (Summer 1980).

"IAS: The Origin and Early Years of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences," Astronautics and Aeronautics (May 1981).

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"Lindbergh: An American Hero," Air and Space (Summer 1981).

"91 Hours, 8 Minutes, 10 Seconds: Around the World With Howard Hughes," Air and Space (Fall 1981).

"Le Petite Santos," Model Aviation (December 1981).

"The Wright Brothers," Air and Space (Winter 1982).

"Flight and the Founding Fathers," Special Supplement for the New York Times Magazine (May, 1983).

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"Some Thoughts on John Montgomery," Bungee Cord (1984).

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"Otto Lilienthal and the Birth of Aeronautical Engineering," Aeronautical Design: The Lessons Learned (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1990)

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"Foreword," for The Yamamoto Mission, R. Cargill Hall, ed. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990.).

"Foreword," for a new edition of R. Fredette, The Sky on Fire: The First Battle of Britain (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990.)

"Otto Lilienthal and the Birth of Aeronautical Engineering," in Essays Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, Dept. of Aero Engineering, 1991).

"Otto Lilienthal und die Amerikaner," in W. Schwipps, ed., Die Schule Lilienthals (Berlin: MVT, 1992), pp. 53-81.

"Why Wilbur and Orville?: Some Thoughts on the Wright Brothers and the Process of Invention" in R. Weber and David Perkins, Inventive Minds: Creativity in Technology (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).

"Hey Marge, Are We Still At Air and Space: Some Thoughts on a New Gallery at the National Air and Space Museum," Over the Front (1993).

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"Learning from the Past," in, Jane R. Glaser and Artemis Zenetou, eds., Gender Perspectives: Essays on Women in Museums (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1994), pp. 127-131.

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"Samuel Pierpont Langley," "The Wright Brothers," "John Jeffries," "W. Von Braun," American National Biography (Oxford University Press, 1995)

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1997; Vol. 36, No. 5), pp. 21-29

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"Santos-Dumont and the NASM Airship," Air & Space Smithsonian (to appear in the June/July 1998 issue)

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"Blaming Wilbur and Orville: The Wright Patent Suits and the Growth of American Aeronautics," in, Peter Galison and Alex Roland, Atmospheric Flight in the Twentieth Century (Dordrecht/Boston/London: Kulwer Academic Publishers, 2000), pgs. 287-300.

"The Making of a Classic," introduction to a new edition of F. Stansbury Haydon, Military

Ballooning During the Early Civil War (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), pgs. xi-xxiii.

“The Wright Family of Dayton: A Tradition of Stewardship,” 1905 Wright Flyer: The First Practical Airplane (Dayton, Ohio: 2000)

“The Final Journey of Breitling Orbiter 3,” in 1999 Annual Report of the National Air and Space Museum (Washington, D.C.: NASM, 2000), pgs. 14-19.

“A Gift of Art: The Durant Collection Comes Home,” 1999 Annual Report of the National Air and Space Museum (Washington, D.C.: NASM, 2000), pgs. 20-25.

“Reaching Toward Space,” Smithsonian Magazine (February 2001), pgs. 38-42.

“Introduction: A Gift off Tradition,” The Genesis of Flight: The Aeronautical History Collection of Colonel Richard Gimbel (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2000), pgs. 1-34.

“Printed Books, 1850-1914,” The Genesis of Flight: The Aeronautical History Collection of Colonel Richard Gimbel (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2000), pgs., 91-147.

Tom D. Crouch, “An Appreciation of Arthur Renstrom,” Renstrom, Goldblatt, Minkus and Berube, Wilbur and Orville Wright: A Bibliography Commemorating the One-Hundredth Anniversary of Powered Flight (Washington, D.C.: NASA, 2003)

“Meeting Wilbur and Orville ,” Air & Space Smithsonian (March 2003)

“Der erste Flug: wer hat ihn wirklich vollbracht?” Luftfahrt (27 Jahrgang, 1/2003(92), pgs. 3-15

“Vision,” First Flight Visions: Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Powered Flight (Lisa Holian Loy: Kitty Hawk, NC, 2003), 1-2.

Blaming Wilbur and Orville and Orville: The Wright Patent Suits and the Growth of American Aviation, The George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Memorial Distinguished Lecture (Richardson, Texas: The University of Texas at Dallas, 2003)

“Der erste Flug: wer hat ihn wirklich vollbracht?” Luftfahrt (27 Jahrgang, 3/2003(92), pgs. 3-5

“The Surly Bonds of Earth: Images of the Landscape in the Work of Some Aviator /Authors, 1910-1969, in Dominick Pisano, The Airplane in American Culture (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003), 20-1-219.

“Why Airplanes Look the Way They Do?” in Anthony Springer, ed., Aerospace Design: Aircraft, Spacecraft, and the Art of Modern Flight (London: Merrill, 2003), 28-37.

“Curator’s Bookshelf,” Museums Washington (Spring/Summer 2004, Vol. 6, No.1), 85.

“Overrated & Underrated-Airplanes,” American Heritage (October 2003), 39-40.

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“Balloons,” “Canals and Waterways,” American Trails, “The Encyclopedia of the New American Nation (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005)

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“Looking forward...looking back,” Aerospace America (January 2006)

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“Robert McCall”

“Norman Rockwell – Suiting Up”

“2001”

“Buck Rogers”—all essays for a volume on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of space flight as seen through the NASM collections

“The Roots of Military Aviation,” and “Col. Joseph Kittinger,” for Dik Daso, U.S. Air Force: A Complete History (Hugh L. Levin, 2006)

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“Aerospace Museums: A Question of Balance,” Curator (vol. 50, No. 1, January 2006), 19-32.

“The Wright Brothers: Pattern for American Aerospace Power,” in. Anthony Cheung, ed., Winged Crusade (Chicago: Impact press, 2006).

“Searching for Amelia,” American Heritage of Invention and Technology (Summer 2007, Vol. 23, No. 1)

“Another First for Wright Brothers National Memorial,” In the Park (Summer 2008)

“Present at Creation,” Air & Space (December 2008)

“Fashion Lighter Than Air,” Air & Space (July 2009), Vol. 24, No. 2, pgs. 14-15.

“Where Do Ailerons Come From?” Air & Space Smithsonian (September 2009), 12.

“A Machine of Practical Utility,” American Heritage (Vol. 59, No. 4, Winter 2010), 68-70.

“A Gift of Art.” Air & Space Smithsonian (March 2010), 17

“A Brave Thing: The Engineers Club or Dayton,” Timeline (July-September 2010), 23-37.

“Life Among the Savidges,” Air & Space Smithsonian (August 2010), 14-15.

“The Oldest Powered Flying Machine?” Air & Space Smithsonian ((September 2010), 12-13.

“Dangerous Crossing,” Air & Space Smithsonian (November 2002), 16-18.

“The Aero Club of Washington: Aviation in the Nation’s Capital, 1908-1924,” Washington History (2010: Vol. 21, No. 1), pg. 36-56.

“Chauffeur of the Skies: Roy Knabenshue and the Gas Bag Era,” Timeline (April-June, 2011), pp. 24-41.

“NASA Art: Fifty Years of Exploration,” Physics Today (August 2011), pp. 42-47.

“Buckeyes Aloft: Ohio People and Places in the History of Flight,” Ohio Aerospace & Defence (Winter 2012)

“Westward Ho! The First Flight From California to Hawaii,” Timelines (April-June 2012, Vol. 29, NO. 2), pgs. 42-53.

“The Katzenjammer Kids Take to the Air,” Air & Space Smithsonian (May 2012), 18-19.

“The Aeronautic Society of New York and the Birth of American Aviation,” New York History (Fall 2011), Vol. 92, No. 4, pgs. 269-289. (winner of Paul S. Kerr Prize)

“Amelia Found?” American Heritage (Summer 2012 (Vol. 62, No. 2). Pgs. 48-55.

#### Web Contributions:

A regular contributor to the NASM Blog

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

## 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 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 many 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

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, <u>Apollo XI: Ten Years Since Tranquility Base</u> (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 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	<u>First Flight</u> 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.

