

QUEST

THE HISTORY OF SPACEFLIGHT QUARTERLY



**The LANYARD
Reconnaissance
Satellite**

**Project Surveyor
and the Hughes
Aircraft Company**

**Zero Gravity in
Early Spaceflight
Thought**

**Interview with
George C. Nield**

**Putting Their
Stamp on the Moon**

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FRONT COVER CAPTION

Blue Origin's launch of the New Shepard rocket on 20 July 2022 in West Texas.

Credit: Blue Origin

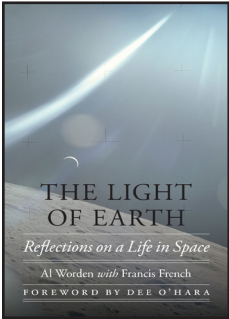
ISSN 1065-7738

The editorial office of *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly* (ISSN 1065-7738) is located at the Space 3.0 Foundation Inc., 6615 Hillandale Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-6424 USA. E-mail quest@spacehistory101.com for information regarding submission of articles or letters to the editor.

Quest is published quarterly, four times per year by SPACE 3.0, a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. Periodical postage paid at Bethesda, Maryland, and additional offices.

Postmaster: Send all inquiries, letters, and address changes to *Quest*, PO Box 5752, Bethesda, MD 20824 USA.

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The Light of Earth: Reflections on a Life in Space

By Al Worden with Francis French

University of Nebraska Press, 2021

ISBN: 978-1-49622865-9

Pages: 184

Price: \$29.95, hardcover

From the title, this is not the book I was expecting to read. It could have been aptly titled, “Final Thoughts and Perspectives.” Released within a year of Worden’s passing, the book is incredibly personal, featuring short stories and thoughts on a range of topics—from how people interacted with him in his post-Apollo life to confronting Moon skeptics to dealing with the death of his wife Jill from cancer. However, much of the book is devoted to recounting his experiences and giving his thoughts about each of the Apollo astronauts...candor you rarely have ever heard, especially from someone intimately involved in the early days of the space program. The book ends with a number of poems he wrote, something Al was always proud of.

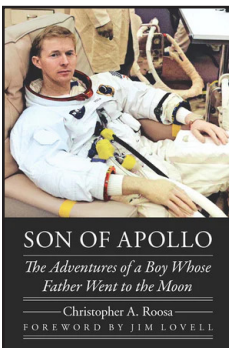
Since the decades when Al Worden flew to the Moon as command module pilot on *Apollo 15*, he published several

books. *Hello Earth: Greetings from Endeavour* was a book of poems published in 1974. His 2011 memoir, *Falling to Earth*, covered in chronological detail his life from West Point graduate, military aviator and instructor, and astronaut at NASA. And it is inside this autobiography he discusses in detail the infamous *Apollo 15* postal cover scandal and where he believed the blame should fall.

In *The Light of Earth*, author and historian Francis French, who also worked with Al Worden on *Falling to Earth*, does a wonderful job of taking Al where most books fear to tread—baring his soul, naming names, and telling short personal stories that others may or may not want to be shared.

Al Worden’s down-to-Earth personality made him a very popular figure at the various astronaut events and charity organizations he was involved in. Anyone interested in better understanding the Apollo-era astronauts and their personalities will find this book to be a fascinating read.

Scott Sacknoff
Bethesda, Maryland



Son of Apollo: The Adventures of a Boy Whose Father Went to the Moon

By Christopher A. Roosa

University of Nebraska Press, 2022

ISBN: 978-1-49623334-9

Pages: 176

Price: \$29.95, hardcover

For many memoirs, the impetus for writing comes when faced with one’s own mortality and a need to record some personal or family history. While on deployment in Afghanistan, his fellow Marines suggested that Christopher Roosa do just that for his young kids. What emerged is the latest title in the University of Nebraska Press space history series.

Much has been written about the astronauts who flew to the Moon during the Apollo program, either by the astronauts themselves or by researchers and historians documenting every aspect of the program and the key player involved in fine detail. In contrast, little exists from the perspectives of

the families—the parents, the spouses, and the children—which is why this book is a welcome addition. Christopher Roosa is the son of Astronaut Stuart Allen Roosa, *Apollo 14*’s Command Module Pilot.

Son of Apollo recounts the Roosa family history including the life of Stu Roosa from his childhood to his career as an Air Force pilot and NASA astronaut as told from the perspective of his oldest son. One such story: “My grandfather...sitting on the back porch, would tell a young Stuart, ‘It’s a big world, Son; get the hell out of Oklahoma.’ He didn’t know then that his advice would lead my father to the Moon.”

About half the book offers anecdotes from his years growing up while his dad was at NASA—more than enough stories to be of interest to space enthusiasts and recommend it to readers of *Quest*.

Scott Sacknoff
Bethesda, Maryland

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THE HISTORY OF SPACEFLIGHT
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www.SpaceHistory101.com



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Publisher: Scott Sacknoff

Editor: Dr. Christopher Gainor

ISSN: 1065-7738

United States

4 issues / 1 Year: \$29.95

8 issues / 2 Years: \$50.00

Canada / Mexico

4 issues / 1 Year: \$34.95

8 issues / 2 Years: \$65.00

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