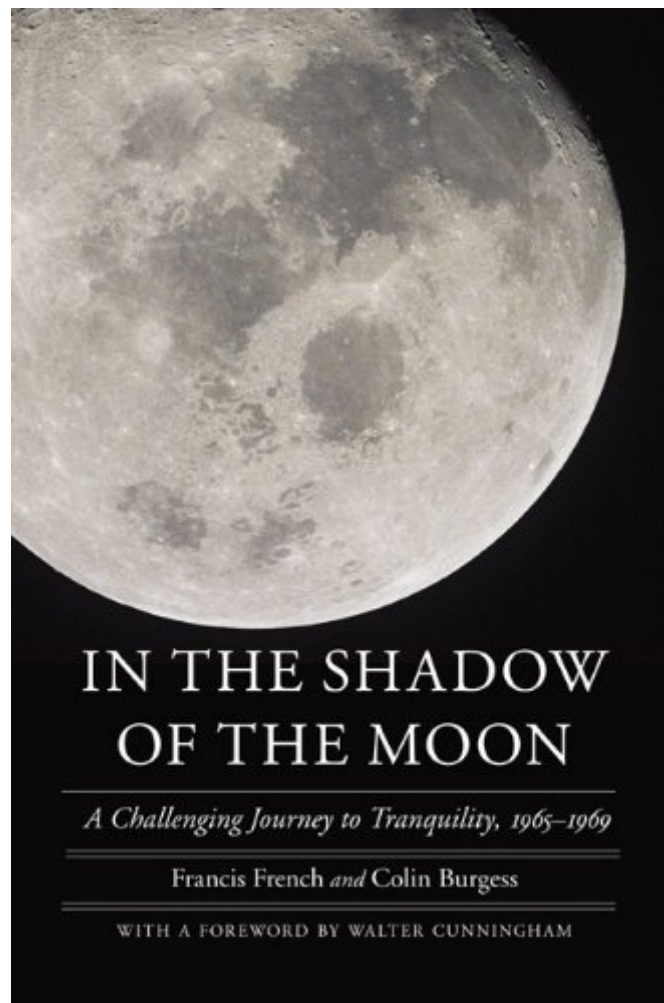


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In The Shadow Of The Moon: A Challenging Journey To Tranquility, 1965-1969 (Outward Odyssey: A People's History Of S) (Outward Odyssey: A People's History Of Spaceflight)





Synopsis

In the Shadow of the Moon tells the story of the most exciting and challenging years in spaceflight, with two superpowers engaged in a titanic struggle to land one of their own people on the moon. Drawing on interviews with astronauts, cosmonauts, their families, technicians, and scientists, as well as rarely seen Soviet and American government documents, the authors craft a remarkable story of the golden age of spaceflight as both an intimate human experience and a rollicking global adventure. From the Gemini flights to the Soyuz space program to the earliest Apollo missions, including the legendary first moon landing, their book draws a richly detailed picture of the space race as an endeavor equally endowed with personal meaning and political significance.

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Customer Reviews

Like its predecessor, this book is a delight. Not only was I glad (or in one instance, devastated) to learn more of the fates of the astronauts from the first book, I greatly enjoyed learning more about the crews which came next. As before, they are presented as real, complex human beings, and it's easy to grow attached to them while reading both the narrative and their own accounts. The authors

really know how to keep you reading! Additionally, there are insights about the moon landing/moon walk which had never occurred to me. I appreciated this new way of seeing the event. The book concludes in a satisfying manner, too, reminding the reader of the progress in space travel over a relatively short amount of time, beginning with Yuri Gagarin. If you read the first book, do be sure to read this one as well. You'll never look at the night sky the same way again.

I am an Apollo veteran, most fortunate to have been on the front line of NASA's Apollo experience at the high-tech "Space Division" plant in Downey, California where every NASA/Apollo spacecraft (CSM & LES) was manufactured, assembled, tested and checked out in a totally "integrated systems dress rehearsal" process with the NASA astronauts on-board operating the controls. No other group at Downey, including NASA, prime contractors or sub-contractor personnel was more "up close and personal" with the completely assembled fully functional spacecraft, as well as with the designated NASA astronaut flight and backup crews than the engineering test teams in the "Spacecraft Checkout Group" of Apollo CSM Test & Operations. While I acknowledge the honor of serving in senior management as the leader of "Spacecraft Checkout," I also hasten to acknowledge with sincere humility that whatever my personal contributions to this successful technical achievement, they only paled in comparison to the over-all contributions of our test teams, of Sr. Test Project Engineering managers, project/design & systems engineers, test conductors, test procedural writers, service & clerical personnel, ground support & quality control personnel, electronic data specialists, test pilots, and the many others who made up the "Spacecraft Checkout Group," ...as well as the contributions of all others who were dedicatedly performing on Apollo; not only those at Downey, but those at all other locations around the globe as well, that numbered in the tens of thousands, ...it was all of their noble efforts that led to the unqualified success of Apollo. Over the past 4 decades I have virtually "SUFFERED" ...while reading or watching accountings of the Apollo program, and even cringed occasionally in utter despair at some of those offerings of sheer speculation, misinformation and "sub-science" fiction. Now in all fairness, they weren't all like that; in fact some were quite good in their presentations. But just recently, I read "IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON, a challenging journey to tranquility, 1965 to 1969," ... by Francis French & Colin Burgess. In reading this book, I found myself living the Apollo Project all over again, ...I mean this book had us "down pat," as is said in reference to accuracy,it wasn't just about the preparation for the missions, ...it was also about the people; the human element behind the preparation, ...the anguish, the thrills, the glory and the despair, ...all told in such a manner that was logical, accurate, believable and straight-forward. Another awesomely noteworthy point in my opinion is their reporting

of various encounters involving the executive hierarchies of NASA and their contractor executives as well as members of the United States Congress. While I personally was not present during those interviews or incidents of which they report in this book, I can honestly report that I actually talked with most of those executives and congress-people during their visits with me for a "how-gozz-it" (status report), while at the same time escorting them around the test areas and control rooms at the Downey facility, ...and in my opinion the book's report of the descriptions of the individual oral expressions and demeanor of those persons were "right on target," and moreover (and also in my opinion), the book was also "right on target" to the real-time technical, personal and political events as reported by the book to have been occurring about the same time of those aforementioned encounters involving those executives and other personnel. To be perfectly clear, there is no intent here on my part to comment or even discuss any of this book's research regarding matters concerning the personal lives of any of our brave astronauts. While certainly interesting and informative now (as discussed here in candid detail by the authors), the personal lives of the astronauts simply were not on "the radar" of most, if not all of the engineers and technicians on our teams. Each of the NASA Apollo astronauts without exception enjoyed a warm relationship with our test teams, and us with them! We looked them in their eyes and told them the spacecraft was ready; upon their own due consideration they ultimately took our word for it, jumped in "and went!" So it's just "plain & simple;" ...they are deserving of the credit, the accolades and the glory! They were then, are now, and always will be our heroes of whom we hold in exceptionally high regard for their courage, bravery and for their personal sacrifices, as well as for their relentless persistence, determination and tenacity to drive on and on; higher and higher and further and further, out through the deep unknown void of space and then return to make Apollo an unqualified success, thereby ultimately rewarding all of us the untold positive technical "fall-out" that even to this day still benefit the quality of human life throughout the world! This book also gave us insight into those of whom we considered to be our adversaries at that time; the Russians. No matter what anyone may hear or say to the contrary, we were in a space race ...a "knock-down-drag-out" race to the moon, which we ultimately won. But as much as the triumph of our winning, this book also gave us an interestingly human look at the Russian Cosmonauts and those in support of their missions; their triumphs and their failures, their personal anguishes and concerns. Indeed, the book gave us cause to consider the humanity of those brave Russian space veterans as well as that of our own. I am really impressed, and I must say I was glued to every page of the book, and I truly thank the co-authors for giving us Apollo space veterans a worthwhile accounting and summary of that very special part of our lives. The accuracy and overall quality of this book ... "IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON, a

challenging journey to tranquility, 1965 to 1969," ... by Francis French & Colin Burgess, suggests that the authors left the comforts of their offices and ventured out to "beat the bushes" to get these interviews and reports. This is a quality product, and for the purposes of avoiding confusion or doubt, I strongly and most sincerely recommend this book to anyone interested in APOLLO, or for that matter, in general aerospace. I certify with responsibility that I, or to the best of my knowledge anyone else; have neither requested or been offered any compensation in any form whatsoever for this book review, nor is any sought or expected. Sincerely, and always for aerospace Norm Casson

I've read almost all the astronaut books. In *The Shadow Of The Moon* by Francis French and Colin Burgess is a great book describing the Gemini flights and the Apollo flights and the astronauts that manned them. This is one of the very best books on the period of Gemini and Apollo flights. Lots of true stories, mission information and interesting tidbits and stories from wife's, girl friends and support personal as well as the astronauts and cosmonauts themselves. Mission control is also mentioned. There is a chapter on the what the Soviets were doing during that period in the space race. Their successes and failures are highlighted. It's nice seeing the actual quotations and stories from the astronauts. The book is well written, a pleasure to read and logically well laid out. It's obvious much time and research was taken in writing this book. This is a top notch book written by top professionals. A nice reference section for you to get lots more information and different books and periodicals. Just look at all the reviews . ALL 5 stars. For me it was nice learning a little more about Roger Chaffee and some of his stories. Do yourself a favor and make sure you read the Epilogue. It gives you hopefully a degree of optimism that even though the space program has declined after Apollo, mankind will eventually continue to the moon again and beyond. A wonderful space/astronauts book. One of the very best! 5 stars

I have read many, many books on the history of NASA, the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space programs and this is definitely one of the better ones available. It covers the lead up to the moon landing, what the Russians were doing and how that affected some of the decisions made by NASA (although "Flight" by Chris Kraft contradicts some of the statements made in the book), the astronaut training, testing etc. It's basically everything you wanted to know about the moon landing and how NASA got there in a very easy to read and enjoyable book. Recommended.

I really loved this book! French and Burgess really illuminated the personalities and stories concerning the race to the Moon on both the U.S. and Soviet sides. For me, a big highlight was that

Donn Eisele's story was FINALLY told. As a longtime spacer, Eisele remained an enigma to me. Indeed, he was (sarcastically) summed up as "Who?" in Mike Collins' masterpiece, *Carrying the Fire*. This book gave me a better idea of what kind of person he was during his Apollo 7 mission and his lifetime. In addition, the Soyuz 4/Soyuz 5 story was amazing. While I knew a bit about the calamitous circumstances involving Soyuz 5's reentry, this book REALLY detailed it. There are obviously more highlights in this book, but if you're a space fan, this promises eye-opening vignettes about the Golden Era of spaceflight. Much recommended.

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