

AHS History Committee – Meeting Minutes

May 3rd, 2007, 12:30 pm, Virginia Beach, VA

In attendance:

- Members: Bruce Charnov
Roger Connor
Mike Hirschberg
W. Todd Hughes
Prof. J. Gordon Leishman
Tim Naumowicz
Jason Pereira
Ray Prouty
- Guests: Bradley Johnson (Univ. of Maryland, College Park)
Wolfgang Gessler (ex-DLR)
Bob Houston (ex-NASA)

Plans for AHS Forum 64, Montreal, 2008:

The consensus is to have both a History session, and also, on the day before the Forum actually starts (Monday), a panel discussion during the first half of the day, a film festival during the second half (2-3 hours long), and some sort of social event in the evening, possibly combining the latter two events into one. The best videos could also be shown again at the Forum Banquet.

Panel discussion:

- Hughes volunteered to take charge of organizing the panel. Houston and Prouty will help.

Film festival:

- Connor and Charnov will take responsibility for the Film Festival.
- Include a call for videos (CFV) in the call for papers.
- The “abstract” for the video will be a detailed written description of the video clip – length, description of content, etc.
- The videos can be any length – no set time will be specified in the CFV (?).
- The videos will be assembled into a continuous montage for viewing at the film festival. Since this will have to be done before the Forum, the “authors” cannot be allowed to “hand-carry” their videos.
- Naumowicz has a 16mm film converting machine that can digitize any video clips submitted in that format.

Call for papers:

- For Forum 64, an international flavor is desired in the papers.
- The Best History Paper award should be mentioned in the CFP.
- Hirschberg will write the History Committee’s CFP.
- (Also see points covered under “Film Festival” for matters regarding a Call for Videos.)

- Charnov will author a paper on why the popular helicopter movement did not take off in Gt. Britain and other countries, the way that it did in the US.

Other committee projects:

1. *History Committee website:*

- The website's address will be www.helicopter-history.com. The space for the website has been rented from godaddy.com.
- Connor has hired a student intern from George Mason U. to develop the website. Development on it will start within the next month.
- A desired feature is that AHS members will have access to more content on the website than regular viewers (this would be an incentive for viewers to join the Society).
- It is desired that the website be interactive: Viewers can ask questions that the committee can answer and post online for other viewers to read as well.
- [Do not want it to be like www.helis.com.]

2. *History Committee calendar:*

- Charnov and Kenneth Bartie have assumed responsibility.
- The format needs to be decided, whether January-to-December or Forum-to-Forum.
- Once the layout/format has been decided upon, the turnaround time on printing can be accomplished quickly.

3. *Digitization of Liberatore Handbooks (Hirschberg):*

- Two boxes of handbooks – original handbooks given to the AHS archives by Liberatore himself – were sent for digitizing. One of the boxes got lost in the mail, and has not yet been located.
- Approximate cost to AHS for the digitization project: \$1000.00.

4. *Oral history project (Hughes):*

- Rhett Flater has okayed the [consent?] forms.
- Hughes would be interviewing Bob Houston after the meeting.
- Ken Rosen was suggested as another possible subject for an oral history video recording.
- Hughes will contact Matt Zaccaro, director of HAI (for what?)

Other matters:

- Charnov was recognized for being the first-ever recipient of the Best History Paper award, which was first awarded at this year's AHS Forum.
- The next History Committee meeting will be held in September 2007 at the American Helicopter Museum in Brandywine/West Chester, PA.