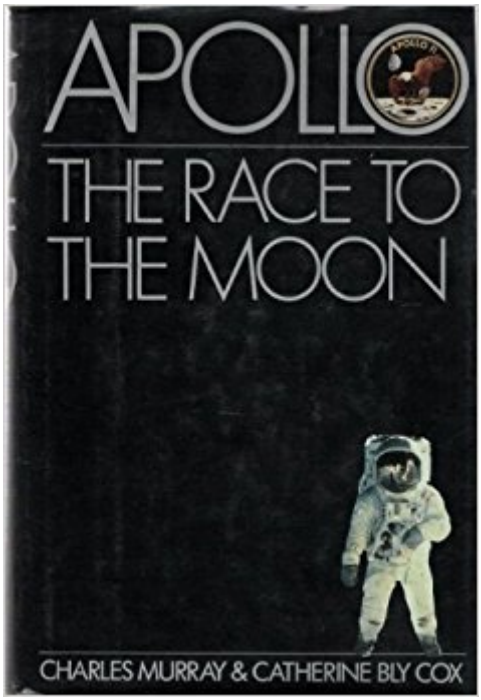
Apollo: The Race To The Moon



Synopsis

From Publishers Weekly "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon," said President Kennedy on May 25, 1961. Eight years and eight weeks later, astronaut Neil Armstrong took his "one small step for man, one giant step for mankind." Murray (Losing Ground) and Cox, his wife, tell the absorbing story of how that goal was reached, mostly from the point of view of the managers and scientists who made it happen. They trace the design and development of successive spacecraft and boosters, explain how liquid-fueled rocket engines, guidance systems and other components work, and reveal the managerial controversies and technical improvisations that enabled the program to proceed despite serious setbacks. The setbacks are covered in depth; for example, the 1967 ground-test fire in which Gus Grissom and two other astronauts were asphyxiated, and the crisis during Apollo 13's return from the moon when there was a possibility that the astronauts in the space capsule might orbit the earth forever, "a perpetual monument to the space program." Photos. Macmillan Book Clubs alternate. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Book Information

Hardcover: 506 pages
Publisher: Simon & Schuster (July 1989)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0671611011
ISBN-13: 978-0671611019
Package Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.3 x 1.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds
Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #806,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #436 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Aerospace > Astronautics & Space Flight #447 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Engineering > Aeronautical Engineering #1080 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Aeronautics & Astronautics

Customer Reviews

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon," said President Kennedy on May 25, 1961. Eight years and eight weeks later, astronaut Neil Armstrong took his "one small step for man, one giant step for mankind." Murray (Losing Ground) and Cox, his wife, tell the absorbing story of how that goal was reached,

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I am going to comment on the photographs in the book. There is an amazing picture of the Saturn V with the caption:"'Nope, there's no scale.' This may help: On the road beside the crawler is a large fire truck- almost too small to be picked up in this enlargement. The laun ch vehicle is the first Saturn V, A.S. -501, on its way from the V.A.B. to Pad 39." no page numbers.This book also has the picture of von Braun next to the business end of one of the F-1 engines.Also there is a diagram of the Saturn V with it's proper sections, including the "service propulsion engine nozzle" of the service module, which propelled the astronauts back home to Earth in the command module, which is the only part of the Saturn V that returned to Earth.

At the end of this book, you will want to read it again . . . and again. It is a totally unique history of the most important event in the human race for the last 50 years. I was an eyewitness to many of the events of the space age, and personally saw many of the Apollo-Saturn launches. The story is told through the people, and you will find these stories and their unique details nowhere else - George Muller's decisive "all-up" decision that was crucial in winning the race; the incredible software change decision just days before the Apollo 11 launch that almost ended the mission in failure; the providential simulation of the 1201 computer flashes that enabled Mission Control to overcome the software change glitch; John Aaron's save of Apollo 12 after two lightning strikes; the wonderful and detailed root cause analysis of the Apollo 13 O2 tank explosion. You will not find a better or more gripping history anywhere. This book is a treasure, and leaves you with the decided impression that it just touches the tip of the iceberg, and wish we had more!

Bought as a birthday present for my dad, who is a huge space nut. He says he's really enjoying it and learning new stuff from it! (That's a surprise; I wouldn't have thought there would be much one

book could say that he wouldn't know already.) The book has a lot of material based on interviews with the engineers who made the Apollo program happen.A great choice for any science-minded person with an interest in the moon landing.

Great stories. You would have thought NASA had all the high tech equipment they needed but like any project much was done on the fly. Very little was known about the problems they would face going to the Moon. These people made assumptions about design and processes that sometimes was nothing more than gut feel. Decisions had to made and they made the boldly.

Great book. Beautifully written history of the political, management and engineering history of the US space program. This is not a detailed history of astronauts or missions. Pair this title with A Man on the Moon by Andrew Chaikin for astronaut and mission history. Combined you have the definitive history of US space history through the Apollo program in two books.

This was a used book, purchased for a friend. The book arrived in the shape described, in the time period promised, for a very good price. Can't ask for more than that. This is probably the best book I've read on the Apollo program. Its the story of the engineers that made it happen. Technically interesting (I'm an engineer in the space program and I've probably read this book five times now) but also a good narrative. The authors know how to tell a good story. Highly recommended!

Just a superb read about the Apollo program from its earliest time up through the landings. Extremely well researched and written in a great fashion....weaves a wonderful narrative of our Nation's greatest scientific endeavor.

Fantastic book and the authoritative treatment of the engineers and management staff behind the race to the moon.I've read it more than once. If you're interested in the subject matter, get it immediately.

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