

Blazing the Trail

The Early History of Spacecraft and Rocketry

Mike Gruntman

AIAA, Reston, Va., 2004

ISBN 156347705X; 978-1563477058

505 pages with 340 figures

Index: 2750+ entries, including 650 individuals

This book presents the fascinating story of the events that paved the way to space. It introduces the reader to the history of early rocketry and the subsequent developments which led into the space age. People of various nations and from various lands contributed to the breakthrough to space, and the book takes the reader to faraway places on five continents.

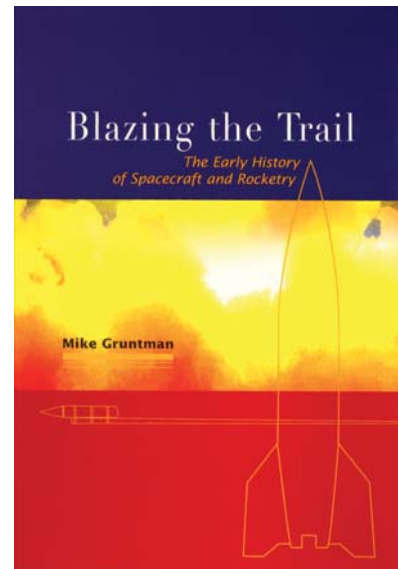
This world-encompassing view of the realization of the space age reflects the author's truly unique personal experience, a life journey from a child growing up on the Tyuratam launch base in the 1950s and early 1960s, to an accomplished space physicist and engineer to the founding director of a major U.S. nationally recognized program in space engineering in the heart of the American space industry.

Most publications on the topic either target narrow aspects of rocket and spacecraft history or are popular books that scratch the surface, with minimal and sometimes inaccurate technical details.

This book bridges the gap. It is a one-stop source of numerous technical details usually unavailable in popular publications. The details are not overbearing and anyone interested in rocketry and space exploration will navigate through the book without difficulty. The book also includes many quotes to give readers a flavor of how the participants viewed the developments. There are 340 figures and photographs, many appearing for the first time.

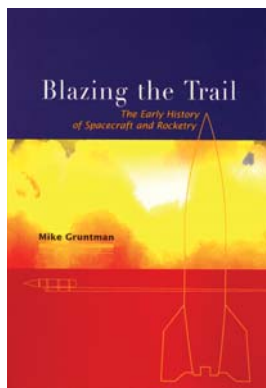
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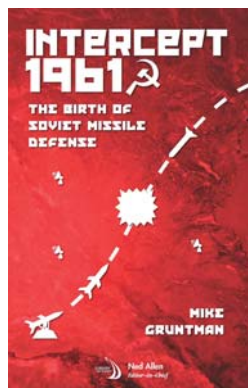
About the author. Dr. Mike Gruntman is professor of astronautics at the University of Southern California. An accomplished physicist, Mike is actively involved in research and development programs in space science and space technology. He has authored and co-authored more than 300 scholarly publications, including 6 books.



Winner of the Luigi Napolitano Award (2006) from the International Academy of Astronautics

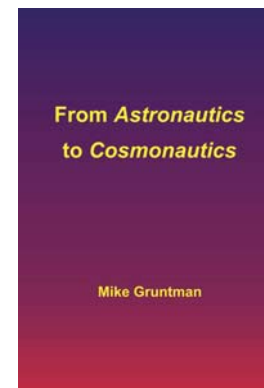
Mike Gruntman, *Blazing the Trail: The Early History of Spacecraft and Rocketry*, AIAA, Reston, Va., 2004

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475 pages, 340 figures, 250+ references



Mike Gruntman, *Intercept 1961. The Birth of Soviet Missile Defense*, AIAA, Reston, Va., 2015

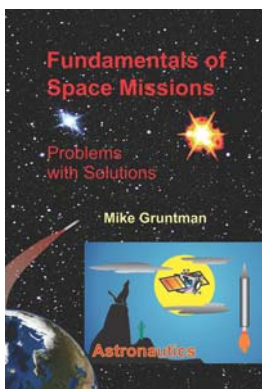
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Nominated for the Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award (2007) of the American Astronautical Society

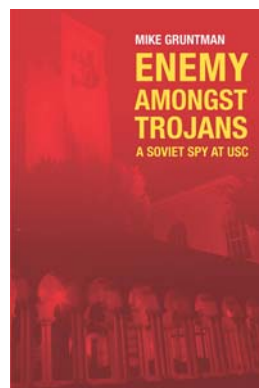
Mike Gruntman, *From Astronautics to Cosmonautics*. Space Pioneers Robert Esnault-Pelterie and Ary Sternfeld, Booksurge, North Charleston, S.C., 2007

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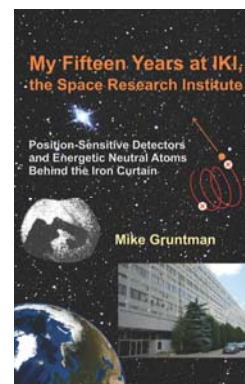
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Mike Gruntman, *Enemy Amongst Trojans. A Soviet Spy at USC* (a WWII story), Figueroa Press, Los Angeles, Calif., 2010

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