

**Tom D. Crouch**  
**6135 Stonepath Circle**  
**Centreville, Virginia 20120**

**Telephone**  
**Work: 202-633-2635**  
**Fax: 202-786-2447**  
**e-mail: [croucht@si.edu](mailto:croucht@si.edu)**

Tom Crouch is Senior Curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum. A Smithsonian employee since 1974, he has served both the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) and the National Museum of American History (NMAH) in a variety of curatorial and administrative posts. Prior to coming to the Smithsonian he was employed by the Ohio Historical Society as director of education (1969-1973) and as Director, Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Commission. (1973-1974).

Tom Crouch holds a BA (1962) from Ohio University, an MA (1968) from Miami University and a Ph.D. (1976) from the Ohio State University. All of his degrees are in history. In addition, he holds the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, conferred in June 2001 by the Wright State University.

He is the author or editor of a number of books and many articles for both popular magazines and scholarly journals. Most of his work has been on aspects of the history of flight technology. Crouch's leading books include: The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright (New York: W.W. Norton, 1989); Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America (Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983); Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age (NY: W.W. Norton, 2003); Bleriot XI: The Story of a Classic Airplane (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1982); A Dream of Wings: Americans and the Airplane, 1875-1905 (New York: W.W. Norton, Inc., 1981); The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (New York: Chelsea House, 1987); Apollo: Ten Years Since Tranquillity Base (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1979); Charles Lindbergh: An American Life (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977). The Giant Leap: Ohio Aerospace Events and Personalities, 1815-1969 (Columbus, O: The Ohio Historical Society, 1971).

Tom Crouch has won a number of major writing awards, including the history book prizes offered by both the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Aviation/Space Writers Association. He received a 1989 Christopher Award, a literary prize recognizing "significant artistic achievement in support of the highest values of the human spirit," for The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright. His book, Wings: A History of Aviation From Kites to the Space Age, won the AIAA Gardner-Lasser Literature Prize for 2005, an award presented to the best book selected in that year from all books in the field of aerospace history published in the last five years.

Throughout his career, Dr. Crouch has played a major role in planning museum exhibitions. He was involved in planning exhibitions for the Neil Armstrong Museum, Wapakoneta, Ohio; the Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio; and both the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of American History.

In the fall of 2000, President Clinton appointed Dr. Crouch to the Chairmanship of the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board, an organization created to advise the Centennial of Flight Commission on activities planned to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of powered flight.

Tom Crouch has been married to the former Nancy Anne Gochenouer for more than forty years. They are the parents of three grown children.