

lost. But the point is, the author sees all my changes in the manuscript before it goes to the printer. I hope this will be of help to some editors.

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Air Force: Reconstructed History

As Theodore von Karman's collaborator in writing his autobiography (which will be published this fall by Little, Brown under the title *The Wind and Beyond*), I was in a position to cover some of the same ground surveyed by Greenberg in his review of *Science and the Air Force* ("News and Comment," 16 June, p. 1463). One finds that history reconstructed entirely from documents may be quite different from history as told by one of the leading participants.

For instance, while I am sure that after World War II university scientists overran the Air Force in search for support, as Greenberg states, the actual marriage between university research and the Air Force was initially inspired by the Air Force itself, through the vision of General "Hap" Arnold. Several years before U.S. entry into World War II, Arnold sought out von Karman and his small group of amateur rocketeers at Caltech and helped them launch what was to become the nation's first important military research program in rocketry. In 1944 Arnold also asked von Karman to peer into the technological future and set down the steps he considered necessary to maintain U.S. air supremacy. Out of this came a report *Toward New Horizons* which guided Air Force thinking in scientific areas for a good many years. This doesn't mean that the report recommendations were adopted without struggle. Von Karman describes some difficulties within the Air Force in obtaining support for research (all research, not just basic research). But his emphasis lies in explaining how the Air Force gained greater respect for science and scientists—fostered by certain events, such as the Korean War which demonstrated the effectiveness of the F-86—a fighter plane that was developed from information based on captured Luftwaffe data of early German aeronautical research in jet aircraft.

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