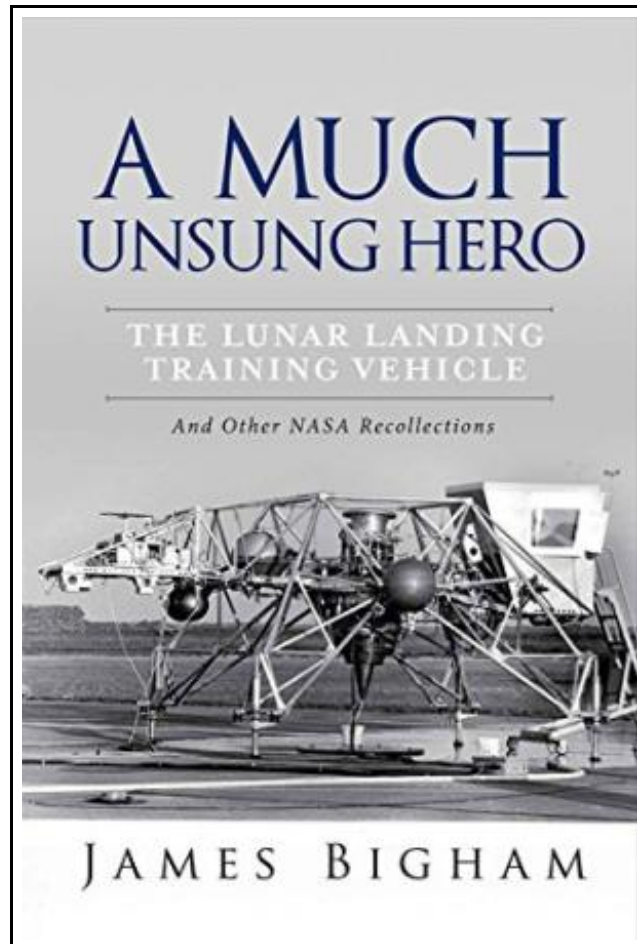


A Much Unsung Hero, the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle



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BookBaby, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Our nation's landing on the moon will certainly be recorded in history as one of mankind's great achievements. Initially there was a significant difference within NASA as to how the landing should be performed. Bob Gilruth, the Johnson Space Center's director (at the time the Manned Spacecraft Center), and particularly Chris Kraft, head of its Mission Operations, felt the landing should be fully automated with manual backup. The astronauts on the other hand were of one opinion that the Lunar Module's landing had to be manually flown by its pilot. This issue and its resolution is revealed in *A Much Unsung Hero*. The title comes from Neil Armstrong's biography, *First Man* where astronaut Bill Anders is quoted as characterizing the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle as a much unsung hero of the Apollo Program. Given the moon's gravity, one sixth that of earth, and its lack of atmosphere, it was recognized this would result in a significant difference in the control characteristics of the Lunar Module compared to those on earth, and that the LM had to be of a vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) design. This meant that to maneuver, the LM had to be tilted back and forth and/or side to side by its rocket-powered attitude control system. But because of the reduced gravity, the lift of its descent engine would be only about one-sixth of that on earth. This would result in a significant slower response that could lead dangerously to over control by the pilot. It was because of this, that led Gilruth and Kraft to believe the landing should be fully automated. They considered existing LM simulators to be sufficient training for...

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