The Lunar Voyage From the 17th Century to the Present

The Apollo 11 mission landed on the Moon on July 20, 1969. This list, showcasing Lunar travel in fact and fiction from Lucian to the present, has been compiled to honor this event.

The mechanics of space travel were secondary to the object of satire in most of the early interplanetary voyages. In the 19th century, writers like Chrysostom Trueman (i.e. H. Cowen), George Tucker and Jules Verne added more seemingly realistic technical methods of travel to their stories of space exploration, especially the use of anti-gravity metal, a popular method of propulsion into the 20th century. The rocket experiments conducted by Robert H. Goddard in America and scientists in Russia, England and Germany led to the perfection of the liquid fuel rocket engine, most notably used in the German V-2 rocket bomb in World War II. After the war, rockets launched satellites, animals and, ultimately, humans into space. The Lunar fiction by Jules Verne, Kurd Lasswitz, H. G. Wells, Otto Willi Gail, Arthur C. Clarke, Robert A. Heinlein, and others inspired and influenced the scientists who made mankind’s dream to reach the Moon a reality.

Lloyd Currey and John Knott specialize in popular fiction. This selection from our stock emphasizes Lunar fiction, and we also have an extensive inventory of space travel within our solar system and beyond, as well as early nonfiction works on rocketry and space travel.

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Lucian of Samosata. **CERTAINE SELECT DIALOGUES OF LUCIAN: TOGETHER WITH HIS TRUE HISTORIE**, Translated from the Greeke into English by Mr Francis Hickes. Whereunto is Added the Life of Lucian Gathered Out of His Owne Writings, with Briefe Notes and Illustrations Upon Each Dialogue and Booke, by T. H. Mr of Arts of Christ-Church in Oxford. Oxford: Printed by William Turner, 1634. Small quarto, pp. [1-8] [1-8] 1-196; collates A4-I4, K4-T4, V4, X4-Z4, A4-C4, modern black buckram. First Hickes edition of the DIALOGUES and first edition in English of Lucian’s “True Historie.” Includes "Lucian His True Historie" and "Icaromenippus, or the Loftie Traveller" (also known as "Above the Clouds"), as well as other fantastic dialogues and pieces. Lucian’s "Veriae Historiae," dating from the 2nd century A.D., is the "...earliest surviving interplanetary romance; a satire in which a sailing ship’s crew is carried by a whirllwind to an inhabited moon." - Locke, Voyages in Space 002. Lucian is a major proto figure for fantasy, not only for his "True Historie," but also for "Icaromenippus" and other fantastic dialogues and pieces collected here. Lucian "was one of the first great fantasists, producing material that was knowingly fiction, satirizing the old gods but using supernatural plot devices. His most important works were his Dialogues, a form he derived from Plato (427-347 BC); they have been imitated by scores of writers from the 15th century on ... His Menippus sequence, ‘Menippus’ (also known as ‘Necyomantia’) and ‘Icaromenippus’, shows an old philosopher endeavouring to discover the meaning and realities of life, first through discussions with the dead in the underworld and then with the gods on Olympus ... In ‘Charon’ the ferryman over the Styx leaves the underworld to explore life. It is perhaps Lucian’s most expressive form of reverse perception, again highlighting the pettiness of humanity ... Others of Lucian’s Dialogues are more philosophical than fantastic, although in ‘Gallo’ ['The Cock;' also known as ‘The Dream’] a cobbler is rendered invisible by a cock’s magic tail feathers so he can spy on the rich and discover they are less happy than he ... Lucian’s most famous work is ‘Veriae Historiae’ ['True History'], which takes its intrepid voyagers to the Moon and past the Sun as well as to many distant islands; it is a parody of the travellers’ tales that were already multitudinous in Lucian’s day ... Lucian’s works were translated into Latin by Erasmus (1466-1536) and later writers, and were a significant influence on Francois Rabelais, Sir Thomas More (1478-1535), Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-1655), Jonathan Swift and others.” - Clute and Grant (eds), The Encyclopedia of Fantasy (1997). pp. 597-98. "The Lucianic Dialogue of greatest science fiction interest is the 'Icaromenippus,' in which Menippus ... acquires a pair of wings and flies first to the Moon ... and second to Olympus ... Though less important, the prose fictions are vital proto science fiction. The 'True History' -- taking off from the numerous unlikely travellers' tales that proliferated at the time -- is an extremely enjoyable and frequently scatological debunking exercise ... With regard to fantasy and the spirit of romance, the 'True History' is detumescent. Its influence extends to Francois Rabelais and Jonathan Swift ... Lucian is vital to that somewhat problematic line of descent of prose fictions which leads eventually to what we might legitimately think of as science fiction proper. Though he has often been misunderstood as being himself a romancer, he was in fact a consistent (and often savage) debunker of the idiom and ideals of romance. His attitude to the fantastic voyages of his supposed descendants would not have been that of the typical proud father." - Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (1993), p. 740. Bleiler, Science-Fiction: The Early Years 1377. Howgego, Encyclopedia of Exploration: Invented and Apocryphal Narratives of Travel L50. Nicolson, Voyages to the Moon, pp. 14-5. STC 16893. Ley, Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel (1951), pp. 9-11. Hoffmann II, 564. Text block darkened, small rust hole in C1 slightly affecting several letters of text, small chips from lower inner corners of leaves Aa1-Aa4, no text affected, overall a very good copy. A desirable and rare edition of the DIALOGUES; only one copy (this one) has sold at public auction during the last thirty-five years. (#153212) (24319) $6500.00

Kepler, Johannes. **SOMNIUM, SEU OPUS POSTHUMUM DE ASTRONOMIA LUNARI. DIVULGATUM À M. LUDOVICO KEPLERO FILIO, MEDICINAE CANDIDATO.** Sagan and Frankfurt: Sumptibus haeredum authoris, 1634 Small quarto (196 x 151 mm), two parts in one volume: pp. [1-4] 1-182 [183-184], title within typographical border, 6 woodcut diagrams in the text, woodcut head and tail pieces, modern full calf binding by Atelier Laurencet. First edition. A virtually unobtainable edition of a highly important early imaginary voyage to the Moon. "The 'Dream' is a curiously interesting tract for two reasons. First, its fantasy framework of a voyage to the Moon made it a pioneering and remarkably prescient piece of science fiction. Second, its perceptive description of celestial motions as seen from the Moon produced an ingenious polemic on behalf of the Copernican system." - DSB. The final part is Kepler's translation of, and commentary on, Plutarch's fantasy on the face of the Moon (see
Nicolson, pp. 16-7). Kepler wrote SOMNIUM in 1609, circulating it in manuscript form, after which he amended and added to it, but the work was not published until after his death in 1630. "Around 1611, Kepler circulated a manuscript of what would eventually be published posthumously as SOMNIUM (A Dream), part of the purpose of which was to describe what practicing astronomy would be like from the prospective of another planet, and to demonstrate the feasibility of a non-geocentric system. The first version of SOMNIUM, a thesis rejected by the University of Tübingen in 1593, was shelved until 1609 when Kepler worked on developing it into its final form, a dream narrative with additional material on lunar geography. It was never published at the time, and during the 1620s Kepler, appreciating that it was too succinct and in need of further development, added 223 footnotes explaining the background theoretical physics and astronomy which expanded the text to several times its original length. He also included an essay on lunar geography with explanatory notes. Kepler died in 1630 and the compound manuscript was prepared for publication by his son Ludwig, together with Kepler's translation of Plutarch's 'The Face in the Moon' ... Kepler's SOMNIUM was first published at Frankfurt in 1634 ... The work remained little known for three centuries and was not reissued in the original Latin until 1969. It was never published at the time, and during the 1620s Kepler, appreciating that it was too succinct and in need of further development, added 223 footnotes explaining the background theoretical physics and astronomy which expanded the text to several times its original length. He also included an essay on lunar geography with explanatory notes. Kepler died in 1630 and the compound manuscript was prepared for publication by his son Ludwig, together with Kepler's translation of Plutarch's 'The Face in the Moon' ... Kepler's SOMNIUM was first published at Frankfurt in 1634 ... The work remained little known for three centuries and was not reissued in the original Latin until 1969. It was first rendered into English in 1947 by Joseph Keith Lane as a thesis for a Master of Arts degree at Columbia University. This was never published. A partial translation of the basic document was made by Everett Bleiler in 1950, but it was not until 1965 that the first complete translation by Patricia Kirkwood was published by the University of California. The subsequent translation and commentary by Edward Rosen (1967, 2003), with its copious notes and introduction, is now regarded as definitive." - Howgego, Encyclopedia of Exploration: Invented and Apocryphal Narratives of Travel K2. "Ironically enough, the best of all supernatural voyages to the Moon was written by a great scientist. Kepler's SOMNIUM marks at once the end and the beginning of an era. No important later voyage will employ so fully the supernatural, yet none will be more truly 'scientific' than that 'Dream,' which was the fons et origo of the new genre, a chief source of cosmic voyages for three centuries." - Nicolson, Voyages to the Moon, pp. 41-7. "... Kepler's SOMNIUM has been very important in the early history of fantastic fiction." - Bleiler, Science-Fiction: The Early Years 1218. Anatomy of Wonder (1976) 1-22; (1981) 1-109; (1987) 1-54; (1995) 1-54; and (2004) II-590. Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (1993), p. 662. Ley, Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel (1951), pp. 14-18. Versins, p. 493. First two leaves (title leaf and dedication leaf) affixed to stubs, dedication leaf closely trimmed, just touching letters on first line, margins of two leaves professionally repaired, faint old stamp on blank verso of title leaf, a very good copy overall. Enclosed in a custom quarter leather clamshell box. (#157025) (24307) $65,000.00

[Wilkins, John.] THE FIRST BOOK. THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW WORLD OR, A DISCOURSE TENDING TO PROVE THAT 'TIS PROBABLE THERE MAY BE ANOTHER HABITABLE WORLD IN THE MOONE. WITH A DISCOURSE CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A PASSAGE THITHER. The Third Impression. Corrected and Enlarged ... London: Printed for John Norton for John Maynard, and are to be sold at the George in Fleet Street, neere St. Dunstons Church, 1640 [with] DISCOURSE CONCERNING A NEW PLANET. TENDING TO PROVE THAT 'TIS PROBABLE OUR EARTH IS ONE OF THE PLANETS. THE SECOND BOOKE, Now First Published ... London: Printed by R. H. for John Maynard, and are to be sold at the George in Fleet Street, neere S. Dunstans Church, 1640. Small octavo, two volumes in one: pp. [1-8] [1] 2-242 [243: errata] [244: blank]; [1-16] 1-246 [247: blank] [248: errata]. Collates A4, B-18, K-Q8, R2; aa8, B-I8, K-Q8, R4, frontispiece, woodcut illustrations and diagrams in the text, contemporary calf, rebacked, black leather title piece affixed to spine panel, edges stained red. First complete edition. Wilkins's first book, THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW WORLD, first published in 1638, was one of the most important works of modern "popular science" and a major influence on proto science fiction. This 1640 edition is the first to print the expanded text containing the additional discourse on flying, an enlargement of brief passages on the same subject in the first edition. "Wilkins's work on lunar inhabitants and interplanetary travel had a greater influence on literature than on science. With the possible exception of Fontenelle's CONVERSATIONS ON THE PLURALITY OF WORLDS, which was itself based on Wilkins's publications, THE DISCOVERY was the chief source of the wide literary currency given these ideas. The late seventeenth and early eighteenth century witnessed an outburst of plays and poems based on the idea of a plurality of worlds and lunar flights. Many of these treatments can be traced directly or indirectly to Wilkins." - Barbara Shapiro, John Wilkins 1614-1672: An Intellectual Biography (1969), p. 35. "Widely read in the literature of
science, Wilkins was equally well read in Lucianic fantasy and in the philosophy from which the cosmic voyage grew. His DISCOVERY is one of the first important books of modern 'popular science' ... With the romances of Kepler and Godwin, Wilkins' DISCOVERY established the conventions of the Moon voyage for more than a century. There is no one of the full-length English voyages that did not draw from it, and it seems to have been as familiar to romancers on the continent." - Nicolson, Voyages to the Moon, pp. 93-5. "In any case whatever view be taken as to the character of the writings of Wilkins on flight in general, it is clear that those writings were widely read, and that his ideas on flight were, in his own day and for long after, the subject of countless discussions." - Hodgson, The History of Aeronautics in Great Britain, p. 75. Bailey, Pilgrims Through Space and Time, p. 18. Fortunati and Trousson, eds., Dictionary of Literary Utopias, pp. 173-74. Howgego, Encyclopedia of Exploration: Invented and Apocryphal Narratives of Travel W12. Locke, Voyages in Space 003. STC 25641. In this copy leaves "aa" and "aa2" [the 'propositions' for the first book] and R2 [the errata leaf] are bound after the preface ['To the Reader'] where logically they belong. There is a tiny red stamp of the "Royal Society" on the recto of A4 [Wilkins was an early member of the Royal Society]. There is some foxing to the frontispiece, title leaf, and errata leaf of part two and a tiny chip from the lower fore-edge corner of leaf "aa," but overall the text is in excellent condition. The binding, worn and rubbed, has been professionally refurbished. A very nice copy with the frontispiece engraved by William Marshall depicting Copernicus and Galileo beneath a chart of the solar system with the sun at its center not present in some copies. Enclosed in a custom quarter leather rounded back clamshell box. (#160253) (24353) $4500.00

Cyrano de Bergerac, Savinien. THE COMICAL HISTORY OF THE STATES AND EMPIRES OF THE WORLDS OF THE MOON AND SUN. Written in French by Cyrano Bergerac. And newly Englished by A. Lovell, A.M. London: Printed for Henry Rhodes, next door to the Swan-Tavern, near Bride-Lane, in Fleet-Street, 1687. Octavo, two parts in one volume [as issued]: pp. [1-8] 1-140 [141-142: blank] [1-2] 1-206 [207: errata] [208: blank], engraved frontispiece by F. H. van Hove, eighteenth-century calf, front, spine and rear panels tooled in gold, black leather spine label titled in gold, inner dentelles, all edges gilt, marbled endpapers. First combined edition in English of Cyrano's HISTOIRE COMIQUE DES ETATS ET EMPIRES DE LA LUNE (1657) and HISTOIRE COMIQUE DES ETATS ET EMPIRES DU SOLEIL (1662). This is also the first edition in English of HISTOIRE ... DU SOLEIL (1662). The Moon voyage was written before 1650, probably in 1648 or 1649, and was circulated in manuscript prior to publication in 1657, two years after Cyrano's death. The published version was censored (to tone down the heretical elements) by Cyrano's friend Henri le Bret. Neither of the two seventeenth-century English-language translations (the other was a translation of the Moon voyage by Thomas St. Serf published in 1659) represent Cyrano. "In the early twentieth century two manuscripts of the lunar voyage surfaced, offering Cyrano's own text, which is far superior to Le Bret's. These manuscripts, which differ only in occasional details, have served as the basis for the Aldington and Strachan translations." - Bleiler, Science-Fiction: The Early Years 542. The manuscript of the voyage to the Sun is lost, and the only extant version is the possibly corrupt text first published in LE NOUVELLES OEUVRES DE MONSIEUR DE CYRANO BERGERAC (Paris: Charles de Sercy, 1662). Cyrano's HISTOIRE COMIQUE is one of the earliest classics of science fiction and was historically important in the development of the lunar voyage. "... the most brilliant of all seventeenth-century parodies of the cosmic voyage." - Nicolson, Voyages to the Moon, p. 159. "Cyrano's ingenious mixture of science and romance has furnished a model for many subsequent writers, among them Swift and E. A. Poe." - Encyclopaedia Britannica (11th edition) Vol, VII, p. 702. "... the first writer to describe an interplanetary journey by means of rockets ... He is a very sharp satirist and his tale abounds with amusing attacks on religion, contemporary scientific theory, philosophy, customs and mores ... Throughout the development many small points are based on Cyrano's interpretation or extrapolation of the day. The book is thus science-fiction of its period. A remarkable book that deserves wider readership than it has received." - Bleiler, ibid. Aldiss and Wingrove, Trillion Year Spree, pp. 73-5. Anatomy of Wonder (1976) 1-12; (1981) 1-52; (1987) 1-12; (1995) 1-12; and (2004) II-295. Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, p. 291. Locke, A Spectrum of Fantasy Volume II, p. 37. Versins, Encyclopédie de l’Utopie, des Voyages Extraordinaires, et de la Science Fiction, pp. 217-19. Bleiler (1976), p. 65. Wing C7717. Early owner's signature on title page. Edges rubbed, recently rebacked with original spine laid down, lower margin of frontispiece trimmed, several small stains to first four leaves,
Brunt, Captain Samuel (pseudonym). **A VOYAGE TO CACKLOGALLINIA: WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE RELIGION, POLICY, CUSTOMS AND MANNERS OF THAT COUNTRY** ... London: Printed by J. Watson in Black-Fryers, and sold by the Booksellers of London and Westminster, 1727. Octavo, pp. [1-2] [1] 2-167 [168: blank], engraved frontispiece, engraved tailpiece on page 121, later three-quarter green pebbled morocco and marbled boards, titled on spine in gold. First edition. Satire in the manner of Swift’s GULLIVER’S TRAVELS in which the narrator finds himself shipwrecked in a land populated by a society of fowls. "A VOYAGE TO CACKLOGALLINIA, written by Captain Samuel Brunt and printed at London London in 1727, is one of the most imaginative, thoughtful, and subtly satirical works in the imaginary voyages genre. The author is a slave-trader who at the start of his narrative is captured on Jamaica by runaway slaves under their leader, a certain Captain Thomas. His shipmates having been decapitated, Brunt is taken to the slaves' village in the mountains and treated with kindness and hospitality. When the village is raided by the English and most of its population murdered, Brunt escapes with a friendly slave in a commandeered fishing vessel with the intention of reaching Cuba or Hispaniola. En route the vessel is captured by pirates, but, after further adventures, the pirate sloop breaks up in a storm and Brunt finds himself shipwrecked on an unknown island, Cacklogallinia, populated by a community of talking chickens. Its capital is Ludbitallya, and the island is ruled by the Emperor Hippomina Connuferento. Although at first regarded as a curiosity, Brunt (or Probusomo as he comes to be called) is befriended by the chief minister and rises to the rank of 'castleairiano, or, 'examiner of projects to raise taxes.' Brunt's description of the community is a fairly conventional satire on English life and Walpole's government, but the author enhances this with a parody of the South Sea Bubble, the speculative trading venture that burst in 1721, by involving Brunt in a project to finance a Cacklogallinian expedition to the Moon. Borrowing from Godwin's THE MAN IN THE MOONE, the hero is projected skyward in a palanquin borne by several of the flying chickens. However, rather than finding a trading paradise on the Moon, the Cacklogallinians discover a peaceful world populated by the souls of humans with a disregard for wealth and power, causing Brunt and his chicken entourage to reflect on the folly of their own societies. Anxious to return to his home country, and with the aid of a compass, Brunt descends from the Moon directly into the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, makes his way to Kingston, and there acquires a free passage to England." - Howgego, Encyclopedia of Exploration: Invented and Apocryphal Narratives of Travel B60. "Nearly a hundred years elapsed between Godwin's THE MAN IN THE MOONE and the only other full-length English moon voyage to use the device of 'harnessing of birds' ... On the one hand this is a 'Robinsonade,' on the other an obvious imitation of the fourth book of GULLIVER'S TRAVELS which had been published a year before Brunt's lesser work appeared ... The originality of A VOYAGE TO CACKLOGALLINIA does not arise from its science ... It comes from the fact that this is the first moon voyage, the inspiration for which is to be found primarily in economics ... This is a satire upon that great orgy of speculation, the South Sea Bubble ... From this background, so poignantly in the minds of his contemporaries, Captain Samuel Brunt drew the materials for his satire." - Nicolson, Voyages to the Moon, pp. 98-108. *Anatomy of Wonder* (1976) 1-8 and (1981) 1-28. Bleiler, Science-Fiction: The Early Years 286. Gove, The Imaginary Voyage in Prose Fiction, pp. 259-61. Lewis, Utopian Literature, p. 30. Locke, A Spectrum of Fantasy, p. 42. Locke, Voyages in Space (2011) V153. Negley, Utopian Literature: A Bibliography 159. Sargent, British and American Utopian Literature, 1516-1985, pp. 20-1. Bleiler (1978), p. 33. Reginald 02080. Title leaf soiled and stained, darker stain at lower gutter margin with offset on frontispiece and lighter penetration on two subsequent text leaves, blank verso of last leaf dusty, 40x24 mm triangular chip missing from lower fore-edge of frontispiece with small area of illustration affected, otherwise a clean, very good copy. Enclosed in a custom quarter leather clamshell box. $4500.00 (#157206) (21716)


Locke, Richard Adams. [THE MOON HOAX] GREAT ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERIES LATELY MADE BY SIR JOHN HERSHEY, LL.D. F.R.S. &c. AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. [FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE NEW-YORK SUN, FROM THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE EDINBURGH JOURNAL OF SCIENCE.] ... [caption title]. N.p., n.d. [New York: New York Sun Office, 1835.] Octavo, pp. [1] 2-28, uncut, sewn. First edition. First publication in book form of Locke's successful hoax perpetrated in series of six articles published in the NEW YORK SUN, 25-31 August 1835. The revelations, supposedly reprinted from the actually defunct EDINBURGH JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, pretended to reveal a discovery that men and animals existed on the moon and were so cleverly wrought that, for a short time, the report was given credence in scientific circles in the United States and Europe. The report was soon denounced as a hoax by the public press and Richard Adams Locke (1800-1871), a reporter for the SUN, was identified as the perpetrator of the "ingenious astronomical hoax." Interest in the lunar discoveries increased the SUN's circulation to more than nineteen thousand, the largest of any daily of that time. On Friday 28 August 1835, the SUN announced "that a pamphlet edition of the Supplement was being printed. The great work by Herschel, which would discuss his researches completely, was being prepared for publication at considerable price; the SUN would offer the popular substance for twelve or thirteen cents." According to William Gowans who reprinted the story in 1859, the owners of the SUN published sixty thousand copies of it in pamphlet form. The pamphlet was published in September 1835 and every copy was sold in less than a month. Nevertheless, the 1835 printings are rare and only a handful of copies survive. The SUN printed the undated pamphlet in two formats in 1835, one being an 11-page
booklet printed in double columns (perhaps reprinted from the SUN's special "Supplements;" only known copy in DLC), the other this single column 28-page pamphlet (of which only 13 copies are known to exist). Locke's "Moon Hoax" was certainly one of the great deceptions of the century. P. T. Barnum, a man who could fairly claim to be an authority on deceptions of the public, called it "the most stupendous scientific imposition upon the public that the generation with which we are numbered has known." Edgar Allan Poe, himself a noted literary hoaxer, called the story "ingenious" and praised Locke's "rich imagination," but lamented its lack of verisimilitude, observing that "it wanted much of the force which might have been given it by a more scrupulous attention to facts and to general analogy. That the public were misled, even for an instant, merely proves the gross ignorance which is so generally prevalent upon subjects of an astronomical nature." See Anatomy of Wonder (1976) 1-23; and (1981) 1-137. Bleiler, Science-Fiction: The Early Years 1348 and 1349. Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (1993), p. 728. Howgego, Encyclopedia of Exploration: Invented and Apocryphal Narratives of Travel L44. Ley, Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel (1951), pp. 27-30. Locke, A Spectrum of Fantasy, p. 142 (recording a later edition). Locke, Voyages in Space 130. Bleiler (1978), p. 125. Reginald 09129. Wright (I) 1704a (not recording this printing). See Dictionary of American Biography; and F. M. O'Brien, The Story of the Sun (1918), pp. 64-102. First leaf a bit tanned, basically a fine copy. (#152337) $8500.00

Trueman, Chrysostom "editor," i.e. H. Cowen. THE HISTORY OF A VOYAGE TO THE MOON, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE ADVENTURERS' SUBSEQUENT DISCOVERIES. AN EXHUMED NARRATIVE, SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN EJECTED FROM A LUNAR VOLCANO. London: Lockwood & Co., 1864. Octavo, pp. [1-4] [1] 2-204, inserted lithographed frontispiece, original decorated green pebbled cloth, front and rear panels stamped in blind, spine panel stamped in gold, cream coated endpapers. First edition. "An interplanetary fantasy whose protagonists employ a force of 'repulsion' to convey an 'island earth' to the Moon. They discover a communistic utopian society of miniature humans, who are unwitting reincarnations of souls who have previously lived on Earth (the latter notion had yet to be featured in Flammarion's LUMEN, although it had been broached in previous lunar romances and cosmic voyages). A fascinating philosophical romance, intermediate between satirical lunar voyages and scientific romances, which carries forward the kind of bridging work begun by Atterley's VOYAGE TO THE MOON (1827)." - Anatomy of Wonder (2004) II:1141. "Certainly the most significant SF novel between Shelley and the 1870s, it influenced both Verne and Wells." - Suvin, Victorian Science Fiction in the UK, pp. 12-13. Anatomy of Wonder (1976) 1-1; (1981) 1-3; and (2004) II:1141. Howgego, Encyclopedia of Exploration: Invented and Apocryphal Narratives of Travel T20. Locke, A Spectrum of Fantasy Volume II, p. 5. Locke, Voyages in Space (2011) V:38. Sargent, British and American Utopian Literature, 1516-1985, p. 56. Bleiler (1978), p. 6. Reginald 07237. Originally a Victorian lending library copy acquired 11 March 1865 by the Hull Subscription Library (aka Hull Royal Institution), with their label affixed to the front paste-down and acquisition number written on the spine panel. It was acquired later by Brigham Young University who added their ownership marks, and still later, 18 October 1999, it was deaccessioned by them. Skillfully rebound with original spine laid down, shallow loss along the fore-edge of the fly title neatly mended, a very good copy. A major genre rarity, seldom found in nice condition. (#154532) (24342) $3750.00

Verne, Jules. FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON: PASSAGE DIRECT IN 97 HOURS AND 20 MINUTES. From the French of Jules Verne. Translated by J. K. Hoyt. Newark, N. J.: The Newark Printing and Publishing Company, 1869. Large octavo, pp. [1-3] 4-84, printed in double columns, inserted frontispiece, original green wrappers printed in black. First edition in English. Verne's third book, DE LA TERRE À LA LUNE: TRAJET DIRECT EN 97 HEURES (1865), was first published in book form in English as FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON: PASSAGE DIRECT IN 97 HOURS AND 20 MINUTES ... by the Newark Printing and Publishing Co. in the latter half of 1869 as a paperbound book following its publication in seventeen installments over a two-month period commencing June 10th in the NEWARK DAILY AND WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEW JERSEY. This edition of FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON was the second book by Verne to be published in English, preceded only by the D.
Appleton and Company edition of FIVE WEEKS IN A BALLOON, published in New York 13 March 1869. Anatomy of Wonder (1995) 1-93 and (2004) II-1180. Taves and Michaluk V003. Myers 26 (“This will probably rank for all time as the most rare of all Verne editions!”). 30 mm chip from lower spine end and 15 mm chip from upper spine end, tiny chips from front corner tips, 10x10 mm v-chip from back wrapper at spine fold, several stains and some soiling to wrappers, a very good copy, internally clean and tight. A legendary rarity, the Library of Congress holding one of the several known copies, another was found by us a few years ago and sold to a private buyer. This is the Larry Solomon copy which he purchased from J & S Graphics sometime in the 1970s. (#154553) (24347) $37,500.00


ends and corner tips, narrow chip from fore-edge of front free endpaper, inner hinges a bit tender, a sound, good copy. $150.00 (#137626)


Serviss, Garrett P[utman]. THE MOON METAL. New York and London: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1900. Small octavo, pp. [1-4] 1-163 [164], original decorated blue cloth, front panel stamped in white, light green, and silver, spine panel stamped in white. First edition. A presentation copy with a nice full-page inscription by Serviss on the front free endpaper: "To Mr. William T. Gregg, / my old friend, who / wherever I might / meet him in the / universe would make / me regret the passing / of the old days on / the earth / Garrett P. Serviss / Nov. 8th 1900." The second of four science fiction novels by Serviss, the first to be published as a book. Basically, a catastrophe novel. Following the


(1978), p. 27. Locke, A Spectrum of Fantasy, p. 98. Bleiler (1978), p. 87. Reginald 06374. Mild sunning to spine panel, white chalk lettering mostly perished from spine panel, a couple of small stains on rear cover, a very good copy. A much better than average copy of a fairly scarce book rarely found in nice condition. $1000.00 (#152099)


February 1924 at top edge of title page and his marginalia in the text, with rare advertising slip and publisher's invoice tipped in. A superior copy of a book seldom found in nice condition. Enclosed in a custom quarter gray leather clamshell box with leather spine label. (#160972) $6500.00


Valier, Max. AUF KÜHNER FAHRT ZUM MARS. EINE KOSMISCHE ERZÄHLUNG. Hannover: Norddeutsches Druck- und Verlagshaus, 1928. Octavo, pp. [1-2] 3-30 [31] [32: ads], original pictorial light gray-green wrappers printed in black, stapled. First edition, preceded by an offprint. A famous story first published as a six-part serial in six issues DER RAKETE (15 Juli --15 Dezember 1927) as "Die Fahrt ins All. Eine Kosmische Phantasie" (a 24-page paperbound offprint by Verlag "Die Rakete" titled AUF KÜHNER FAHRT ZUM MARS. EINE KOSMISCHE PHANTASIE was done in 1927). The story was first published in English as "A Daring Trip to Mars," WONDER STORIES, July 1931. Tipped into this copy as a frontispiece is a photographic portrait of Valier, printed on a sheet of coated stock, captioned "Max Valier / Der Erfinder des Raketenantriebs" which is boldly signed by Valier below the caption [we believe these photographs were used by Valier for publicity purposes]. See Bloch (2002) 3187 (citing the 1927 offprint). Mild crease to front cover, else a fine copy. No copies of the 1928 edition reported by OCLC, COPAC or KVK; A copy of 1927 offprint is held by Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, no other copies located. Rare. (#147116) $3000.00


Spine leaned, the usual tanning to the text paper, a nearly fine copy in very good pictorial dust jacket (wraparound illustration of a rocket ship flying over a futuristic city) with shallow chipping at spine ends and corner tips and chip from upper rear panel and 65 mm closed split along upper rear spine fold. The delicate jacket presents well overall. A very uncommon edition of this book. (#157014) (24296) $1000.00

AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY. Winter 1931. (Volume 4, Number 1). T. O’Conor Sloane, ed. Jamaica, New York: Radio-Science Publications, Inc., 1931. Octavo, single issue, cover by Morey, pictorial wrappers. Pulp magazine, bedsheet format. Includes "The Birth of A New Republic," by Jack Williamson and Miles J. Breuer. This one of Williamson’s earliest novel length stories, it concerns a moon colony. Tymn and Ashley (eds), Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines, pp. 51-7. Clear tape which age darkening to spine and right front edge, light edge rubbing with tiny chip to upper left corner, a good copy. (23979) $45.00


Lasser, David. **THE CONQUEST OF SPACE** ... New York: Penguin Press, 1931. Octavo, pp. [1-6] 1-271 [272-274: blank] [note: last leaf is a blank], four inserted plates, other illustrations in text, original black cloth, front and spine panels stamped in gold. First edition. The first English-language book devoted to rocketry and space travel, written by a rocket pioneer and first president of the American Interplanetary Society, provides a summary of past and current rocket research and speculation on the future of rocket flights in the earth's atmosphere and in interplanetary space. The work consists of three parts: "The Rocket" (a history of rocketry), "The Flight Into Space" (a fictional account of a space voyage), and "New Worlds" (addressing challenges and rewards of space flight). Ciancone 123. Ley, Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel, revised edition, 1957, p. 492. Bookplate of early aeronautics collector Merritt Edward Peck affixed to the front paste-down. Inner front hinge repaired, a bright, nearly fine copy in good worn and taped pictorial dust jacket. The jacket is rarely found in any condition. (#160274) (23487) $1250.00

Nowlan, Phil and Dick Calkins. **BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY**. [Battle Creek, Michigan and London, Canada: Kellogg Company, 1933.] Octavo, pp. [1-3] 4-31 [32: ad], 22 color illustrations, pictorial wrappers, stapled. First edition. A cereal premium booklet, written by Nowlan and illustrated by Calkins, which introduced young readers to the twenty-fifth century world of Buck Rogers, his associates and his enemies. The newspaper strip ran from 1929 to 1946. It "had many imitators ... but none equaled its influence or ingenuity. It introduced more people to science fiction than any other medium before or since, with the possible exception of the motion picture, 'Star Wars.'" - Survey of Science Fiction Literature, p. 88. This is the first appearance of Buck Rogers in a comic magazine type format. Not in Bleiler (1948; 1978). Not in Reginald (1979; 1992). Light stain on inside front cover with faint show through but no discoloration to outer surface, tiny crease to lower corner of front cover, mild dust soiling to rear cover, a bright, very good copy overall. (#158285) (24325) $450.00

Maxwell, Jack. **"Invaded by Mars" in CHAMPION LIBRARY**. [London: The Amalgamated Press], 5 April 1934 (number 126). Octavo, pp. 64 pp, printed in double columns, pictorial wrappers. England is the focal point of an invasion of Earth by Martians in winged spheres firing ray-guns that are, however, ineffective in the fog. The Martians also deploy burrowing machines to mine for the martelite that powers their ray guns. The invasion is facilitated by a traitor on Earth. Great destruction is wrought to the Midlands, but the climax takes place on the Moon, with Mars and Earth making peace. The novella takes up the entire issue. Aside from a fairly inconspicuous tape repair to bottom inch and a half around spine, a very good copy. (#142189) (24274) $150.00
Not about the Moon but included as a expansive view of cosmology. A classic work.

this striking jacket (designed by Bip Pares) is very bright and overall, the jacket is quite attractive. Nice copies of this book are elusive. (#111970) (24336) $12,500.00

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. January, 1940. (Volume 24, No. 5). John W. Campbell, Jr., editor. New York: Street & Smith Publications, Inc. 1940. Octavo, single issue cover painting by Charles Schneeman, pictorial wrappers. Pulp magazine. Features the classic story by Robert A. Heinlein, "Requiem," about a corporate tycoon whose company helped make space flight commercial and in his old age wants to finally make the trip to the moon. Also has the conclusion of "Gray Lensman" by E.E. Smith. Tymm and Ashley, Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines, pp. 60-103. Spine edges rubbed, tiny chip to upper left front edge, several small closed tears to lower front panel, a very good copy. (21897) $45.00

Johnson Smith & Company. HOW TO BUILD ROCKET SHIPS: A NON-TECHNICAL BOOK OF ROCKETS AND ROCKETS SHIPS OF THE FUTURE AND HOW TO BUILD ROCKET MODELS. Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ont., Canada: Published by Johnson Smith & Company, n.d. [1940?] Small octavo, pp. [1-2] [1] 2-22, illustrations, pictorial wrappers, stapled. First edition. A brief account of rockets and rocket propulsion and instructions for making rocket engines and fuel for model airplanes, cars and boats. The booklet is copyright 1935, but there is a reference to a "rocket-type grenade" invented by F. E. Austin being submitted to the U.S. Army in January 1940 (however, there is no mention of World War II in the text), so this is probably a later printing with revised text. A fine copy. OCLC reports one copy (Brown University) (#160245) (24305) $100.00

Heinlein, Robert A. ROCKET SHIP GALILEO ... New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, [1947]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. The author's first book, preceded by a pamphlet printing a convention speech. The importance of this book cannot be overstated. It is the first published novel by a major, perhaps the most important, science fiction writer of postwar America. Heinlein began publishing SF in 1939 during the golden age of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. After World War II, he expanded the market for SF genre material, publishing his fiction in upscale magazines of the period (THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BOY'S LIFE, and others). In 1947 he introduced a generation of postwar young readers to this literary genre with the first of a series of juvenile novels which were published as hardcover books by the renowned mainstream publisher Charles Scribner's Sons, and later by G. P. Putnam. Their circulation was wide and they could be found in the children's section of most public libraries of the day. This title is "... the first U.S. juvenile SF novel to reflect the new levels of characterization, style and scientific plausibility now expected in the field ... it was the first in a series that represents the most important contribution any single writer has made to children's SF ..." - Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Science Fiction Encyclopedia (1994), pp. 554-7. "A pioneering novel that began American mainstream science fiction for children and combined young protagonists, gadgetry, current science, and adventure in such a way that even today the book retains interest." - Anatomy of Wonder (2004) II-515. George Pal's 1950 film Destination Moon is loosely based on this novel. Heinlein co-authored the screenplay and served as a technical
advisor to the production, along with German rocket expert Hermann Oberth. Destination Moon, the first of Pal’s many SF films, "has great historical importance: its commercial success initiated the SF film boom of the 1950s, after a decade that had contained almost no SF cinema at all. It has interest in hindsight, too, in the partial accuracy with which it anticipated the actual Moon landing of 1969. To this day, Destination Moon stands as a film obvious made by people who knew about science ..." - Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Science Fiction Encyclopedia (1993), p. 324. A fine copy in a fine first state dust jacket ($2.00 price printed on front jacket flap) with very light shelf wear along upper edge, touch of rubbing to flap folds, and tiny spot of rubbing on rear panel near spine fold. An attractive copy. (129696) (24299) $3750.00


Heinlein, Robert A. THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON ... Chicago: Shasta Publishers, [1950]. Octavo, cloth-backed boards, First edition. One of an undetermined number of subscriber’s copies with blank leaf signed by Heinlein inserted between the front free endpaper and half title leaf. A collection of short stories which is the first volume in Heinlein’s “future history” series. Anatomy of Wonder (2004) II-514. See Survey of Science Fiction Literature IV, pp. 1645-54. A near fine copy in very good dust jacket with rubbing along folds and shelf wear with some mild chipping to spine ends. (127904) (24297) $750.00


Ryan, Cornelius (editor). **CONQUEST OF THE MOON.** New York: The Viking Press, 1953. Large octavo, illustrations, some in color by Chesley Bonestell and others, cloth. First edition. Text by Wernher von Braun, Fred L. Whipple, and Willy Ley. Mid-fifties view of how man will get to the moon and back, drawn from a scientific symposium which appeared in COLIER'S magazine. Hugo award winner 1954 in Related Book category; Bonestell also won a Hugo for best artist. Ciancone 201. Ley, Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel, revised edition, 1957, p. 494. A very good copy in a very good dust jacket with mild wear along bottom front edge and a small closed tear, light wear to base of spine panel with several closed tears and slight loss to head of spine panel. (24373) $200.00


IMPORTANT REFERENCE BOOK

Ley, Willy. ROCKETS, MISSILES, AND SPACE TRAVEL. Revised and Enlarged Edition. New York: The Viking Press, 1957. Octavo, 31 illustrations from photographs on plate paper, 85 drawings and figures in the text, cloth. First printing of the Revised and Enlarged edition. A revised and enlarged edition of ROCKETS, MISSILES, AND SPACE TRAVEL (1951). This printing was completely revised for this edition (last revision in 1952) the chapters on space travel are heavily reworked and there is talk of the upcoming U. S. satellite program, Vanguard. In November a new revised edition would be published which would add a forward pertaining to Russia's Sputnik 1 satellite, launched 4 October 1957, the official beginning of the Space Age. This is the best edition for pre-Space Age history of rocketry and the best version of the bibliography for pre-1958 monographs on rocketry and space flight. Ciancone 140. A fine copy in a very good dust jacket (color illustration by Chesney Bonestell) with some fade to the spine panel. An attractive copy. (24367) $75.00
North American Aviation, Inc. X-15 PRESS INFORMATION. US AIR FORCE-NASA-US NAVY X-15 MANNED RESEARCH VEHICLE [cover title]. N.p. [Los Angeles]: North American Aviation, Inc. Los Angeles Division, n.d. [1959]. Large octavo, pp. [1-4] 1-35 [36: blank], illustrations, including seven 8x10 inch photographic prints in folder at rear, pictorial stiff wrappers, white spiral plastic spine. First edition. "The X-15 ranks supreme among manned rocket-powered aircraft, becoming the world's first operational space plane in the early 1960s. Three X-15s were built, flying 199 test flights, the last on 24 October 1968. The first X-15 flight was an unpowered glide flight by Scott Crossfield, on 8 June 1959. Crossfield also piloted the first powered flight on 17 September 1959, and his first flight with the XLR-99 rocket engine on 15 November 1960. Twelve test pilots flew the X-15. Among these were Neil Armstrong, later a NASA astronaut and first man to set foot on the Moon, and Joe Engle, later a commander of NASA Space Shuttle missions" (Wikipedia). This press kit was prepared shortly after the first X-15 flight, the unpowered glide flight. A fine copy. No copies found on OCLC. Rare. (#162810) (24324) $750.00

Budrys, Algis. ROGUE MOON. Greenwich, Conn.: Gold Medal Books Fawcett Publications, Inc., [1960]. Small octavo, pictorial wrappers. First edition. Fawcett Gold Medal Sl057. "A matter transmitter is used to send men to the Moon. There they encounter a terrifying alien 'maze.' This powerful psychological thriller deals with the human urge to transcend death. A minor SF classic." - Pringle, The Ultimate Guide to Science Fiction, second edition, p. 310. "... now widely regarded as an SF classic. A good deal has been written about the highly integrated symbolic structure of this story, whose perfectly competent surface narration deals with a hard-SF solution to the problem of an alien labyrinth, discovered on the Moon, which kills anyone who tries to pass through it without obeying various arbitrary and incomprehensible rules. At one level, the novel’s description of attempts to thread the labyrinth from Earth via matter transmission (which is also matter duplication) makes for excellent traditional SF; at another, it is a sustained rite de passage, a doppelganger conundrum about the mind-body split, a death-paean. There is no doubt that Budrys intends that both levels of reading should register, however any interpretation might run; in this novel the two levels interact fruitfully." - SFE (online). 1961 Hugo nominee. Anatomy of Wonder (2004) II-181. Pringle, Science Fiction: The 100 Best Novels 32. Survey of Science Fiction Literature IV, pp. 1821-26. A fine copy. (#158298) (24267) $45.00


began investigating the possibility of space flight in 1878 ... [He] was the first great pioneer of space research and the first real prophet of the myth of the conquest of space which has played such a vital role in modern SF." - Clute and Nicholls (eds), The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (1993), p. 1242. Still the definitive collection of Tsiolkovsky's writings in English translation. Suvin, Russian SF, p. 29. See Anatomy of Wonder (1987) 2-120 and (2004) II-1142. Reginald 14257. Not in Ciancone. A fine copy in very good dust jacket with light wear at edges and 35 mm closed tear along lower rear spine fold. Still the definitive collection of Tsiolkovsky's writings in English translation. (#158507) (24343) $100.00


Heinlein, Robert A. THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, [1966]. Octavo, cloth. First edition. "This account of a revolution in a former lunar penal colony is essentially a retelling of the American War of Independence in SF terms. The hero narrates it all in a vigorous futuristic dialect. There is copious background detail and some interesting political and sociological speculation -- but, as with all the author's later books, the text is full of talk. Nevertheless, with its intelligent computer called Mycroft (after Sherlock Holmes's brother) and its by-now famous slogan "TANSTAAFL" (there ain't no such thing as a free lunch), it's entertaining enough. Heinlein's last decent novel." - Pringle, The Ultimate Guide to Science Fiction, second edition (1995), p. 244. Winner of the 1967 Hugo award for best novel. 1966 Nebula nominee. Anatomy of Wonder (2004) II-512. Survey of Science Fiction Literature III, pp. 1439-43. Hint of wear to upper front corner tip (appears to be a very minor manufacturing flaw, not abuse), faint crease to front free endpaper, a nearly fine copy in nearly fine first printing dust jacket (priced $5.95 on the front flap) with touch of rubbing to black background ink at spine ends and corners, tiny abrasion just above "Putnam" on spine panel, 15 mm closed tear at upper rear spine fold, and 7 mm closed tear and associated vertical crease at upper edge of front panel. A very attractive copy. (#89354) (24298) $3750.00
Temple, William F. **SHOOT AT THE MOON.** London: Ronald Whiting & Wheaton, 1966. Octavo, boards. First edition. Murder mystery set on the moon. "...parodies many of the more routine sf conventions concerning trips to the Moon and the gallery of characters usually involved, is a Ship-of-Fools extravaganza of some hilarity." - SFE online. A nearly fine copy in a nearly fine dust jacket with some moderate soiling and mild shelf wear to the spine ends. Uncommon. (£24372) $100.00

Wright, Hamilton, Helen Wright and Samuel Rapport (editors). **TO THE MOON!** New York: Meredith Press, [1968]. Octavo, pp. [i-vii] viii-ix [x-xi] xii-xiii [xiv-xvi] [1-3] 4-300 [301-304: blank] [note: last two leaves are blanks], cloth. First edition. An anthology of poetry, fiction and nonfiction about the Moon, from ancient legend to space exploration of the 1960s. Includes "Some Imaginary Voyages," an article by P. E. Cleator, and an extract from David Lasser's The Conquest of Space; also extracts from Verne's From the Earth to the Moon and Cyrano de Bergerac's Voyage to the Moon. A fine copy in fine dust jacket with touch of dust soiling, mainly to rear panel. (#85259) (£24359) $25.00


Hendricks, Stanley. **ASTRONAUTS ON THE MOON: THE STORY OF THE APOLLO MOON LANDINGS ...** [Kansas City, Missouri: Hallmark Cards, Inc., n.d. [Circa 1970.] Octavo, illustrated by Al Muenchen, paper mechanics and layout by Howard Lohnes, pictorial boards. First edition. Part of the "Hallmark Children's Editions." A very cleverly designed pop-up book about NASA's Project Apollo. Light wear to the fragile spine ends and corner tips, a very good copy in a good dust jacket with faint scratches, stains and an inconspicuous chip (about 14x32 mm) from upper left corner of rear panel; internally bright with all pop-ups, pull-outs and wheel-spins functioning correctly. (£144388) (£24302) $45.00

Steele, Allen M. LUNAR DESCENT. New York: Ace Books, [1991.] Small octavo, pictorial wrappers. First edition. Ace Books 50485-X. Steele's third novel and the third book in his "Near Space" sequence, preceded by ORBITAL DECAY (1988) and CLARKE COUNTY, SPACE (1990). "LUNAR DESCENT (1991), set on and above the Moon, replays the grit and clangor of the first novel with a lighter touch. Though Steele displayed a damagingly lazy attitude towards characterization in these early books, and tended to export unchanged into space, decades hence, the tastes and habits of 1970s humanity, he managed all the same to convey a verisimilitudinous sense of the daily round of those men and women who would be patching together the ferries, ships, space stations and space habitats necessary for the next steps into space: if, that is, the long project is not betrayed." - SFE (online). Mild rubs to cover edges, a nearly fine, unread copy. (#156802) (24337) $10.00