



Quarterly Report #3: November 2021

Presented by the Cosmic Citizens Committee of Now Creations

The intention of the CCC is to provide Now Creations members with education related to this important and ever-emerging topic. It is in that spirit that this information is provided.

Dear Members of Now Creations,

Over the last few years, much attention has been given to the idea of visitations to Earth by beings from far away - - maybe beings from other galaxies traveling long distances to observe our planet. Perhaps they've been nearby for millennia, observing our evolution, and possibly assisting us along the way. Or, maybe these beings have come from another dimension, having figured out a way to travel inter-dimensionally.

But what about our own efforts toward Cosmic Citizenship?

For as long as men and women have been conscious, they have wondered at the stars and the planets. Ancient civilizations built complex temples (Pyramids of Egypt; Chichen Itza, Mexico) and megaliths (Stonehenge, England; Easter Island) oriented to the motion of the stars and planets.

However, it is only in the last 65 years or so that our efforts have moved from studying the stars and planets to actually leaving Earth to visit them.

On October 4, 1957, the world learned that the first artificial satellite had been sent into space from the Earth. "Sputnik", a basketball sized sphere-like satellite had been launched by the Soviet Union into low earth orbit, circling our planet for several months before falling back to Earth in early 1958.

This event created a shockwave around the world, and set in motion what became known as "the space race" between the Soviet Union and the United States. The following few years saw a number of "firsts" including the first man in space and the first to orbit the Earth (Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, 1961).

Determined to have the United States remain the unquestioned leader in space exploration, in May 1961, President John Kennedy set the mandate for a U.S. mission to the Moon by the end of the decade. He said:

"We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

Those words established the blueprint for a series of manned missions to space by the United States, culminating with the Apollo 11 astronauts landing on the Moon on July 20, 1969. On that date, Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to venture off the Earth and set foot on another astronomical body.

Armstrong marked the moment with his famous statement: "That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind!" Legend has it that he was so excited by the situation, he forgot to include the "a" in his declaration.

A giant leap, indeed! It's not a stretch to say those two men were our first Cosmic Ambassadors to another astronomical body.

Five more manned missions to the Moon would follow over the next 2 1/2 years. The last man to step foot on the Moon was Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison Schmitt in December 1972. In total, twelve human beings have walked on the surface of the Moon.

Since that time, our study of the cosmos has grown in three broad directions: (1) Manned missions to low Earth orbit, such as the Space Shuttle missions from the 1980's through the 2010's, and the International Space Station; (2) unmanned interplanetary voyages, such as the Voyager probes (and many more), Mars landers such as Viking, Opportunity and Spirit; (3) space-based telescopic investigation, such as the Hubble Telescope. Mankind's knowledge of the cosmos has grown tremendously through these efforts. For example, we now know with certainty that planets around stars are the rule rather than the exception. 4,834 planets are known to orbit stars beyond our solar system.

Perhaps our most conscious and noteworthy effort towards true cosmic citizenship occurred with the Voyager 1 and 2 probes launched in 1977. Early into these probes' missions, they traveled near Jupiter, Saturn and Titan (Jupiter's moon) sending back volumes of data and astonishing close-up pictures.

However, the most interesting part of the missions continues even today, 44 years after launch. Onboard the Voyager probes are what is known as "the Golden Records". These records, conceived by Dr. Carl Sagan and his colleagues, contain a breadth of information about planet Earth for retrieval in the event the probes are ever encountered by other spacefaring beings. The records contain greetings in 55 languages, photos, music, animal sounds, and a variety of other information about our planet. There is also a record player upon which to play the record, and mathematical "instructions" on how to use them on board. There is also a map indicating the location of our planet relative to the Sun, as well as a diagram of the human body.

Both these probes passed completely out of our solar system as of 2018, becoming the first interstellar man-made objects. They are still in

communication with Earth; however, each transmission, traveling at light speed (186,282 miles *per second*), takes over 35 hours round trip.

In recent years, private companies such as Blue Origin, SpaceX, and Virgin Galactic have taken over the roles formerly held exclusively by government entities like NASA and Roscosmos (Russia). In addition to promoting “space tourism” these companies are providing new and more efficient means by which to put men and women in space - possibly back to the Moon, and, hopefully, to Mars and beyond.

Below are a few links of interest regarding timely and important developments related to this topic. The first link is an article regarding the recent launch of the “Lucy” probe, which will explore asteroids and other heavenly bodies during its’ 12 year mission throughout the Solar System. Lucy will be looking into many mysteries, including how life may have started on Earth.

[Link to “Lucy” probe article](#)

The next link is to an article about the upcoming December launch of the James Webb Space Telescope, which will exponentially increase humanity’s ability to look deep into space and far into the past. “Webb” will surpass the capability of the Hubble Space Telescope (by a factor of 100), which has been unlocking universal mysteries since being launched in 1990.

[Link to “Webb” launch article](#)

Finally, the linked 8-minute video (below) captures actor William Shatner’s comments upon return from his recent 11 minute trip to space on board a Blue Origin rocket. Shatner, of course, is most famous for his portrayal of Captain James T. Kirk in the Star Trek television series. He now holds the distinction, at age 90, of being the oldest human to have visited space. The video, which is somewhat hard to hear at places due to background noise and chatter, clearly captures Shatner’s sense of overwhelm and ineffability from his experience. His words may remind some of the “noetic” moment

described by astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell while returning to Earth from the Moon aboard Apollo 14.

[Link to William Shatner's video](#)

Our status as Cosmic Citizens continues to evolve!

Namaste,
Vince