

B I R T H O F A P R O J E C T .

SPACE ON THEIR MIND part ONE. February 1966. Published by George Locke, 86 Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. ENGLAND. For Fantasy Amateur Press Association and 'Collecting-type fans.'

One of the great things about fanzines is that you can publish what you want to, in whatever format you like - provided, of course, that you make sure your material won't offend the easily offended Post Office.

For a long time, I've been wanting to write a book about old interplanetary fiction. I could try and interest a publisher, but as there are already a number of books on the subject, I didn't reckon much of my chances. In any case, I didn't feel like writing a straightforward book. I wanted to include all sorts of stuff, such as anecdotes about finding books, collecting in general as well as describing the contents of whatever books were available to me. Obviously, such a thing would be relatively formless. If it was to be professionally published, it would have to have a hell of a lot of hard work to construct it into a satisfactory book. I certainly wouldn't undertake such an epic without some sort of contract - and any publisher giving me a contract to publish the sort of book I visualise would be mad.

So - it'll come out - in parts (in other words, as I work on it) - as a fanzine. The pages which follow are the first fruits. The first stencils cut. I plan on the final result containing: 1) As near a complete checklist of interplanetary fiction as I can make, in chronological order, up to 1914.

2) Details about titles which haven't been covered elsewhere which are available to me - ie, in my collection. One of the main reasons for sending this first part out now is to make a plea to any collectors who can help with information about some of the titles in the thirds of the three lists which follow.

3) miscellaneous stuff. As well as more general stuff, there will be some associational material, like the review of ADVENTURES IN THE MOON which I've printed on Page 5, and reprints of one or two short items, such as an 1899 take-off of Jules Verne (A TRIP TO THE SUN) and some excerpts from the 1881 fake newspaper THE COMET'S TALE. (A newspaper purported to have been published by the inhabitants of a comet.)

Following is a list of titles which will appear in future parts of this thing:
LIST 1. (TITLES which will be listed which are covered in fair detail elsewhere.)

VERNE Hector Servadac....GREG Across the Zodiac....ANONYMOUS Politics and Life in Mars....LAURIE The Conquest of the Moon....MACCOLL Mr Stranger's Sealed Packet....CROMIE A Plunge into Space....LANG Prince Ricardo.... ASTOR A Journey to Other Worlds....MUNRO A Trip to Venus....WELLS War of the Worlds....WELLS Tales of Space and Time.... DU MAURIER The Martian....HALE The Brick Moon....SERVISS The Conquest of Mars....WELLS The First Men In The Moon....ARNOLD Lieut. Gulliver Jones....GRIFFITH A Honeymoon in Space....SERVISS Columbus of Space....WICKS To Mars Via The Moon....

LIST 2. (TITLES in my collection which I will be able to give details of.)

HERMES Another World, or, Fragments from the Star City of Montelluyeh...PENRICE Skyward and Earthward....LACK SZYRMA Aleriel....C.S.H. BRERETON The Last Days of Olympus....BOSTON SUNDAY GLOB The Comet's Tale....GRAVES & LUCAS The War of the Venuses....BLOT The Man From Mars....DIXON 1500 miles an Hour....DOUGLASS Pharoahs Broker....FLAMMARIAN Urania....L'ESTRANGE Platonie....PALLANDER Across the Zodiac

LIST 2 Continued.ROGERS The Kite Trust....WINDSOR Lome, A Citizen from Venus
SUFFLING The Story Hunter....HUNTLEY Spoopndyke Sketches
 (Includes the Verne take-off I mentioned earlier.)....MASTIN Through The Sun In
 An Airship....FENTON ASH (aka FRANK AUBREY) A Trip to Mars....BARLOW The Immortals!
 Great Quest....DELAIRE Around a Distant Star....GRISEWOOD Zarleh The Martian....
 HARRIS A Romance in Radium....HARRIS Life in a Thousand Worlds....RAFFALOVITCH
 Planetary Journeys and Earthly Sketches...RAFFALOVITCH The Deuce and All....
 RICHARDS Atlanta, or, Nine Months in the Evening Star....WEISS Journeys to the
 Planet Mars....HALLEN Angilin, A Venite King....HORNER Their Winged Destiny....
 LURGAN & GANTHONY A Message from Mars....RAPHSEL Up Above.

LIST 3. This is really the most important list of all. I would be very grateful
 for information on any of these titles. It's also, by the way, a wants
 list, and if you have copies of almost any of these for sale, I would like very
 much to buy them. I have one or two of the titles in the first two lists to spare
 and would be very willing to trade. (For instance, War of the Venuses, which is a
 scarce take-off of War of The Worlds. IMPORTANT: This list isn't to be regarded
 as an accurate checklist of space fiction. One or two of the titles may not be
 interplanetary.

GASTON Mars Revealed....ANONYMOUS A Thousand Years Hence....COLE The Auroraphone
 CRIDGE Utopia....DAIL Willmoth The Wanderer....DIEUDONNE Bondah....NEWCOMB His
 Wisdom the Defender....COLE The Struggle for Empire....CARTER The People of the
 Moon....CLARKE A Maiden of Mars....DOUGHTY Mirrikh....FLAMMARION Lumen....
 JANE To Venus in Eight Seconds....POPE A Journey to Mars....POPE A Journey to Venus.
RAMSEY Two Billions of Miles....STUMP From World to World....MASTIN The Stolen
 Planet....HORNER By Aeroplane to the Sun....CRAMICHAEL The man in the moon....
 COOK Adrift in the Unknown....DOEDING The Man From Mars....GRATACAP The Certainty
 of a Future Life in Mars....HANNAN Thinks of the Moon....HEKKING A King of Mars....
 HENLEY A Man from Mars....MONTGOMERY On a Lark to the Planets....ROCK Through
 Space....ROCKWOOD Through Space to Mars....WEISS Decimon Huydes....KENNEDY The
 Triunverse....ROCKWOOD Lost on the Moon.

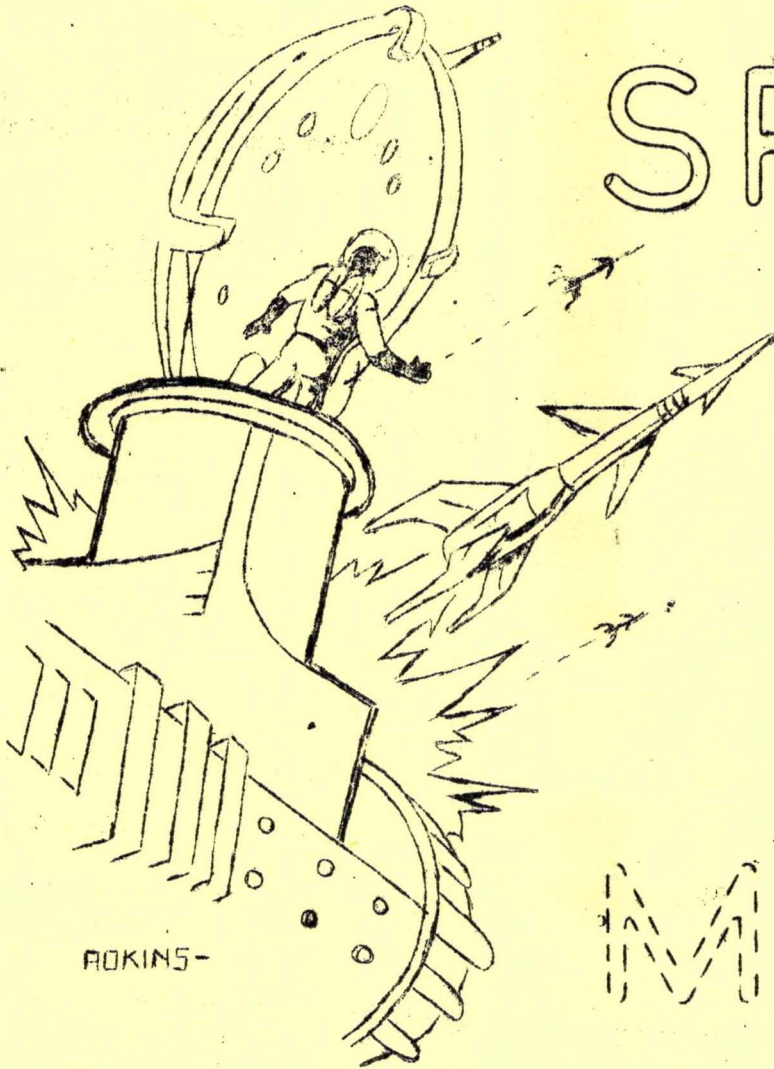
....Plus any others not listed above. Up to 1914. Especially, a magazine story:
 In The Depths of Time, published about 1898. Also wanted, Sam Moskowitz' article
 on The Gay Nineties in Fantastic Universe of early 1960.

REFERENCES USED: Ba - BAILEY Pilgrims Through Space and Time...PL - BLEILER &
 DIKTY The Checklist of Fantastic Literature.... C - CLARKE The
 Tale of the Future.... G - GREEN Into Other Worlds....L - LEIGHTON Moon Travellers
M - MOORE Science and Fiction. Information about other reference works, esp-
 ecially stuff which appeared in fanzines, would be gratefully received.
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NOTE. During April and May 1966, my adress will be:
 c/o Joseph C. Lincoln, 6320 E. MacDonald Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona,
 U.S.A.

After that, during June, I shall be a vagrant with no fixed address.
 Tentatively, I'll be making a big, wide circle from Arizona to Seattle, then
 across country to Chicago and all points east. At least, assuming the Greyhound
 buses don't go on strike or something. I've no information as yet on conventions
 during that period, but if there are any on I'd very much like to attend them
 and have a chance to meet American SF Fans - especially those I used to be in cor-
 respondence with when I was active a few years ago.

I apologise for the scarpiness of these two pages of introduction, as it were.
 My typewriter, the faithful old beast which I bought years ago in Kenya, is beginning
 to die - at least, I can only attribute the slipping of its link spacing device
 to senile decay. It wasn't exactly new when I bought it. To FAPAns - apologies for
 a magazine which few, if any, of you will read. There'll be another DEADWOOD later
 in the year.
 -----George Locke.



SPACE

on

their

MIND

A FICTITIOUS travel book entitled OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS BEYOND THULE, by Antonius Diogenes, included a voyage to the Moon. Although this story hasn't survived as far as the twentieth century, it lived long enough to inspire the earliest known moon voyages - Lucian's jolly little trips into space.

ca. A.D. 120 - 200. Lucian of Samosata. Icaro-Menippus. Translated by Francis Hickes in 1634. Flies there by means of wings. ((G Ba L M))

ca. AD 120 - 200. Lucian of Samosata. True History. Translated by Francis Hickes in 1634. The hero is whipped onto the Moon by a whirlwind. A very attractive edition is the translation of St. J. Basil Wynne Wilson, Blackwoods 1899, and illustrated by A. Payne Garnett. ((G Ba L M))

1516. LUDOVICO ~~ARIOSTO~~ Orlando Furioso. Translated by Harrington 1591. An adventurous knight, mounted on a hippogryph, searches for the lost wits of a friend of his. St. John tells him to go to the Moon where everything lost to the Earth is stored. And so he goes, in the same chariot which carried Elias to Heaven. ((G Ba L))
1634. JOHANN KEPLER. Somnium. The famous astronomer's hero, Duracotus, is taken by a daemon in a dream to the moon, a world where life is dictated by the length of the lunar day. ((G Ba L M))
1638. FRANCIS GODWIN. The Man in the Moone. John Norton; London 1638 67 Ill. Domingo Gonzales is towed to the moon on an aeronautical framework of wood and cords by a flock of tamed wild swans called Gansas. Unlike most of the epics of the next hundred years or so, this is unashamedly an adventure story. ((G Ba L M Bl))
1656. ATHANASIUS KIRCHER. Itinerarium Exstaticum. A tour of the heavens conducted by the angel Cosmiel includes a description of an inhabitable moon. ((G))
- 1657-1662. CYRANO DE BERGERAC. Worlds of the Sun and the Moon. Publishing history is complicated; there is an illustrated edition dated 1923 which isn't too hard to come by. Cyrano wrote two stories. One flight is effected by working on the observation:- "Dew disappears in the morning. It is sucked up by the sun. Therefore, use this principle to fly." The other is the acclaimed first interplanetary to use the principle of the rocket. ((G Ba L M Bl))
1666. DUCHESS OF NEWCASTLE. The Description of a New World, called the Blazing World. London. The first woman astronaut visits many worlds, hobnobbing with lunar men, bear-men, bird-men and fly-men. Shades of Flash Gordon. ((L))
- ? LUCAS LUNANIMUS OF LUNEBERG. The Lunarians: Or News from the World of the Moon. The hero went to the Moon on a kite, fixed to its tail. ((L))
1687. APHRA BEHN. The Emperor of the Moon. Satire derivative of earlier works. ((G L))
1692. DANIEL, GABRIEL. Voyage to the World of Cartesius. T Bennett London 293 The hero's soul, separated from his body by sneezing violently upon a special snuff, is guided to the moon, the home of dear, departed souls. ((G Ba L Bl))
1697. ELKANAH SETTLE. The World of the Moon; an opera. Another satire jumping on the bandwagon of moon fiction.

1764. FRANCIS GENTLEMAN. A Trip to the Moon. Sir Humphrey Lunatick, the hero, falls asleep in the rays of the moon and wakes up to find himself on our much visited satellite. A dull political and literary satire. Remind me to close the curtains when I go to bed. ((G L))
1784. WILLIAM THOMSON. Man in the Moon. A political piece in which one Charles James Fox is carried into the satellite for an object lesson in the art of government. ((G))
1785. R.E.RASPE. Baron Munchausen. The Good Baron ascends to the moon by a kind of Jack-in-the-Beanstalk method. Not the most serious of the earlier interplanetaries.
1793. ARATUS. A Voyage to the Moon; Strongly Recommended to All Lovers of Real Freedom. The Author; London 1793. Strongly recommended to all completists, this is yet another political satire. ((Ba Bl))
1793. ANONYMOUS. A Voyage to the Moon. Printed for the Author and sold by J. Ridgeway; London 1793 39. Listed in Bleiler, it's possible that this might be another incarnation of the item immediately above, by Aratus. ((Bl))
1808. NICHOLAS LUNATIC. Satyrical Tales. This collection includes A Voyage to the Moon, which is another satire in which the journey is achieved by balloon. ((G))
1813. GEORGE FOWLER. A Flight to the Moon; or, The Vision of Randalthus. A Miltenberger; Baltimore 1813 185. After a visit to the moon, guided by an angel in a vision, Randalthus visits Mercury and the sun. A vehicle for the author's scientific theories, as a change from satire. ((Ba Bl))
- 1816- THOMAS ERSKINE. Armata, a Fragment. John Murray; London 1816-1817.
1817. Armata is an island on a twin-planet attached to the Earth at the South Pole, and reached by a seventy-thousand mile long channel which extends between the two. Back to satire. ((Ba Bl))
1818. R. PHILLIPS. The Man in the Moon; a Farce. J. Robinson; Baltimore 1818 33. ((Bl))
1827. JOSEPH ATTERLEY. A Voyage to the Moon. Elam Bliss; New York 1827 264. This story is notable as the first to use an antigravity metal as the motive force of the spaceship. This metal (Lunarium) was repelled by Earth and attracted to the moon, which presumably didn't have the same species of gravity.

1703. DAVID RUSSEN. Iter Lunare, or, A Voyage to the Moon. J.Nutt; London 1703 147. According to Greene, this is a heavy, humourless book. The astronaut is thrown at the moon by a big catapult mounted on a mountain. ((G Ba L Bl))
1705. DANIEL DEFOE. The Consolidator, or, Memoirs of Sundry Transactions from the World in the Moon. B.Bragg; London 1705 360. This one has an intriguingly detailed flying machine involving feathers, but the imagination of Robinson Crusoe's author leaves him when it comes to dreaming up his Lunarians. They are very much like the people on Earth. Political satire. ((G))
1706. THOMAS D'URFEY. Wonders in the Sun; or, The Kingdom of the Birds. Tonson; London 1706 69. A satire, very much derivative of Cyrano. ((G Bl))
1727. SAMUEL BRUNT. A Voyage to Cacklogallinia. J.Watson, printer; London 1727 167. A satire of a 'Country of the Birds' which organises a voyage to the moon in search of gold. The hero, towed by birds, finds his weight decreases as he progresses away from Earth, a phenomenon which should surely have made him a life member of the Royal Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Birds. ((G L Bl))
1728. MURTAGH McDERMOTT. A Trip to the Moon. Printed at Dublin and London for J.Roberts. 1728. To the moon by whirlwind; back again by blowing himself up - or down - with a sizeable quantity of dynamite. Otherwise a satire. ((G L Bl))
1747. ANONYMOUS. A New Journey to the World in the Moon. After arguing that physical and scientific methods of space travel are impossible, the hero sends his 'Imagination' and 'thinking faculty' off Earth, thus proving the power of mind over matter. ((G))
1751. RALPH MORRIS. A Narrative of the Life and Astonishing Adventures of John Daniel. Printed for M.Cooper; London 1751. John Daniel, with his son Jacob, are shipwrecked on a desert island. Jacob builds a flying machine in which they go to the moon, not entirely by design. Like Godwin, de Bergerac and Lucian, this is one of the 'classic' interplanetary ones, and was reprinted in 1926 in a handsome, illustrated 'Library of Imposters' edition. ((G Ba L Bl))
1752. FRANCOIS DE VOLTAIRE. Micromegas. Another classic, this one is the first to present beings from other worlds visiting us. A Sirian and a Saturnian - two giants - are two thorough supermen, and derive some amusement from us poor little fellows on Earth. ((Ba L))
1757. MILES WILSON. The History of Israel Jobson the Wandering Jew. The hero is taken on a tour by a Guardian Angel, visiting the Moon, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.
According to Greene, Wilson also published a pamphlet called THE MAN IN THE MOON where the hero climbed up to the moon by means of a rope ladder. ((G L))

1829. THOMAS CROFTON CROKER. Legends of the Lakes. 'Daniel O'Rourke' is the legend we're interested in. An inebriated little tale in which an eagle carries a boozed-up Irish gamekeeper to a rather fanciful little Luna. ((G))
1835. EDGAR ALLAN POE. The Unparalleled Adventure of one Hans Pfaall. Although Poe was the brilliant innovator of the detective story, his contribution to fictional space lore took a step back, if anything. A mere balloon, in the progressive nineteenth century? ((G Ba L M))
1835. RICHARD ADAMS LOCKE. The Great Lunar Hoax. (In the New York Sun; reprinted in 1852.) All lies, this series of articles about the life purported to be found on the moon by the big new Herschel telescope at the Cape of Good Hope. ((G Ba M))

1836. ANONYMOUS. Adventures in the Moon, and Other Worlds. Longman; London 1836 447. This title was one of the first to find its way into my collection - while I was still at college and recovering from the financial mess that collecting wartime Astoundings had left me in. Purported to have been written by Lord John Russell, I found it in a very dusty old bookshop tucked away in the backstreets of Chelsea. The owner was a youngish man who appeared to have stepped, gaunt, bearded and intense, from the public picture of the Chelsea Bohemian. The shop has since closed down, like many of the old second hand bookshops, but I still sometimes run across its owner, unchanged and with a knapsack on his back, around the market stalls.

The book consists of a long story, A Journey to the Moon, and a number of shorter pieces, mostly in the form of dialogues. There are two ways of looking at it: as an example of early science fiction, and, inevitably, as a vehicle for satire and worldly commentary.

The following review, which appeared in THE METROPOLITAN magazine for January 1837, takes care of the latter.

"These are very clever essays certainly, but in a very easy department. When we throw off, in the very beginning, all probability, it matters not much what the author may say afterwards. There should be some aptness in these impossible things to things possible; and after the first plunge into the unnatural is taken, all things that succeed, should be consistent with themselves.

Thus, if a man be conveyed, by the potent will of the author, into the moon or any other planet, and the traveller carries with him his five earthly senses, it is not correct to make him see, hear, smell, touch or taste, otherwise than he would on earth. The author has not adhered strictly to this plan; and for our part, we must say, that we think his inequalities have an unpleasant effect. But these remarks apply only to the machinery, to the vehicles by which the author's instruction and his satire are conveyed. Almost every moral and political relation of man, all his common, and individual feelings, are held up to ridicule or brought under his scourge.

The work is in one volume, and a rather bulky one for an octavo - there is too much of it - the dose is too large. They would have made good papers for a magazine. Caustic is a good agent, but it must never be administered too unsparingly. Some who may call this cavilling would say, if the aggregate of it that is offered you be too much to be applied at once, you may take as little of it as you like at a time. So you may. But neither the author nor his publisher would be content with this manner of dealing. We cannot, however, conclude this our short notice, without doing justice to the excellent materials that we think are so inartificially thrown together. They are acute, evince a great knowledge of the world, and of the actuating elements of society, and the style, in all its varieties of playfulness, scorn, irony or bitterness is always almost as good as such a style can be.

As to what may be the success of a work of this description, it is almost impossible to predict; it is a novel experiment, and a volume upon which the world will not, either through ignorance or through indolence, think for themselves. We know of no publication lately that deserves so much pushing, and there is no great number of books that deserve it more. The title, of itself, is rather repellent, giving rise to the opinion that the work to which it is prefixed must be rambling, vague and visionary. But it is evident that the author, whoever he may be, has not put forth the whole of his strength, and we are led more to admire the power that produced the volume than the volume itself. There is, we are sorry to say, one thing against it - it has been inordinately praised by a periodical that has, with a singular fatality, almost invariably run counter to the public opinion, totally condemning works that have afterwards become highly popular, and too often lavishing its praise upon the still-born children of the press."

And now for the science fictional aspect. The author, influenced by Ariosto, describes the moon as having been proved to be the resting place of all that is lost to earth. A scientific invention - "the nature of which is so wellknown that no description need be given of the journey" enables our hero to visit the satellite. He goes there in company with a large number of other people, making this possibly the first story of interplanetary travel open to everybody. Some of the reasons for going are to find one's lost: health, good humour, character, youth, fame - and all the rest! (Except, apparently, the bodily forms of your dear, departed relatives.)

It's implied in places that some lunar agency is in charge of this museum, but this agency is never described. Everything, however, is sorted, classified and stored. Some things, like lost advice which is never taken, womanly nagging which falls on deaf ears and political speeches, are present as disembodied voices in the air. Every time a wind springs up, they are all mixed up together and generally tossed around. After the wind dies down, they slowly return to their own niches, their own valleys.

Other things, like lost spirits, lost hopes and so on, are kept

in bottles. A whiff of your lost spirits cheers you up, whilst a snifter of your lost hopes acts as a better tonic than purple hearts. One idea that appeared to me was that of the lost complexion. There's a description of dear little Victorian ladies sauntering up to the moon to try and find their lost complexion. When they find it, they put it on like a mask and gambol about, happily pretty once again. But if they can't find it, they sneakily swipe somebody else's and put that on. The cunning scheme doesn't work, however. It doesn't fit, and looks as elegant as a half-removed mudpack.

Another sweet little idea comes under the department of Lost Fashions. In this valley, you see a wide variety of clothes wandering around as though they are being worn, but without any people actually being in them. Elizabethan costumes go cheek by jowl with fancy waistcoats. Our hero, having a naughty mind, writes: "All these dresses conducted themselves so naturally that I could hardly be satisfied there was not a prompter within each. Seeing, therefore, an embroidered petticoat, which walked in a very stately fashion, I ventured to raise it, in order to disclose what might be there. To this enquiry it made no resistance; and I found that it had none of those secrets to keep which are usually entrusted to a petticoat."

Tough luck, old fellow!

There is one science fictional gadget that's worth mentioning. In the building containing Lost Vices, instead of finding bottles, you find a number of devices looking rather like kaliedoscopes...

"On each of these instruments is inscribed the name of the libertine who has filled it. On one of them I observed the name of a man with whose past life and character I am acquainted. He once accepted very frankly of all the blessings offered him by Providence, but now lives in the strict practice of every virtue which decrepitude enforces. I took his kaleidoscope from the shelf; and looking into it, saw him carousing at a table with some companions... Their figures in this vision were very small but quite perfect, and all their looks and gestures faithfully exhibited... While I was entertained by seeing this company drink in miniature, I accidentally gave the kaleidoscope a turn, upon which the scene vanished in an instant, and another adventure appeared, the same still being the hero. He was now soliciting a beautiful girl with great energy; and from her reluctance and alarm, I supposed it to be the first interview. He seemed to make no progress while I held the kaleidoscope still; but I gave it a slight turn, which advanced his suit considerably, and a great part of her austerity was now omitted; whence I found that I must continue to turn the instrument in order to bring his addresses to a conclusion. I therefore turned it round very gradually, not to lose and stage of the transaction, according to the injunction of Ovid..."

You dirty old man!

It's not all as interesting as this, however, and the style, whilst being an improvement of that of the review, still takes quite a bit of getting into.

1839. ANONYMOUS. A Fantastical Excursion into the Planets. Saunders and Otley; London 1839 194. A tour of the Solar System, but a metaphysical one. The narrator describes Mercury, Venus, the moon, Mars, Pallas Ceres, Juno, Vesta, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus as being inhabited by fanciful types of men drawn from mythology. ((Ba B1))

1851. CHARLES DELORME. The Marvellous and Incredible Adventures of Charles Thunderbolt in the Moon. Gunn; London 1851 391. Sometimes, first editions of a book are very difficult to differentiate from subsequent printings. Quite often, the first issue differs from the second only by a couple of misprints which the proofreader didn't spot, and which were corrected in subsequent printings. Haggard's KING SOLOMON'S MINES is a first class example - the genuine (and valuable) 1st is the one with a particular set of adverts at the back and half a dozen typos in the text.

Going by that rule, then, Charles Delorme's epic must have been rushed hot through the press before the proofreader had a chance to get his hot little blue pencil sharpened.

And, boy, would it have needed sharpening!

It is quite unabashedly an adventure story, and a fantasy at that. It embraces on the one extreme the traditional ingredients of the fairy tale, but on the other it snatches up a few of the trappings of the more usual kind of science fiction story.

It concerns one Charles Thunderbolt, and starts him off on his journeyings in a satisfactorily perilous manner. Lashed to the mast of a small boat in a storm, he sees his uncle and his crew washed overboard, and eventually sleeps. When he wakes up, all is calm and he finds himself afloat on a curious sea. A surface layer, about a foot thick, is red in colour, whilst the deeper regions are a transparent green. He can see fish and an assortment of monsters swimming about in the green part. The red part turns out to be a kind of molten chip fat, which is very handy for the carnivorous denizens of the sea. If they want their prey really deep-fried, they stick it into the red layer for a moment and let it sizzle. Chas. is grateful for his boat! It's not a lunar sea, however, but is apparently sited somewhere on Earth.

The action proper starts when a goose dives into the sea and is duly fried. Chas., feeling hungry, fancies it for brunch, and nabs it. Unfortunately, the goose has other ideas. When Chas. cuts himself a nice slice of breast, it complains and changes into a highly viable, but less edible, dragon. It's a very remarkable dragon, with considerable shape-changing powers, not to mention size-changing ones. It takes Chas. for a trip through space - just a small one. I get the impression that author Delorme would have defined it as a couple of orbits had he been writing a hundred years later. At the end of this trip, Chas. is dumped onto an iceberg in the Arctic and told that he is to take a trip to the moon.

After some magical and somewhat satirical adventures, Chas. goes to the moon. His vehicle is, I suppose, science fictional: the North Pole (literally, a pole), which the dragon sticks into its innards to use as a propulsion unit.

He lands on the moon in a country called Northerntine, inhabited by a horde of tails. Yes, tails. The things that steer cats round corners. He learns that 1) the inhabitants are really humans, but have been enchanted - and consequently disenchanting - by a nasty wizard on the planet Jupiter. 2) the king is also enchanted, and is only kept alive by a special water found on Jupiter. Chas. must go there for a further supply of this elixir. 3) CHas' girlfriend, the fair Eliza, is also under a spell and, 4) Charles being under her spell, he agree to toddle off and sort the enchanters out.

He goes to Jupiter in a very science fictional spaceship. It is an aerial steam carriage complete with wings and powered by the faithful North Pole. He stops for water at Mercury, inhabited by large, furry satyrs, and at another planet en route.

Arrived on Jupiter, he undergoes a series of sword-and-sorcery adventures which culminate with the elimination of Eliza's spell, and the obtaining of a supply of the moon king's precious water. The sorcery sequences are about the best in the book, and though amateurishly written - like the rest of the story - they're still quite impressive.

The yarn becomes a bit more science fictional following Delorme's description of Jupiter's sun as being many times larger than Earths. In a footnote, the author makes a charmingly naive suggestion that the inhabitants of Jupiter are more advanced than those of Earth, and as a result, the Great Deity which runs the Universe could hardly give them a sun as small as Earth's!

It becomes increasingly science fictional during the voyage back to the Moon. The aerial steam carriage loses its way when the moon is obscured by an eclipse, and there's quite a lot of detail of the voyage. Chas. arrives at the moon too late to save the enchanted king. He finds that he is now king of Northerntine, but as the long book is only half finished at this point, there are plenty of adventures to come. As they consist largely of intrigue amongst the Northerntine nobles and more sword-and-sorcery stuff, I'll pass over them.

This book could have been a classic if Delorme had been a more skilful writer. The fertility of ideas was there, and if his science was a bit skew-whiff - well, there wasn't much science around in those days. ((B1))

1855. SYDNEY WHITING. Helionde, or Adventures in the Sun. Chapman and Hall; London 1855 424. Mentioned in passing in Greene as a fantasy. ((BL G))
1864. ANONYMOUS. History of a Voyage to the Moon with an account of the Adventurers' Subsequent Discoveries. Lockwood; London 1864. ((B1))
1871. GEORGE MACDONALD. At the Back of the North Wind. Routledge. 1871. Strictly a fairy story, in which the moon is brought to the Earth and turns out to be a dinky little thing the size of a house. But I suppose it does foreshadow Andre Laurie's moon-pulling feat. ((G))
1873. JULES VERNE. From the Earth to the Moon direct in 97 hours 20 minutes and a Trip Round it. Sampson Low; London 1873 323 Ill. One of the founders of modern science fiction. ((G BA B1 L C))