

AN UKRAINIAN MOON-STUDY PROJECT: THE SEARCH FOR ALIEN ARTIFACTS ON OUR MOON.

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Introduction

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) is a fundamental scientific task. The many attempts to perform it have till now been unsuccessful. These have been made chiefly by means of radio astronomy. ⁽¹⁾ But it is impossible to choose **a priori** the best suitable strategy of the search, because we know practically nothing of the subject of inquiry. Therefore, it is topical to develop non-traditional approaches to the problem ⁽²⁾.

Thus, in recent years, the interest has grown among researchers in search for traces of extraterrestrial civilizations within the Solar System ^{(1);(6);(8);(11);(14);(16)}. It was shown earlier that within the time of existence of our planet, approximately 10^4 stars capable of having inhabited planets approached the Sun to distances within 1.5 pc ⁽⁴⁾. Such distances can be covered by space probes even at the present-day level of science and technology ⁽¹⁵⁾. Some ten stars with life-favourable neighborhoods have flown past the Sun at distances less than 0.05 pc ⁽⁴⁾. In this case spontaneous arrival of artifacts in the Solar System could take place by the "gravitation sling" effect.

The researchers have chiefly concentrated on the search for artifacts which are in orbits ⁽⁷⁾, around the Earth ⁽¹⁶⁾, or on asteroids ⁽¹⁴⁾. It seems that this list should also include the Moon ^{(3);(8)}. Here we are going to justify this assertion.

THE MOON AS AN ATTRACTOR OF ARTIFACTS.

As early as 1960 it was noticed that the Moon was of great strategic importance for military and weather forecasting observation of our planet ^{(10);(13)}. It is reason-

able to expect that intelligent beings exploring the Solar System would be interested in the Earth as a unique planet having a rare oxygen-containing atmosphere and, hence, a biosphere. Thus, the natural satellite of the Earth could be used as a convenient site for long-time observation of the Earth. Besides, there is a variety of other weighty arguments for placing equipment for prolonged Earth-monitoring on the Moon rather than in orbit around or on the Earth itself:

1. Because of screening of at least half the meteorite flow and ionizing radiation, the service life of an equipment on the lunar surface may be at least twice as long as that of a spacecraft in orbit.
2. Stabilization of an apparatus is simple.
3. Heat-setting of an equipment sunk into the lunar ground is not a problem.
4. The mission may be effectively concealed from terrestrial "aborigines" (an orbital spacecraft is much harder to conceal.)
5. Lunar soil can be used for life-support of the station personnel, repair of equipment, etc. ^{(8);(17)}
6. The absence of adverse effects of the atmospheric, geological and biological nature will offer a longer lifetime for an exploration station on the Moon than on the Earth.
7. The indisputable advantages of the Moon as an intermediate base for interplanetary flights are clearly demonstrated by the growth of interest of the USA and Japanese space agencies in the Moon ⁽⁵⁾

It should be emphasized that because of the said reasons, landing on the Moon would be for ET visitors rather a necessity than a convenience. Thus, the Moon should be an attractor of alien artifacts, provided certainly that extraterrestrial civilizations have been really interested in the Earth. If there is not such interest, this means, in the author's opinion, that there are no extraterrestrial civilizations (at least capable of making interstellar flights) in a considerable part of the Galaxy.

STATE OF THE ART IN THE STUDY OF THE MOON

The common opinion is that there has never been life on the Moon, since no traces of it have been found. Still, though the Moon is the best-studied celestial body,

it evidently has not been studied well enough to justify this view. Indeed only about 0.5 per cent of the lunar surface has been photographed with a resolution of 1-10m⁽⁹⁾. But even the 1 m resolution can prove to be insufficient. For example, a photograph taken by *Lunar Orbiter 3* shows the *Surveyor 1* station on the lunar surface just as a light-coloured boulder.

It is worthwhile reminding that lunar base projects⁽¹⁷⁾ contemplate placing manned modules beneath the lunar surface, to protect them from radiation and meteorites. It is not improbable that our predecessors tens of millions or even billions of years ago may have done likewise. Since that time traces of their construction works could have been destroyed by erosion, objects thereby becoming hard to reveal.

But the main obstacle in the search for artifacts is the principle of Occam's Razor, which makes researchers regard, *a priori*, any artificial object on the Moon as a natural formation of a quaint shape or as a defect of the image. A geologist, for instance, will hardly identify a separately standing stone as a menhir even in England, let alone on the Moon. It is only a criminologist who can distinguish an artificially exploded crater from a natural one. But the Moon is usually studied by geologists, geophysicists, geochemists and astronomers accustomed to dealing with natural formations. All this is enough to suggest that the Moon is still practically untouched in terms of a real search for alien artifacts on its surface.

THE PROSPECTS

In recent years the interest of space agencies in the Moon has revived⁽⁵⁾. A permanent manned NASA base on our natural satellite will be preceded by flights designed for detailed Moon exploration and search for possible construction sites. Japan is developing some projects of its own. Thus, the problem of lunar artifacts, now theoretical, can become quite practical. This however will require quite a set of things to do:

1. to analyze possible variants of the behaviour of an extraterrestrial civilization on the Moon and to develop the search strategy;
2. to distinguish the likely indications of the presence of alien artifacts among the lunar phenomena;
3. to determine the most promising regions of archaeological prospecting on the Moon on the basis of the data available;
4. To develop the theory of evolution of artifacts on the



FSR'S YEARLY GET-TOGETHER;:Back row: Philip, Howard, Bernard, Michelle, Omar, Paul. Front row: Eve, Gordon, Cathie, Judy, Gloria and George. Jonathan Caplan had been called away. Bobbie Finch took the photograph.

lunar surface and formulate on this basis the general rules of lunar archaeology.

These problems are to be worked on by our research program entitled "Search for Alien Artifacts on the Moon" (SAAM), implemented by RIAP (Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena). The present publication is an introduction to a series of papers which will present the results of the SAAM project.

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AN "INVISIBLE" UFO (1995) Over Budapest

© By Florin Gheorghita, Engineer, FSR Consultant (Romania)
(Précis Translation from French.G.C)

More than 20 years ago, many researchers, in several countries, feeling that the "E.T. Hypothesis" was incapable of explaining the massive extent of UFO sightings, began to gather evidence testifying to the presence of a more evolved, invisible "etheric" world which is right here close by us, and which contains advanced intelligent beings capable of a remarkable capacity to manipulate matter.

In articles published long ago in FSR *, I gave some evidence for the presence of such beings and such craft in Romania. It seems patent that if we are to make any further advance whatever in UFO research we absolutely must devote far more attention now to these invisible surrounding realms and their invisible occupants who, it is clear, can enter our own three-dimensional world should they so desire, and bring their craft with them!

My latest example dates from February of this year:-

On February 23,1995, a fellow-countryman of mine, Mr. Radu Petcu, an engineer from a very impor-

tant concern here in my home-city of Iasi (Romania's second largest), was in Budapest, the Hungarian Capital, on a brief business trip, during which he used his spare time for a stroll around the city and for photographing a few scenes of Budapest during the day and during the evening. A complete amateur as regards photography, he exposed one roll of colour film (Kodak 24 DIN).

After returning to Iasi, he sent the film for development to the Iasi Kodak Laboratory, and in due course he was surprised to learn from them that his film contained two snaps showing a UFO!

Mr. Petcu, however, was quite certain that he had observed no UFO in Budapest, nor was he even remotely interested in UFOs, so he did not even trouble to collect his film from them, and in due course one of their staff made it available to me and I have had prints made.

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