

**NEW EDITION
REVISED & EXPANDED**

DARK MISSION



**THE SECRET HISTORY OF
NASA**

BY RICHARD C. HOAGLAND AND MIKE BARA

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DARK MISSION

*The Secret History
of the
National Aeronautics
and Space Administration*

Revised and Expanded Edition

by
Richard C. Hoagland
and
Mike Bara



Front Matter

Authors' Note

For purposes of historical clarity, the authors have chosen to describe certain events in third person. We did not begin working together until 1998, and a substantial portion of the events described in the book took place in the 1980s and early 1990s before the authors began their collaboration. For that reason, you will frequently read in these pages that “Hoagland” did this or “Hoagland” discovered that, simply so we can differentiate for the reader more precisely who did what, and when. For the most part, events described that took place after 1998 will refer to “the authors” or “we” when characterizing our participation in certain events. We understand this editorial mechanism may be distracting to readers, but we felt it was the best way to deal with the problem.

Revelation

Mike Bara

In the two calendar years since the publication of the first edition of *Dark Mission*, a great deal of new information has come to light that not only reinforces the case we made in that initial volume, but also demonstrates that *Dark Mission* has had a significant political impact despite being systematically ignored by most of the mainstream American media.

Aside from personal attacks made against my co-author Richard C. Hoagland by an aerospace industry website known as The Space [Review.com](http://www.SpaceReview.com)¹ and an assault against the integrity of Dr. Kenneth Johnston by James Oberg of NBC News,² the media has been mostly silent about *Dark Mission*. The Space Review.com hit-piece was written by a shameless hack named Dwayne A. Day. He, like Oberg, has so many NASA connections on his resume that he may as well be an official press officer for the Agency. He claimed, among other absurdities, that Richard had a “harem” of older women fans and that he lived in a “compound” with them. As I can personally attest, my co-author lives with his girlfriend of more than 10 years, Dr. Robin Falkov, in a comfortable house in suburban Albuquerque.

Even Oberg’s direct intervention in getting Dr. Johnston dismissed from his unpaid position as JPL Solar System Ambassador failed to ignite any interest among the media elite. A publicist we hired to help arrange media interviews gave up after four months, stating that she had never encountered such monolithic opposition to what she considered a well-crafted and ideally positioned work. Despite having direct talks with Larry King himself, who fondly remembered Richard as a “great guest” from his appearance on King’s CNN show in the early 1990’s, arrangements for a show dedicated to the issues raised by *Dark Mission* evaporated when King’s producer stonewalled it, with no reason given. This was despite the fact that King did numerous shows on subjects like the latest UFO sightings and Bigfoot throughout 2008. Similarly, a feature piece written by an impressed senior staff writer for *People* magazine was also spiked at the last minute.

And so on.

This is not to say there weren’t a few brave souls who stepped up to the plate and took the heat for having us on. George Noory, host of the highly popular *Coast to Coast AM* radio program could not have been more supportive, and the many shows George allowed Richard and me to participate in were a huge boon to the relatively modest sales figures of *Dark Mission*. Dennis Miller gave Richard almost an hour to make his case and was fair-minded and generous in his evaluation. Likewise Margaret Wendt and Joel Martin of *The Spiritual Truth* radio program were very supportive along with a few other internet radio programs in spreading the word. But beyond that, there wasn’t much.

Of course, the “usual suspects,” as Richard likes to call them, couldn’t resist trying to defame me and *Dark Mission* in anyway they could. There were numerous one-star reviews on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) from people who obviously hadn’t even read the book, including NASA/JPL scientist Geoffrey A. Landis who failed to notice that he was mentioned in the book several times. An anonymous reviewer calling himself “Professor Fulcanelli” tried to attack *Dark Mission* by misquoting us and attacking us for various claims we had never made. He finished the whole thing off by comparing us to Nazi sympathizers.

So, it was something of a surprise when the Russian media displayed a tremendous enthusiasm for *Dark Mission*, especially right after Richard and Ken Johnston’s press conference at Washington DC National Press Club in October, 2007. Various Russian media outlets interviewed Richard and Ken on several occasions, flying out from Moscow to conduct extensive interviews.

Likewise, I was personally very gratified when Sergeant Major Robert O. Dean (Ret.), told me at the 2008 Bay Area UFO Expo that he had personally given copies to upper level staff at the Pentagon and that it had been very well received. This independently echoes one of Richard’s long-time intelligence sources who admitted he’d bought over 70 copies of *Dark Mission* to give to colleagues in the American intelligence, military and space communities along with his contacts in the Russian government.

During the course of our first years in circulation, as you would expect, the story didn’t stand still. Something of a mini-media sensation was caused in 2008 when self-anointed “Bad Astronomer” Dr. Phil Plait made a very public stink about a tiny object that appeared in a Mars rover image and looked for all the world like a small statue or figurine. Despite Dr. Phil protesting a bit too much, the figurine and the Spirit rover image it was spotted on got more and more intriguing by the day.

This was followed by new independent research papers supporting the hyper-dimensional physics theory we outlined in Chapter Two of *Dark Mission*, and amazing new images of the asteroid 2867 Steins and Mars’ moon Phobos. Both of these data sets provided fresh fortification for our case, and both objects show unmistakable signatures of artificial origin. All of these developments will get full play in our follow-up volume, *Dark Mission II - The Secret Space Program*, due next year.

We also continued to do additional research on key points we first raised in *Dark Mission*. One subject I decided to go back and re-research was the now infamous “communion ceremony” that Buzz Aldrin performed in the lunar module *Eagle* before the astronauts made their first historic steps on the Moon. As we told you in the first edition, this precise moment corresponded with a significant stellar alignment of Sirius, literally the Egyptian goddess Isis incarnate, rising over the Tranquility Bay landing site at 19.5°. This finding eventually led us to create the Ritual Alignment Model, which asserts that NASA has planned major mission objectives around the positions of the stars and planets over various landing sites and events. As I did my follow-up research, I found some interesting new information that reinforced and deepened the mystery.

According to Aldrin’s original account in his autobiography *Men from Earth*, the communion ceremony took place “during the first idle moment in the LM before eating our snack.” In *Dark Mission*, we had presumed that this ceremony took place exactly 33 minutes after the landing of *Eagle* on the lunar surface, during an odd one-minute long com break at that point in the mission. (The significance of the 33 minute timing should be obvious if you’ve read Chapter Five). *First Man*, Neil Armstrong’s 2005 authorized biography, also discusses the communion ceremony but places it

different time.

In Armstrong's version, the ceremony actually took place several hours after the com break at the 33 minute mark.³ By that time, Armstrong and Aldrin were getting ready to suit up and head out of the LM for the historic first moonwalk. *First Man* actually quotes from the com transcript from the precise moment that Armstrong says the ceremony occurred. Taking this information, I went to the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal⁴ and tried to find the exact corresponding dialog. Unfortunately, the LSR gave the Mission Elapsed Time (MET) of the dialog in total mission hours, and Armstrong's book gives it in days and hours, but after some cross checking I was able to correlate the two times precisely.

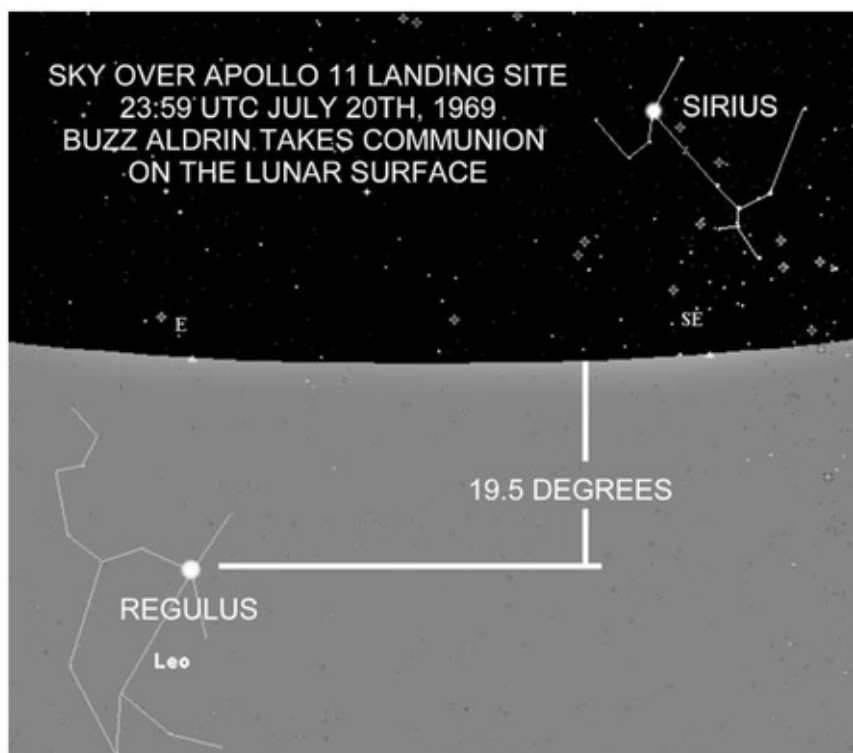
At MET 105:25:38, or 3 hours and 41 minutes after landing (approx. 23:59 UTC on July 20th, 1969) the following dialog took place:

Aldrin: *“Roger. This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way. Over.”*

A roughly nine-minute long comm break follows this statement by Aldrin. Presumably, during this time he performed his communion ceremony and then the astronauts ate their pre-EVA meal during this period.

The next question was obvious; were there any symbolically significant stellar alignments occurring at that precise moment, as there was during the earlier com break at the 33-minute-after landing mark? (See Chapter Five).

The answer is yes.



Sky over Apollo 11 landing site, Tranquility Base, July 20th 1969 during Aldrin's communion

ceremony.

By 23:59 UTC, Sirius had drifted beyond the significant 19.5° altitude over the landing site that occupied during the initial ceremonial window. But at the same moment -- and for a period of only few seconds -- Regulus, the "heart of the lion" in the constellation Leo (and one of only a handful of stellar objects we regard as significant for our Ritual Alignment Model) was rising at precisely 19.5° below the landing site.

The importance of this really can't be overstated. Had there been no such alignment, the entire Ritual Alignment Model could have been falsified. Instead, we once again find one of the very few significant objects in our model exactly where the model would predict it to be.

Leo, as we cover in Chapter Five, represented Horus, the son of Isis and Osiris in the ancient Egyptian stellar religion. As his father's avenging son, Horus was equal in stature to his parents and was along with them one of the gods of ancient Egypt who appears time and time again in the mythology of NASA. Furthermore, Regulus is the only star in the constellation of Leo which we recognize as significant in the Alignment Model. The notion that such an alignment could be simply coincidental stretches credulity to the breaking point, especially in the context of all the other similar alignments we cited in Chapter Five (and beyond). Only five stellar objects in the entire sky have any significance in our version of the ancient Egyptian cosmology; the three belt stars of Orion representing Osiris; Sirius, representing Isis; and Regulus in Leo, representing Horus. And only five narrow bands of stellar altitude (19.5° above and below the horizon, 33° above and below the horizon, and the horizon itself) have any significance. The chances of a second hit around the same ceremonial event are miniscule, if not astronomical.

So whether there were two different ceremonies, one secret (and probably Masonic) ceremony at 33 minutes after landing, and one public ceremony three hours and 41 minutes after that, or whether there was only the one ceremony, as Armstrong and Aldrin both now publically admit, it makes no difference. At the 33 minute window, Sirius (Isis) was 19.5° above the landing site, and at the latter occurrence Regulus (Horus) was at 19.5° below the horizon. Either way, they both fit our model perfectly.

And don't forget, Aldrin *did* take the Scottish Rite 33° apron with him to the Moon. Such a garment serves only one purpose -- to be worn during a solemn Masonic ceremony. It seems unlikely that such a dedicated servant of the Craft would take the apron on the 239,000 mile voyage to the Moon unless he was going to use it for some ceremonial purpose. The least likely scenario is that he took it all the way to the Moon and then never took it out of his Personal Preference Kit.

Prior to making this new discovery, there was already reason to be suspicious that something symbolically significant took place in the LM 33 minutes after landing. But one question still lingered; could Aldrin and Armstrong have actually *seen* Sirius from inside the Lunar Module that day? Without knowing exactly which direction the LM was facing on the lunar surface, it wasn't possible to know with certainty that Aldrin could have taken the measurements necessary to determine the exact time for the communion ceremony. For that, he would need to take a set of readings from the lunar surface to nail down their absolute location. Theoretically, they could have taken alignment measurements of other stars besides Sirius, but that would have made the process much more complicated and uncertain given the primitive state of navigation computers at that time.

In the course of going over the transcripts, I was pleased to find this exchange, which took place exactly when we suspected Aldrin was performing his Masonic ceremony, 33 minutes after *Eagle* first touched the lunar surface:

103:22:30 Armstrong: *From the surface, we could not see any stars out the window; but out my overhead hatch (the overhead rendezvous window), I'm looking at the Earth. It's big and bright and beautiful. Buzz is going to give a try at seeing some stars through the optics [emphasis added].*

103:22:54 Duke: *Roger, Tranquility. We understand. Must be a beautiful sight. Over.*

The “optics” that Armstrong refers to in this exchange is the Alignment Optical Telescope (AOT), a device that was used to determine the Lunar Module’s orientation relative to two specific stars. By plugging the relative positions of several stars (no less than 2) into the Apollo Guidance Computer, the precise axial orientation of the LM could be determined. But, farther up the transcript, Aldrin drops a hint as to the real use of the AOT:

103:15:01 Aldrin: *Houston, Tranquility standing by for Go on AGS to PGNS align and lunar align. Over.*

103:15:09 Duke: *Stand by. (Pause) Tranquility, Houston. You are Go for the AGS to PGNS align, and then the lunar align. Over.*

103:15:26 Aldrin: *Roger.*

The PGNS, or “pings” as it was commonly called, stands for Primary Guidance Navigation and Control System. “AGS” is a reference to the Abort Guidance System, a backup system that could be used to rendezvous with the Command Module in the event that the main navigational computer failed. The checklist for Apollo 11 called for frequent alignment of the AGS over the course of the mission, allowing Mission Control guidance engineers to get better and better fixes on the spacecraft’s exact location and orientation as the mission wore on.

The official NASA position is that this device wasn’t used to determine the actual position of the spacecraft, only its *orientation*. But Aldrin himself disputes this in his 1969 NASA technical debrief.

Aldrin: *“The idea was to get a gravity direction and then to do a two-star alignment and look at the torquing angles after the two-star check which would then give an indication as to what the drift had been since the last alignment. The initial gravity alignment, combined with the two-star alignment, would produce a new location of the landing site [emphasis added].”*

In other words, what Aldrin was attempting to do was to align the guidance system to get the orientation *and* position of the *Eagle* on the surface of the Moon, something that would be absolutely critical if his “real” task was to determine the precise time for his Masonic ceremony. This would apply whether we are discussing the hypothetical 33 minute after landing event or the acknowledged public communion ceremony almost four hours later.

Aldrin then goes on in the technical debrief to explain exactly how he did the alignment:

Aldrin: “Had we landed straight ahead (instead of being yawed left 13 degrees), my intention was to use Rigel in the left detent number 6 and Capella in the right detent. The 13-degree yaw moved Capella out of the right-rear detent, but Rigel was in good shape there. That’s the one I used first. I then selected Navi in number 4 detent, the right rear, and that wasn’t particularly satisfactory. It was quite dim and it took a good bit longer than I had hoped to get the marks on that.”

Here are the actual star charts that Aldrin used to take his measurements and align the Inertial Measurement Unit:

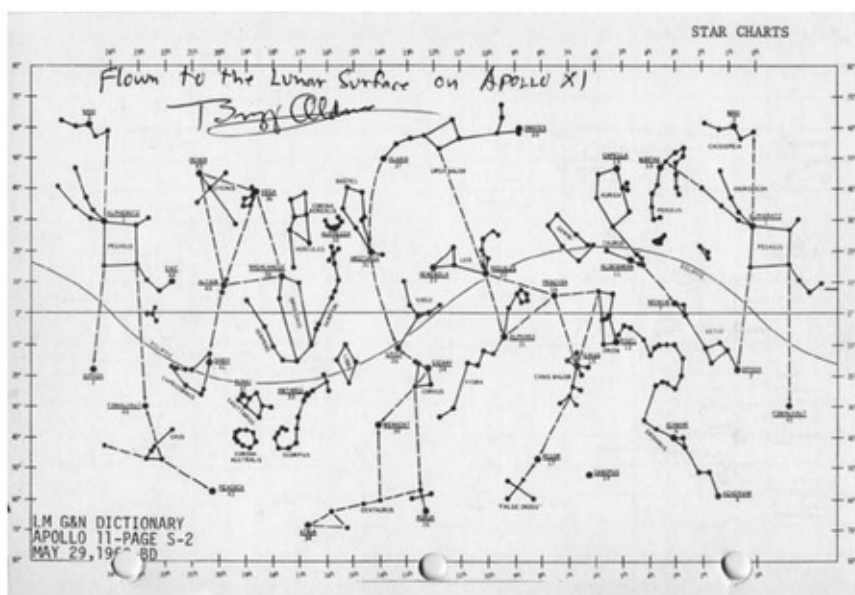
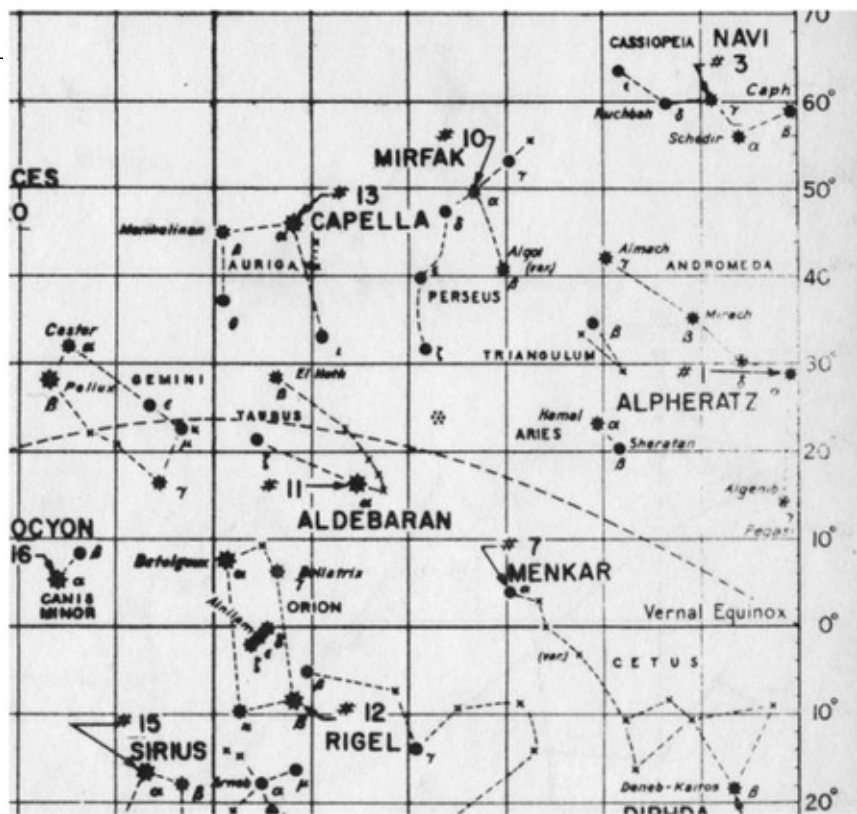


Image of Apollo 11 star chart taken to the Moon in the Lunar Module Eagle and actually used by Buzz Aldrin to triangulate the position of the Eagle on the lunar surface. Aldrin’s signature appears above left.

So if, as Aldrin states, Rigel was “in good shape” in one of the detents, then it would have been easy for him to have surreptitiously used Sirius for that alignment instead. Rigel is the brightest star in the constellation of Orion (Osiris) and is only a degree or so in right ascension from Sirius. But Sirius is also a much brighter star (the brightest in the night sky) at a visual magnitude of -1.60 vs. 0.30 for Rigel. This means that if Aldrin could see Rigel, he could absolutely have seen Sirius. In fact, it would have been much easier to see Sirius, since it is on the order of six times brighter than Rigel, and relative brightness was an issue trying to sight stars from the lunar surface, as Aldrin states.



Portion of actual Apollo 11 star chart used in the Lunar Module Eagle showing the relative location of Navi (upper right) and Rigel (lower left), the two stars he says he used to determine the position of the Eagle. Note the proximity of Sirius to Rigel.

There is no question that not only could Aldrin have used the AOT and the navigational computer to determine the Eagle's exact position on the lunar surface (and therefore the perfect times to conduct his two ceremonies), it now seems a slam dunk that he did. If you read the transcripts, it is clear Aldrin was using the Alignment Optical Telescope to look in the vicinity of Sirius right when it passed through 19.5° over the landing site. One wonders just how beautiful Isis must have looked to him from the surface of the Moon...

In addition to the new lines of evidence uncovered in the last few years, there was also reaction and feedback from some of the historical players mentioned in *Dark Mission*. In October, 2008, I was invited to visit the L. Ron Hubbard Life Exhibition in Hollywood and meet with several members of the Church of Scientology. They sought to set the record straight on what they viewed as mischaracterizations in the section dealing with Hubbard and Jack Parsons of JPL.

The Church had only a few objections to the material presented in *Dark Mission*. They were more concerned with conveying the message that none of their teachings are based in any way on the Thelemic beliefs of Aleister Crowley. From my limited knowledge of the practices of the Church of Scientology, it is my opinion that the Church deserves the benefit of the doubt on this point. That aside, the remaining issues are more significant to the thesis presented in *Dark Mission*.

The Church has argued Hubbard was not so much a willing participant in Parsons' pursuits as he was an instrument of disruption inside the Ordo Templi Orientis. According to the Church—and as was

outlined in Chapter Five of the original edition—Hubbard was sent to infiltrate and disrupt the worrisome activities of Jack Parsons at 1003 Orange Grove Avenue. Documents provided to me by the Church now incline me to lean more toward this interpretation, although I think it is fair to say we will never know for certain. What is clear to me are these facts:

- Hubbard was a US Naval Intelligence Officer, as the Church has claimed, at least at some point during his service career.
- Hubbard was residing in the area at the time he supposedly was befriending Parsons and infiltrating the OTO, and was still an active naval officer.
- Hubbard would have been an ideal agent for such an operation.
- Pasadena's OTO headquarters was indeed damaged for years by Hubbard's actions.
- The OTO was disrupted by his presence, and it never truly recovered from the damage done by Hubbard to Parsons.

According to Navy documents, Lafayette Ronald Hubbard was assigned to intelligence duties in July, 1941. While it appears from his service record that he was no longer actively serving on intelligence assignments during the period he was hanging around with Parsons, he was still technically on active duty and remained in the reserves until October of 1950, well after his time in Pasadena. There is a saying in intelligence circles that goes "once an asset, always an asset," and it seems reasonable that Hubbard would have still been a candidate for just such an assignment during the period in question.

According to a hand written memo obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Parsons' occult activities had come under scrutiny of the FBI and the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) as early as 1940. Their interest was sparked not just because Parsons was a prominent rocket scientist, but because there were a number of America's leading atomic scientists running through the OTO as well. In addition, the OTO was being run out of New York by Karl Germer, a former German military officer in the First World War and a suspected Nazi agent. It was also known that Germer reported to Crowley directly, and Crowley was also considered a possible Nazi spy.

Although he was officially listed as a patient at Oak Knoll Naval hospital in San Francisco until December of 1945, a telegram from Hubbard to the Navy dated October 13, 1945 indicates he was staying in Hollywood, near Parsons and the OTO lodge in Pasadena. What he might have been doing there is speculative but the fact that the official record shows him in the hospital at that time may be an indication he was on some sort of secret assignment in Hollywood. He certainly wasn't hiding out or AWOL, as his open correspondence with the Navy indicates.

The Church argues that in this post war period the ONI was particularly worried about a group called the Federation of American Scientists, a left wing group of disaffected Manhattan Project veterans who were dismayed at the military uses of atomic weapons. Minutes from a November 15, 1945 meeting of the FAS (again, while Hubbard was officially still in the hospital) indicate that both Hubbard and Parsons attended and participated in the meeting.

As we all know, Hubbard eventually ended up in Florida with Sara "Betty" Northrup, sister of Parsons' wife Helen (and Parsons' lover prior to Hubbard appearing on the scene), and a sailing boat named the *Harpoon*. A Bill of Sale produced by the Church shows that Parsons sold the *Harpoon* to Hubbard. The whole affair soured Crowley on Parsons, and subsequently several members of the OTO and the FAS lost their security clearances, including Parsons and Robert Cornog, one of the developers

of the nuclear triggers used in the first atomic bombs. An FBI memo from the period also indicates that the Office of Naval Intelligence had “an informant” inside the group.

So, was this informant L. Ron Hubbard? Did he really go to Pasadena in order to infiltrate and destabilize both the OTO and FAS? Was his running off with Betty and the boat just a means of creating chaos in the OTO and breaking the worrisome links between Crowley and America’s top rocket scientists and nuclear physicists? After seeing the documentation supplied to me by the Church of Scientology, I find the premise a plausible one. Hubbard had an intelligence background, he apparently knew something of esoteric teachings and the occult from his world travels, and he did attend one of the first university courses on nuclear physics ever taught in the United States. All of these attributes would have made him an ideal candidate for just such an assignment, as would his background as a relatively well-known science fiction writer, since Parsons was a huge fan of that literary form.

Ultimately, it cannot be proven that Hubbard was “on assignment” for the Office of Naval Intelligence during his time at the O.T.O. temple in Pasadena, but neither can it be refuted and I will admit that I now hold that the weight of the evidence supports the Scientologist’s version of events over the less flattering one. In any event, it is not so much Hubbard’s role in the Babalon Working we are concerned with in *Dark Mission*—it is Parsons’ role.

Another interesting follow-up story from the past two years concerns the Boeing Mars poster we discussed in Chapter 12 of the original edition of *Dark Mission*. Sometime in 2008 I received an email from a reader who identified the artist as Professor Paul Hudson of the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Armed with this information, I decided to write Professor Hudson and see what the story was behind the poster.

Professor Hudson,

I have been informed that you are the artist that painted this painting and I was hoping to ask you a few questions about it, if you don’t mind.

First, what inspired you to put ruins in the image? I found this very striking, and I’ve even seen a version of this poster used by the Planetary Society but with the artifacts removed because they felt it wasn’t “appropriate.”

Also, was it meant to inspire a particular location on Mars, or was it just a random Martian landscape?

I have a copy of the poster on the wall of my living room and have enjoyed it for years. Are there any more copies available for purchase from you?

Thanks,

Mike Bara

He responded right away:

Hello Mike,

Wow, well that's really rather amazing on two counts; one, that you actually have the poster, and two, that you knew how to get a hold of me.

I'd be happy to answer at length any of your questions, but first I'd like to ask first how you came by the poster, how you came by this email address, and could you tell me a bit about your background?

Sorry for all the preliminaries,

Paul

I found this response a little perplexing. To be treated with such suspicion seemed a little odd. But he responded as he requested, and he in turn offered up some of the details:

Thanks Mike,

The commission for the painting came through the President's [George Herbert Walker Bush] office via Boeing Aerospace, with whom I was working for at the time (1985 or so?) The President was pushing hard for the Initiative with little luck (a poor choice of acronyms, a SEI, "Space Exploration Initiative, sounded very much like SDI, Strategic Defense Initiative, which left congress saying things like, "Didn't we already give you money for that?"), and I thought that what was needed was an image to help sell the program to the American people as well as Congress.

I submitted the rough concept drawings through Boeing, was accepted, and continued on to finish the painting as you see in the poster. The image was originally intended to be accompanied with a poem; I'm afraid that I don't remember the poem directly, but the two (both the poem and the painting) seemed to happen simultaneously. The poem spoke of "finding yourself, or knowing yourself truly for the first time, or the further you travel, when you arrive home you will discover yourself"...the idea seemed to be a natural for the desired intention of the questing spirit, the discovery of self, etc., but when it was given to the President, his science advisers suggested it would not be prudent to attempt a selling of the program with an image that suggested there was once intelligent life on Mars. This, of course, missed the point entirely, as it was meant to be a visual metaphor (finding ourselves on Mars, or through exploration).

The painting did not fare any better when reintroduced with one of the President's quotes and, as far as I was told, no one knew what ever became of the original painting or all of the posters (again, if I remember correctly, Boeing was told not to give the posters out at any of the numerable trade shows). I'm very glad, however, that one of the posters found its way into your hands, as it sounds like it is appreciated in the way that it was intended.

Lately, it has come to my attention that the image is used to bolster claims of the President's Nazi heritage, and that, being both a Mason and a Nazi, the only reason he wanted to send me to Mars was to return the Brotherhood back to the old stomping grounds of the Aryan race (Aryan, Aries...quite a stretch; fascinating, but still quite a stretch). Apparently there are quite a few Masonic symbols embedded in the painting as well; I love a good mystery as much as anybody, probably even more so and hence the original idea for the painting, but if there is any credence to these theories, they were quite by accident, or entirely without my knowing.

Perhaps good composition demands a bit of the mysterious.

Well, I hope this answers your questions, or at least was worth the effort you went through to track me down.

All the best, and on to the stars,

Paul

We had one further communication regarding the apparent image of a black man in the stack of pillars in the painting, and he confirmed that the ethnic take was intentional. He also went on to say that he was well aware of the Face on Mars and other potential ruins, and that he hoped they turned out to be real.

I found it fascinating that he volunteered information about Masonic symbols on his own work which he denied knowing were there. It seems improbable that he didn't notice them; after all, he painted them. He seemed anxious to dispel any notion that the Bush administration supported his work, even though he submitted a detailed proposal before starting the actual painting.

Given his odd caution in even engaging me on the subject, I decided not to press him any further. It is at least good to know who deserves the proper credit for the work.

* * *

After a decade of stalking the NASA cover-up with my co-author, I have to say that I now feel we are as close as we have ever been to bringing out the truths that NASA has so carefully hidden for decades. As you will see in the next section, Richard has discovered that the best way to challenge the official cover-up is to go right around it, and directly to our most valuable resource - the people of planet Earth.

Read on.

Notes

[1 http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1022/1](http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1022/1)

[2 http://darkmission.blogspot.com/2007/10/empire-strikes-back.html](http://darkmission.blogspot.com/2007/10/empire-strikes-back.html)

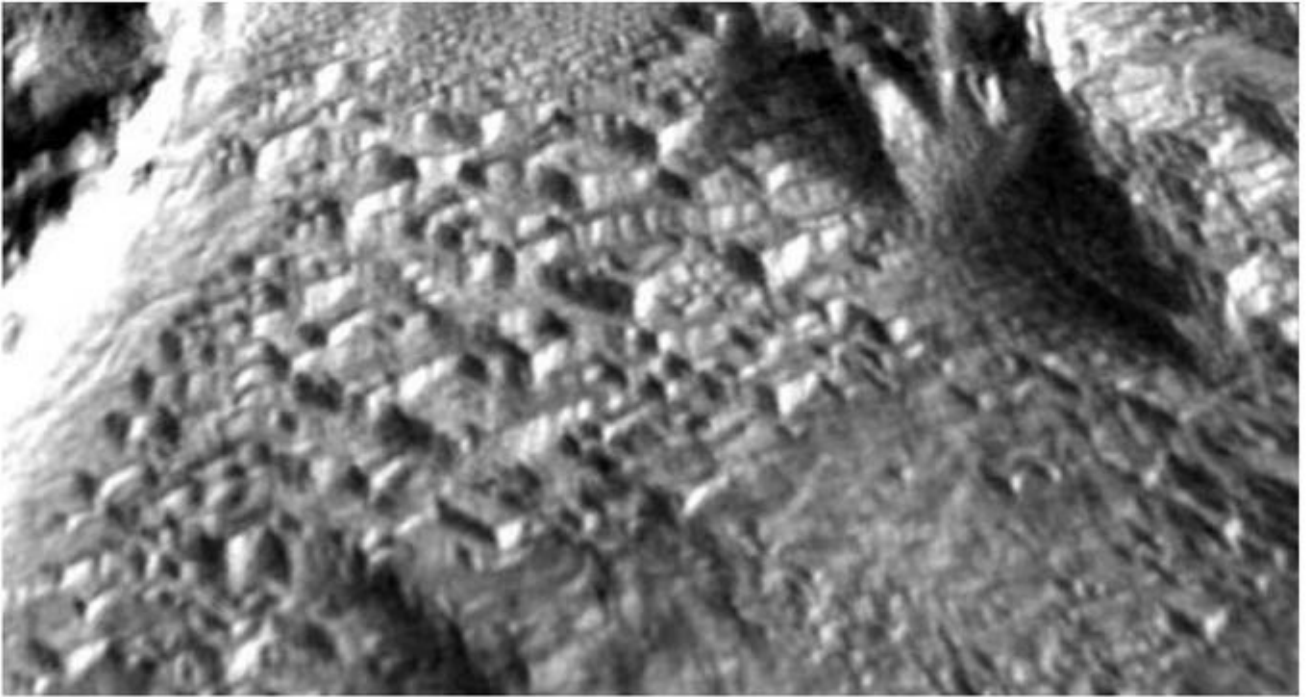
[3 First Man First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong- pp. 487](#)

[4 http://history.nasa.gov/alsj/](http://history.nasa.gov/alsj/)

[Update 2009]

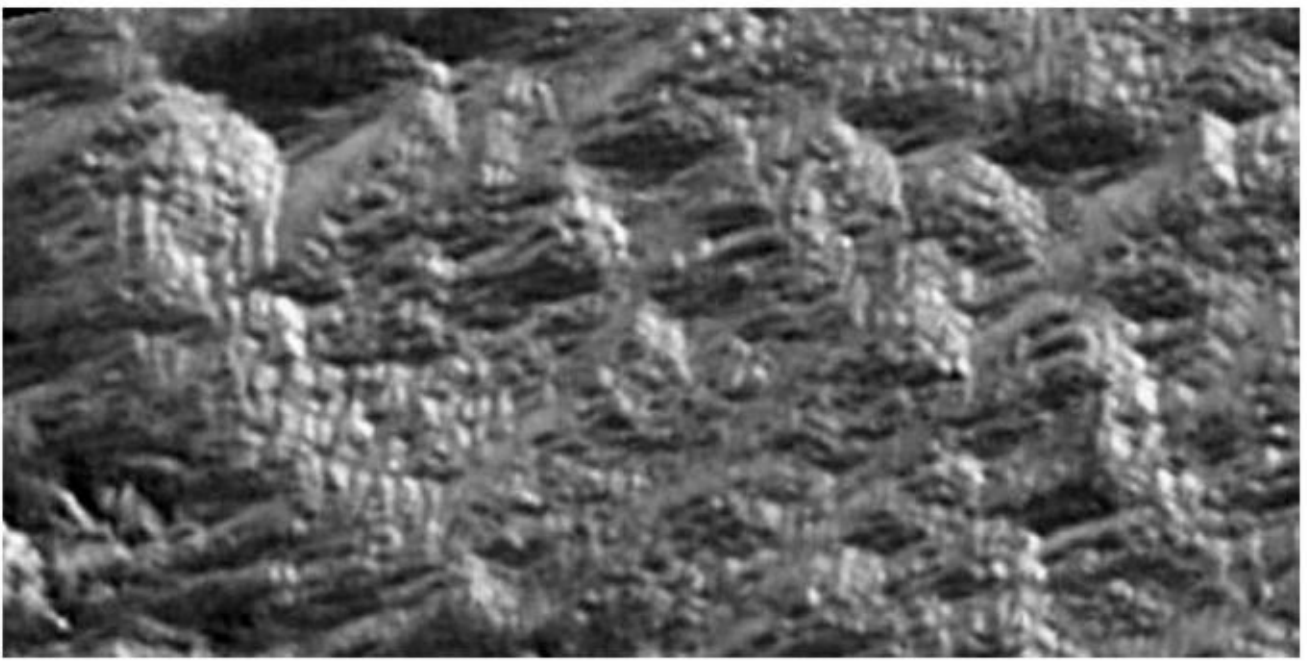
The End Game

Richard C. Hoagland



Behold one of the ancient and forgotten “Crystal Cities of Barsoom.” For decades, ever since the Independent Mars Investigation in 1983, when we began looking at those first enigmatic *Viking* images of Cydonia and wondered... we’ve been searching for the proverbial “smoking gun.” That one NASA image which would allow even a totally non-scientific, totally non-technical person to exclaim, “Yikes, those are *buildings* down there!”

Well, after almost 30 years, this is it. This official MRO image—archived on a publicly-accessible NASA website—is indeed the “smoking gun” we have been seeking for decades.



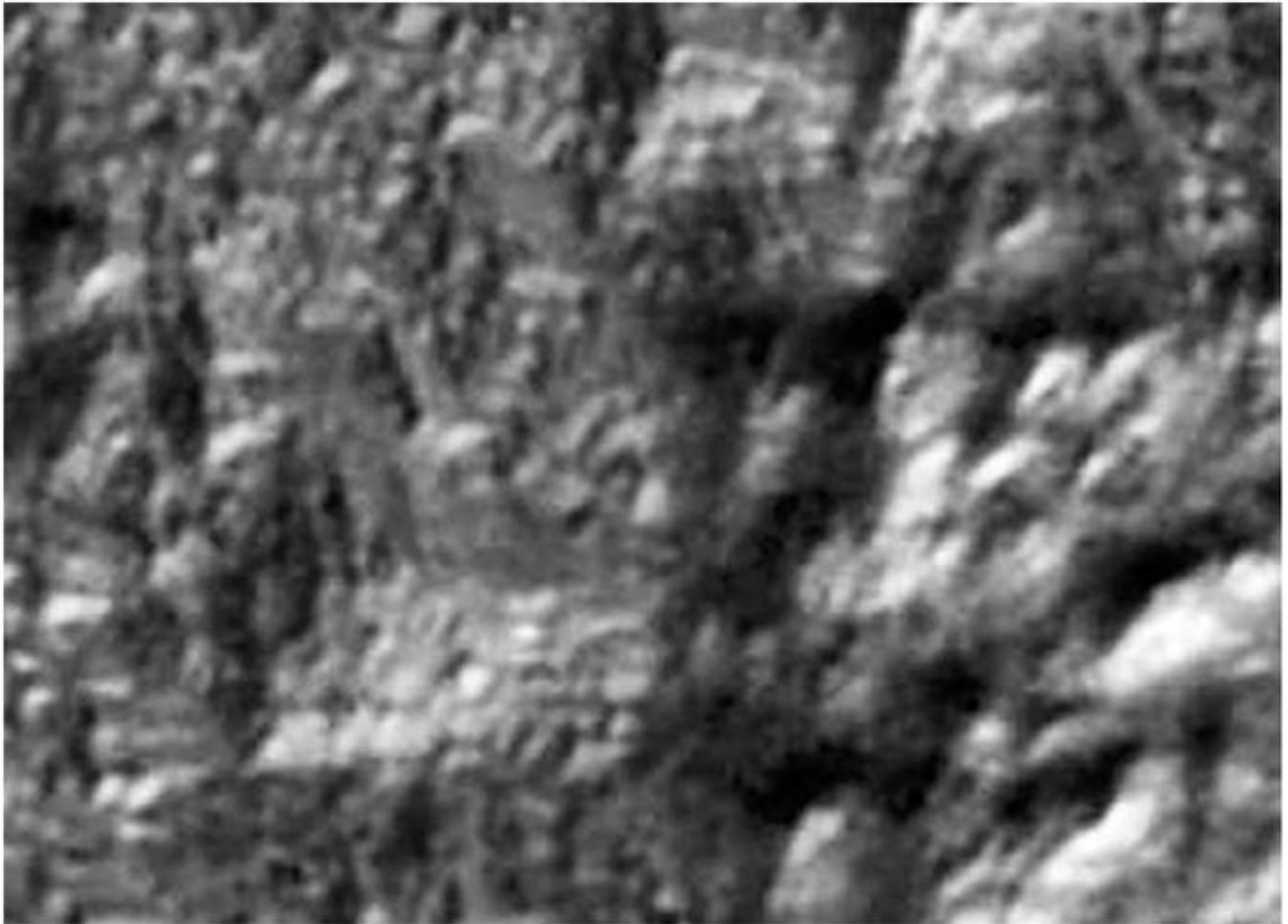
This close-up, taken from a much larger official NASA image shows what for all the world looks exactly like the crumbling remains of a set of modern apartment buildings. It was taken by NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) spacecraft in May, 2008 and is but one of multitudes of MRO photo strips acquired during the spacecraft's almost 2-year mission. This particular image is of the floor of the immense Hellas Basin - the largest and deepest of the massive impact scars left over from Mars' ancient planetary history.

A composite version combines this amazing NASA image (remember, of the surface of *Mars*) with an aerial photograph taken here on Earth, of a location that's now all-too-familiar, if not also all-too-tragic—New York's Ground Zero.



Eerily, each set of independent architecture - the one in Lower Manhattan and the one on an entire different planet- ~~impossibly share almost identical geometric characteristics, not the least being that~~ they both exhibit virtually identical patterns of total structural collapse. “Impossible” because both collapsed areas have “structure,” which the image on Mars obviously shouldn’t possess. Detailed specific structures looking identical to I-beams and girders seen in any terrestrial construction site demolition aftermath here on Earth.

There are almost seven square kilometers in the full color “parent” MRO image to the close-up just presented. That translates to a little over four square miles. Within that area, arranged in multiple and morphologically different geometric *layers* are literally millions of highly-complex, highly-organized, “multiple-scale” geometric rectangles, squares and cubes.



Such overwhelmingly regular geometry can only be created, as we’ve been arguing for decades (at least since *The Monuments of Mars* was published in 1987) by *intelligence*.

This MRO image, out of any I’d seen in almost two years, contained precisely the redundant, eerily familiar structural geometry I had predicted (years before its launch) that MRO ultimately *had* the image, if our theses were correct. If, indeed, there were the remains of ancient, shattered Martian cities lying somewhere in the deserts, partially uncovered by “the drifting sands of Mars.”

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